

SOVEREIGN GRACE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

"Where The Truths Of God's Word Have Been Taught For More Than Fifty-Seven Years"

1217 Dillon Texarkana, Texas 75501

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"A Church Seeking To Please God In Prayer, Song, Preaching, And Worship."

Please Join Us As We Pray For:

All of Our Military, Their Family's & All the Civilian Workers in The Middle East, Zee Mink Fuller and Family, Her son's Bryan Armstrong and Hunter Hackie, Daughter Shannon, and Brother Philip Thornsberry, Johnnie Stephens, Alecia Stephens, and children, Frankie Baldrige and daughter, Buckie Thompson, Frank & Sonya Trusty, Frank & Dawana Reigel, Diane & Smoke, Andrew Preston, Larry & Martha Mollette and Her Family, Lana Paul, Tyrell Loyd, Ted O'Bonion, Larry Mollette II & Family, Kerry Adcock, Kim Poole, Danny & Nita Mollette, their cousin Kayla, The Muncy Family, Lee & Mary Mollette, Wendell Henderson, Joshua Kidd, Matthew Kidd, Ronnie and Sarah Henderson, Ronnie Henderson Jr. & Children, Ricky Henderson and Family, Velma Hammond, Don Hammond and Families, Donna Johnson, James and Luann Reynolds, Timothy Fails, Nathan Fails, Jacob Ramsey, Jerry Hughes, Pastor G. L. Burr, Gina, Brother Kelley and Sister Hinson, Patricia Hinson, Diane Thomas and grandson Jace Fails, Jim and Linda Meier, Keith Johnson, Carolyn Davis, Brother Dan Sullivan the work in Thailand, Brother Raul and the work in Romania, Bro. Sergey Mochalov and the Churches in Russia.

The Pastor's Corner:

Thank God for salvation!

"Known unto God are all his works from the beginning of the world." (Acts 15:18)

The one single error many make when thinking about God is understanding that God is Omniscient, God knows everything, and this is an eternal knowledge. Also, many people do not recognize God as being truly Sovereign and that means He is in control of everything. Isaiah wrote these words about God in Isaiah 46:9-10 "Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:" This means God knows everything and there is nothing He does not know, and if something is God counsel or God's work then He not only knew it but ordained it before the world began. One of God's most graceful works is salvation, salvation is the work of God not the work of man. I know some people believe that salvation is in mans hands but that is impossible, because God would never trust the accomplishment of His works in the hands of man.

"There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God... They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one." (Romans 3:11 - 12) Man cannot preach a simple sermon without God's power, nor can man accomplish anything without God's power. God knew before the world that salvation was needed, God also elected a remnant of mankind that would be saved. "According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:" (Ephesians 1:4) Notice this election was done "before the foundation of the world" not in time nor did God look into the future and see who would believe, all unprovable myths preached by man seeking to do what only God can do. God elected Jesus to die on the cross for sinners long before there were any sinners. "For of a truth against thy holy child Jesus, whom thou hast anointed, both Herod, and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel, were gathered together, For to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel determined before to be done." Acts 4:27-28 What was God's counsel, what did God "determined before to be done.?" It was the crucifixion of His own eternal Son Jesus, "Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain:" (Acts 2:23) Also known unto God before the foundation of the world was His elect, His chosen children." These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his

eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee...As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him... And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.” (John 17:1 - 3) If God knew all His works before the foundation of the world, then didn't God have to know these elect He gave to Jesus and sent Jesus to die for and save. Jesus Himself said this promise “All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.” (John 6:37) Jesus went on to promise in verse 39 “that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing”. Jesus went on to say, “That the saying might be fulfilled, which he spake, Of them which thou gavest me have I lost none.” (John 18:9) There is only one-way God can accomplish His ordained will and that is He accomplishes it, and “Known unto God are all his works from the beginning of the world.” This is absolute fact that God saves sinners and He chose them before the world ever began. Therefore, I must stand in awe and say Thank You Lord for my salvation. If you are lost this should weigh heavy on your heart, if not the Holy Spirit has not convicted you. But if it does weigh heavy on your heart then read these verses, “And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved...And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.” (Acts 16:30 - 31)

BAD THINGS DO HAPPEN

By Curtis Pugh

Bad things do happen to all of us. But they do not happen outside of God's plan. Knowing this is the first step in a child of God dealing with these things. God says, speaking of diseases and even plagues, “**...shall there be evil in a city, and the LORD hath not done it?**” (Amos 3:6). God is not the cause of moral evil although for good and wise reasons He allows it. But in the above quotation physical evils are said to be His work.

We reason, “Why do bad things happen to good people?” But our reasoning is flawed. Our question is based upon a wrong premise. People are sinners and sin has consequences. Bad things happen because of sin.

Bad things happen first of all as a consequence of the sin of Adam, our first father. Romans 5:12 says, “**Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.**” It is not personal sin that is meant by the phrase “for that all have sinned.” All sinned in Adam. The consequences of Adam's sin is death. While the ultimate cause of death is Adam's sin, diseases, accidents, murders, etc., etc. - bad things - are all the means by which death comes.

Bad things do something to lost people, but nothing for them. On the other hand, God uses the sufferings of His children to accomplish things in them and with them. First: He uses bad things to chasten or correct His children. Hebrews 12:6-8 explains this: “**For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.**”

Second: God accomplishes something through the suffering of His children. Colossians 1:24 says: “**Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body's sake, which is the church.**” Paul rejoiced in his sufferings which he said “fill up that which is behind” or lacking in Christ's sufferings. There is nothing lacking in Christ's expiatory suffering – the suffering He endured to save His people. But Christians can have a part in His exemplary sufferings.

Peter wrote: “**For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God. For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps,**” (1 Peter 2:20-21). Suffering patiently glorifies God and is a testimony to those around us. We can, like Christ, be an example to others. We can show them God's sustaining grace as we go through our sufferings.

Church Notice:

Our Bible Conference is only a few weeks away, September 20 and 21 Friday night from 6:00 – 8:00 and Saturday from 9:00am – 4:00pm We will have 7 speakers if the Lord will's. 2 on Friday and 5 on Saturday.

