

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:

We should only serve one Master.

Luke 16:13 "No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon."

What Master do you serve? If we looked deep into our hearts it might surprise us when we find the answer. The word (master) means - supreme in authority, that is, (as noun) controller – (Strong's) Something or Someone that has so much authority in our life that it controls us in thought, word, and in walk/actions. In some form we are all controlled by two masters, God and the world. However, the thought of the scripture is "your service" to that master. If we do not examine ourselves closely and do it with much prayer to God, we may miss whom we are truly serving in a lot of areas. As a Christian we have been redeemed by God, we are kept by God's power, and only serve God by His grace and mercy. God ordained our service to Him before the foundation of the world, and that service is only possible in Jesus Christ. *"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."* (Ephesians 2:10) Therefore, whatever God has ordained will be, whatever work God has chosen for you will be your path in life, without error. We, as Christians can do God's chosen work and still fail God in this life. God's work in our life only makes us complete in that chosen work, we can fail God in many other areas of our life. Not any of God's earthly servants were perfect, not one, not even Paul. We are all sinners, even in our saved state we are all still sinners. It is easy for us to find ways to fail God, to find ourselves serving the world and not God, we just all need to take a close look into the mirror of God's word to find it. Paul told the folks at Corinth, *"Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?"* (2 Corinthians 13:5) While we (as Believers) are not "reprobates" we do need to examine ourselves to see who is controlling all areas of our life, it might surprise us if we look into the bible as a mirror at what we see. In reading the scriptures in preparation of my sermons and I often wonder how we as a church are responding to that scripture. Let's use this scripture as an example, *"Abstain from all appearance of evil."* (1 Thessalonians 5:22) The Lord just commanded us to "Abstain from **all appearance** of evil" not just evil itself, but even if it appears evil. Evil means – culpable – which is blameworthy, reproachable, or something that is scripturally wrong. Here we will find much error in our life, if we examine in the mirror

of God's word. Also let's look at this verse, "*Bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you.*" (Luke 6:28) Give it some thought, how do you do, how do you really do? Folks, our service to God is "...*rightly dividing the word of truth.*" 2 Timothy 2:15 understanding God's word and serving our Master rightly. If we fail, we will find ourselves serving the wrong Master. While it will not cause us (as Christians) to hate God, it could cause us to hate some of what God said. Think about God's word, if you love it you will do it, and if you do not do it, it is because you despise what God has said. The only possible way to perfectly serve God is to serve His word, and without error. If we find error, then let us correct that error and only serve one Master. Let us all take the time to examine ourselves and search for error, none of us are perfect, but that is not an excuse.

The chisel of affliction!

By Charles Naylor
From Grace Gems.

[Editor's note: Naylor is peculiarly qualified to write on affliction by his training in the *school of suffering*. As a young evangelist, Naylor was severely injured in an accident. For forty-one years as an invalid, he lay day and night on a bed of pain as a constant sufferer.]

"God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in His *holiness*. No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of *righteousness* and *peace* for those who have been trained by it!" Hebrews 12:10-11

One thing very difficult for many Christians to learn, is that the *chastening rod* of God is applied in love, not in anger. We are told that God "*scourges* every son whom He receives," and that that scourging is the proof of our sonship. So often people are inclined to take God's chastisement as an evidence that they are no longer His sons. They look upon it as a mark of God's disapproval — or even of His anger. But Scripture tells us that His chastening is for our profit. He does it not for His own pleasure — but that we may be made *holier* by it. It is a mark of His love. He says, "As many as I *love* — I rebuke and chasten!" Revelation 3:19

Note carefully God's attitude in His chastening in Hebrews 12. We are all ready to admit the truth of the eleventh verse, "No chastening for the present seems to be joyous — but grievous." None of us like to be chastened — but yet it is necessary; out of chastening come the fruits of righteousness. When the Lord chastens us, therefore, let us bear it with meekness. Let us profit by it. Let us neither be grieved nor discouraged.

Gold is purified in the furnace. It is not destroyed — it is made the better by the flames.

In the same way, every believer must pass through the furnace. The purpose of the furnace is . . .
that we may be purged from our dross,
that our graces may be refined,
that we may be rid of worldliness,
that we may be made more holy.

If you and I have to pass through *the furnace of affliction* or sorrow, of losses or failures — then let us submit ourselves to the hand of God. Let us not question either His mercy or His goodness.

We must often endure **the chisel of affliction**, as God carves us into His image. We desire to be in His image. We desire to be godlike in character. Remember that God only afflicts for our good. Like the surgeon, God does not hurt willingly — but only of necessity.

In our times of trouble, He would have us run into His arms and tell Him all our troubles, our questionings, our heartaches!

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.