

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, Sister Velma Hammond, Brother Jack Stone, 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:

Why does God love us?

"We love him, because he first loved us." 1 John 4:19

I have asked myself this question countless times, why does God love me? If you have never asked yourself that question, you ought too. David wrote in Psalms 5:4 - 5 *"For thou art not a God that hath pleasure in wickedness: neither shall evil dwell with thee. (5) The foolish shall not stand in thy sight: thou hatest all workers of iniquity."* The word "hatest" means - to hate, personally - people that are sinners. But weren't we all sinners at one time? We were all born sinners, we were all born at enmity with God, which means we hated God. *"Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. (8) So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God."* Romans 8:7 - 8. So, why did God love me, that is the question? The point we must see in 1 John 4:19 is that God loved us first, when did God love those who are going to be called saints? God loved us before the foundation of the world before sin was in existence. Paul wrote in Ephesians 1:4 *"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:"* Before God laid the foundation of the world God loved us and chose us in Him, IN LOVE. God also chose us, before the foundation of the world that we, *"should be holy and without blame before him"*. This is what we as Christians must see, God loved us before the foundation of the world because He chose too. Let's look at it this way, before God created one single thing, back in eternity past when only God existed, before Satan was created and fell, before Adam and Eve sinned, long before evil and sin came into existence, God loved a remnant of souls. Also, before that creation God had already made us a Redeemer in His own Son Jesus Christ, all this was before evil was created and sin existed. Read this, *"But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: (20) Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you, (21) Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God."* 1 Peter 1:19 Listen to Solomon in Proverbs 8:22 - 23 *"The LORD possessed me in the beginning of his way, before his works of old. (23) I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning, or ever the earth was."* Why God loved us we cannot answer that question except, He chose too. We must understand that God is Omniscient, and God never changes, never ever changes. Therefore, what God was before creation He is today, what God ordained or decreed before the foundation of the world He is today.

So, we must understand that God never “come to love us” He has eternally loved us. While we will never understand this, we must accept it because it is fact. Let’s ask ourselves this question, when did God actually elect us to be His children? If God never changes, if nothing is added to Him nor anything taken away from Him, then when exactly were we elected? We who are the elect of God were never hated by God because before we were born sinners God loved us. We love God because He loved us in eternity past before sin. Our love to God was after His love was manifested to us in salvation. 1 John 4:9 *“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.”* God sending His Son to redeem us was the manifestation to us of God’s love. We, the elect of God was given to His Son before the foundation of the world, and Jesus Christ redeemed us all at the cross. This was all ordained before evil or sin came into existence. The elect of God was never like the non-elect because our redemption was assured in Jesus Christ before the world was ever created. Read this very carefully, *“But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life. And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.”* Romans 5:8 - 11

A thought from Charles Spurgeon

From his sermon “A Defense of Calvinism”

“It is a great thing to begin the Christian life by believing good solid doctrine. Some people have received twenty different "gospels" in as many years; how many more they will accept before they get to their journey's end, it would be difficult to predict. I thank God that He early taught me the gospel, and I have been so perfectly satisfied with it, that I do not want to know any other. Constant change of creed is sure loss. If a tree has to be taken up two or three times a year, you will not need to build a very large loft in which to store the apples. When people are always shifting their doctrinal principles, they are not likely to bring forth much fruit to the glory of God. It is good for young believers to begin with a firm hold upon those great fundamental doctrines which the Lord has taught in His Word. Why, if I believed what some preach about the temporary, trumpety salvation which only lasts for a time, I would scarcely be at all grateful for it; but when I know that those whom God saves He saves with an everlasting salvation, when I know that He gives to them an everlasting righteousness, when I know that He settles them on an everlasting foundation of everlasting love, and that He will bring them to His everlasting kingdom, oh, then I do wonder, and I am astonished that such a blessing as this should ever have been given to me!

I suppose there are some persons whose minds naturally incline towards the doctrine of free-will. I can only say that mine inclines as naturally towards the doctrines of sovereign grace. Sometimes, when I see some of the worst characters in the street, I feel as if my heart must burst forth in tears of gratitude that God has never let me act as they have done! I have thought, if God had left me alone, and had not touched me by His grace, what a great sinner I should have been! I should have run to the utmost lengths of sin, dived into the very depths of evil, nor should I have stopped at any vice or folly, if God had not restrained me. I feel that I should have been a very king of sinners, if God had let me alone. I cannot understand the reason why I am saved, except upon the ground that God would have it so. I cannot, if I look ever so earnestly, discover any kind of reason in myself why I should be a partaker of Divine grace. If I am not at this moment without Christ, it is only because Christ Jesus would have His will with me, and that will was that I should be with Him where He is, and should share His glory. I can put the crown nowhere but upon the head of Him whose mighty grace has saved me from going down into the pit.”

Church News:

Happy Birthday to Brother Justin Bookout, Sunday October 16th

Happy Anniversary to Brother Frank and Sister Dawana Reigel Tuesday October 18th