

SOVEREIGN GRACE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

"Where The Truths Of God's Word Have Been Taught For More Than Fifty-Eight Years" Since 1961

1217 Dillon Texarkana, Texas 75501

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Brother Randy Johnson, Pastor

Brother Justin Bookout, Song Leader

Pastor E-Mail: pastor@sgmbaptist.com

Pastors Blog: sgmbcpastor.blogspot.com

Churches Web Site: www.sgmbaptist.com

Sermon Audio: sermonaudio.com/sgmbaptist

"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 Juanita her daughter, Lana Paul, Tyrell Loyd, Ted O'Bonion, Larry Mollette II & Family, Kerry Adcock, Kim Reich, Danny & Nita Mollette, their cousin Kayla, The Muncy Family, Lee & Mary Mollette, 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, Gina, Brother Kelley and Sister Hinson, Patricia Hinson, Diane Thomas, Jace Fails, Jim and Linda Meier, Keith Johnson, Carolyn Davis, Vickie Adkins, Shirly King - Son David - and family, Brother Robert and Sister Jennifer Keller, Christel and her daughter, Ruthie Craft, Bertito Craft, James Jackson and wife, Brother Dan Sullivan the work in Thailand, Brother Raul and the work in Romania, Bro. Sergey Mochalov and the Churches in Russia.

The Pastors Message:

Understanding the Bible Is for Believers Only.

John 8:43 *"Why do ye not understand my speech? even because ye cannot hear my word."*

It may be of a surprise to some but not everyone has the ability to understand the bible. It is not a simple book to understand, it is not an average book written by an average author. In fact, it is not a book; **it's the word of God.** The bible was not written to the world it was written to believers as we are told in 2 Timothy 3:16, 17 "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: (17) That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." The lost person does not need any of these teachings, all they need is Jesus Christ's gospel preached to them. Until they understand in their hearts who Jesus Christ is, they do not need a biblical education. Jesus asked these folks "Why do ye not understand my speech..." We must understand as Christians that people do not understand our teaching because they are lost and therefore cannot understand the things of God. *"But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned."* 1 Corinthians 2:14 God declared in 1 Cor. 1:23 that the **scriptures were foolishness to the lost and a stumbling block to the Jews.** I know that people are smart, in fact probably 99.9% of the people on this earth are smarter than I am, however, unless they are saved, they will never understand the word of God. While school smarts in life are wonderful and most needed to get through life, they have nothing much to do with a biblical education. For example, a person can have the greatest of educations even a PhD and never understand the basics of Gods word. Therefore, please do not ever judge a pastor or biblical teacher on their worldly education. Remember God did not choose the strong of the world but rather the weak. 1 Corinthians 1:20 "Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? **hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?**" Even those who are well educated in this world God tore down their education to teach them His word in truth. This is done so that we can properly understand the scriptures. The teachings of this world will keep us from understanding Gods word i.e. science is very anti-God. 1 Corinthians 2:12 - 13 "Now we have received, **not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God;** that we might know **the things that are freely given to us of God.** (13.) Which things also we

speaking, **not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth**; comparing spiritual things with spiritual." Jesus went on to say in John 8:43 "...because ye **cannot** hear my word." That is because they are spiritually dead and deaf to His words. If one is dead spiritually then they will never hear the scriptures no matter how smart they are. In fact, they will never hear the simple truth of salvation until the Holy Spirit makes their spirit alive. Therefore, we have so much disagreement in teaching God's word. Man, not understanding, attempting to teach a book they have no truthful understanding of it will always teach lies. "*Hear the word of the LORD, ye children of Israel: for **the LORD hath a controversy with the inhabitants of the land, because there is no truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God in the land.***" Hosea 4:1 Jesus went on to say in John 8:45 "And because I tell you the truth, ye believe me not." Because they simply did not understand it. It confounded them and did not set in as reality to them. Man cannot understand what does not fit the worldly education i.e. science, climate change, etc. Therefore, T.V. programs such as the History and Discovery Channels are so confounded in trying to prove the bible right or wrong. What they need is men of God explaining the bible and not a bunch of lost preachers and liberal professors with only worldly educations. Man will never understand the bible without the Holy Spirit teaching it. "...we have received, **not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God...**" 1 Corinthians 2:12 and in Luke 21:15 "For **I will give you a mouth and wisdom**, which all your adversaries shall not be able to gainsay nor resist." So, the next time someone just doesn't get it, just remember, only the saved do get it. Now please remember man is smart and doctrine can be learned even by the lost, **but never understood by the lost.**

"A faithful witness will not lie: but a false witness will utter lies. A scorner seeketh wisdom, and findeth it not: but knowledge is easy unto him that understandeth. Go from the presence of a foolish man, when thou perceivest not in him the lips of knowledge. The wisdom of the prudent is to understand his way: but the folly of fools is deceit." Proverbs 14:5 - 8

"Make Your Calling And Election Sure"

By Don Fortner

"Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:" 2 Peter 1:10

With the apostle Peter, I solemnly admonish you to give diligence to make your calling and election sure. Has Christ been revealed in you? Do you know the Son of God? Do you truly trust Christ alone as your Savior? Is Jesus Christ your Lord and Master? If you will be honest, you can know whether or not you are among the few whom God has chosen. You can know your election. Paul told the Thessalonians plainly that he knew they were God's elect for five reasons (I Thess. 1:4-10). These are certain identifying marks of God's elect.

- 1. GOD'S ELECT HEAR AND RECEIVE THE GOSPEL IN THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT** (v. 5). Being taught of God, they are assumed of Divine truth.
 - 2. GOD'S ELECT FOLLOW CHRIST** (v. 6, compare v. 3) - Like Christ, those who are truly born of God, believe God, serve God with patience, hope, and love, and walk before him in the joy of faith. Like their Master, the people of God persevere in the hour of trial. They follow him.
 - 3. GOD'S ELECT ARE COMMITTED TO CHRIST AND TO THE GOSPEL OF GRACE** (v. 8).
 - 4. GOD'S ELECT REPENT OF THEIR SINS AND TURN TO GOD WITH A TRUE HEART** (v. 9).
- GOD'S ELECT LIVE IN THIS WORLD AS MEN AND WOMEN OF EXPECTATION AND HOPE, "WAITING FOR HIS SON"** (v. 10). If indeed you and I are among those who are elect of God, our hearts should be filled with gratitude, praise, and admiration for him (Rom. 11:33-36). The only difference between the many who perish and the few who are chosen is the difference which grace has made (I Cor. 4:7; II Thess. 2:10-14). As for me, I gladly ascribe the whole of my salvation to God, who loved me freely with an everlasting love and saved me by his grace. "By the grace of God I am what I am." I am chosen by grace, redeemed by grace, called by grace, given faith to believe by grace, preserved by grace, and free grace alone shall bring me safely into heaven's eternal glory (Jude 24-25). "Oh to grace, how great a debtor, daily I'm constrained to be!"