

Sovereign Grace Missionary Baptist Church

"Where The Truths Of God's Word Have Been Taught For More Than Sixty Years" Since October 21, 1961

1217 Dillon Texarkana, Texas 75501

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Please Join Us As We Pray For:

Sister 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, Buckie Thompson, Frank & Sonya Trusty, Frank & Dawana Reigel, Diane & Smoke, Andrew Preston, Larry & Martha Mollette and Her Family Juanita her daughter, Lana Paul, Tyrell Loyd, Ted O'Bonion, Larry Mollette II & Family, Kerry Adcock, Kim Reich, Tyler Castle, Danny Mollette, cousin Kayla, Lee & Mary Mollette, Joshua Kidd, Ronnie and Sarah Henderson, Ronnie Henderson Jr. & Children, Ricky Henderson and Family, Velma Hammond, Don Hammond and Families, James and Luann Reynolds, Timothy Fails, Nathan Fails, Jacob Ramsey, Jerry Hughes, Gina and Kirk, Brother Kelley and Sister Hinson, Patricia Hinson, Jim and Linda Meier, Keith Johnson, Vickie Adkins, Shirly King - Son David - and family, Elder Robert and Sister Jennifer Keller, Little Cam Works, Sister Ann McSwain, Roselyn Pardillo and Family and those that work with her, Hailey Beaver, Brother Justin Bookout and family, Little Weslynn McClelland, Dakota Sutton, Missionary Dan and Sunny Sullivan the work in Thailand, Elder Raul and the work in Romania, Elder Sergey Mochalov and the Churches in Russia.

Thoughts from our Pastor:

God's Love in Us.

"Who also declared unto us your love in the Spirit." Colossians 1:8

Love is one of the most important attributes Christians receives from God. Every believer in Jesus Christ receives spiritual gifts from God, spiritual gifts are gifts given by the Holy Spirit after salvation. Paul wrote about these spiritual gifts, *"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, (23) Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law."* Galatians 5:22 – 23 The reason there is *"against such there is no law"* is because any attribute God gives no law can condemn it. These attributes are not of nature or man's free will, they are of God, given by the Holy Spirit after the Holy Spirit quickens our dead spirits and causes us to believe in Jesus Christ. The first of these gracious gifts is "love" because love is the beginnings of all things. God must have had love before election because mercy and grace are both an act of God's eternal love, without love there is none. John wrote, *"We love him, because he first loved us."* 1 John 4:19 God must have loved us first because His love, mercy, and grace all existed before the foundation of the world. God had already elected us as His children and given us to Jesus His Son, *"But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,"* Ephesians 2:4 God is merciful to us because of His great love to us, not because of our love for Him, not because we chose Him, but because He loved us and by mercy and grace elected us as His own. *"Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins."* 1 John 4:10 Meaning, in this great gift is the highest expression of love, even though we hated God, He loved us and sent His Own Son to redeem us from the sin and hate in our hearts toward Him. **Stop, and meditate on that for a moment!** Now read this, *"For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; (15) Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace;"* Ephesians 2:14 – 15 Jesus Christ brought together sinful men and the Holy God by breaking, *"down the middle wall of partition between us;"* That is us folks, sinful, hateful lost souls, and the Holiest of Holy, what an amazing love God has for us. *"In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him."* 1 John 4:9

When Paul wrote *"...declared unto us your love in the Spirit."* God was telling us about His love being gifted to us by the Holy Spirit. Now that we have a living spirit (because of our salvation) God has given us all a measure of His love just as He has given us all a measure of everything spiritual.

God gave us a measure of faith, “*For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.*” Romans 12:3 By measure God means - limited portion – as God has given to every soul that He has saved, everything to every believer is a gift from God. Some say that “*God has given to us all the same amount of grace, and what we do with that grace is up to us*” but this is not true. Paul wrote these words, “*But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.*” Ephesians 4:7 Again the word “measure” means limited portion, or as God has elected for us to have it. As Christians we can never go beyond the limits or bounds that God has set for us. “*Seeing his days are determined, the number of his months are with thee, thou hast appointed his bounds that he cannot pass;*” Job 14:5 Every Believer has limits of our spiritual gifts, therefore Paul said “*But by the grace of God I am what I am:*” 1 Corinthians 15:10 Paul went as far as God gave him his measure of grace, and Paul recognized this toward the end of his ministry. But Paul fought hard, he stretched his measure of grace to its limits because God was so gracious to him, “*...and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.*” As Christians we need to stretch God’s gifts as far as we can, so that we can also say “*...his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain;*”. Paul was writing to this church in Colosse, he was speaking highly of their love in the spirit, because their spirits were full of love. How is your love believer, when other believers see your love do they recognize how loving you are? Pastors, how is your love, are we remembering to preach as God commanded? “*But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:*” Ephesians 4:15 We (as Pastors, ministers, and teachers) must remember **we are feeding God’s sheep**; God will be our Judge. Church member, how is your love toward your Pastor? Are you loving and caring for your Pastor, are you loving and caring for each other? Do people see your loving spirit that God has given to us all? Jesus said, “*A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. (35) By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.*” John 13:34 Folks, Life is short on this earth, one day we will all stand before Jesus Christ in our judgment, while our sins are forgiven, our love for one another will be one of our points of judgment. How will you be judged, do other believers see you as a loving soul? A good believer will be like Paul, “*...but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.*” How is your labor in love, are you stretching it to its limits?

My politics!

By John Newton, 1778

The whole system of **my politics** is summed up in this one verse, “*The Lord reigns! Let the nations tremble!*” Psalm 99:1

The times look awfully *dark* indeed; and as the *clouds* grow thicker — the stupidity of the nation seems proportionally to increase. If the Lord had not a remnant here, I would have very formidable apprehensions. But He loves His redeemed children; some are sighing and mourning before Him, and I am sure He hears their sighs, and sees their tears. I trust there is mercy in store for us at the bottom; but I expect a *shaking time* before things get into a right channel — before we are humbled and are taught to give Him the glory.

The state of the *nation*, the state of the *churches* — both are deplorable! Those who should be *praying* — are *disputing* and *fighting* among themselves! *Alas! how many professors are more concerned for the mistakes of government — than for their own sins!*

"Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns!" Revelation 19:6

Church Announcements:

Our Bible Conference is Friday night and Saturday September 16 – 17 We have 7 Speakers and lots of singing. Come and join us as the Lord blesses up in Truth and Worship.