

Today is October 22, 2023

Sovereign Grace

Missionary Baptist Church

*"Where the Truths of God's Word Have Been Taught
for Sixty-Two Years" Since October 21, 1961*

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"Our Prayer List"

Please Pray

"Pray without ceasing." 1 Thess. 5:17

Sister Zee Mink Fuller and Family, Her son's Bryan Armstrong and Hunter Hackie, Daughter Shannon, Johnnie Stephens, Alecia Stephens, and children, Frank & Sonya Trusty, Frank & Dawana Reigel, Diane & Smoke, Andrew Preston, Larry & Martha Mollette and Her Family Juanita her daughter, Lana Paul, Ted O'Bonion, Larry Mollette II & Family, Kerry Adcock, Kim Reich, Tyler Castle, Danny Mollette, cousin Kayla, Joshua Kidd, Ronnie and Sarah Henderson, Ricky Henderson and Family, James and Luann Reynolds, Timothy Fails, Nathan Fails, Jacob Ramsey, Jerry Hughes, Linda Meier, Keith Johnson, Shirly King - Son David - and family, Little Cam Works, Sister Ann McSwain, Brother Justin Bookout and family, Little Weslynn McClelland, Adrienne Lavina, Pastor Nathan Hille and Sister Cassie and his family and church, Baby Titus Massey Kathy Johnson, Doug Johnson.

"Pray For Our Church Supported Mission Works"

*"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you:
and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea,
and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."* Acts 1:8

Missionary Dan and Sunny Sullivan in Thailand, Elder Raul and the Printing work Romania, and the Berea Baptist Banner Mantachie, Ms.

"Why I Don't Celebrate Christmas" Part I

By Pastor Raul Enyedi, Sovereign Grace Baptist Assembly, in Bocsia Romania
<http://72.219.6.125:81/RaulNoXmas.html>

I, too, as many others Christians, have been saddened and upset by the increasing secularization of the winter holidays, which, by every year that's passing by, become more superficial, losing more and more of their traditional values. The commercial seem to swallow up these values and use them only to increase profit. I, too, as many others, once had a nostalgia and a longing for the old times when traditions were respected, when the Christmas day had such an emotional charge, more than any other day of the year. I was among the voices that cried out: "Let's bring Christ back into Christmas!"

I wanted Christ to be back into the center of the holiday and to receive once again the worship he received from the shepherds and the wise men. And I was even one of those who insisted that Christmas was not about Santa, but about Christ. The carols I was singing talked only about Christ. I wanted, from all my heart, a truly Christian Christmas. But I knew that in order to have that, I had to do everything according to the Scriptures and eliminate all that was contrary to it. And so it was that I began my study, to find what the Bible really does say about Christmas. Very early I found that the New Testament does not contain any commandment to observe the birth of Christ. This was a bit odd, since in the Old Testament, when the Lord gave the Law to Israel, He gave them specific and detailed commandments to observe certain feasts or celebrations.

Not only have I found no specific commandment in the New Testament about observing the birth of Christ, but I found no exact date of his birth either. After all my inquiry, I was able to find only an approximate period, sometime late September or early October. There was no way Christ's birth could take place at the end of December, because the shepherds did not keep their flocks out on the fields during this month (see Luke 2:8), and a census would have been impossible at that time, too, for the traveling conditions in Israel were very difficult in the midst of the rainy season (Luke 2:1-3).

My next discovery troubled me even more. The Bible says nothing about the Christmas carols, the tree, the exchange of gifts, the special church programs and the preparing of rich tables in honor of the birth of the Savior. There is no commandment and no example in the Bible for anything that we do at Christmas. I asked myself, how can I have a Christian, scriptural Christmas when nothing that I do is found in the Bible? How did we, Christians, come to observe a holiday not commanded by the Bible? Why did we choose an obviously wrong date and customs that resemble with nothing in the Scripture? And if everything that pertains to Christmas, things that I assumed to be Christian, do not come from the New Testament, where did they come from? Oh, how great a surprise was the answer to the latter question...

*******Part 2 Next Week*******

"A Message From Pastor Johnson"

"Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof..."

1st Peter 5:2

"Godliness and Contentment."

By Pastor Randy Johnson

"But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows." 1 Timothy 6:6-10

One area of life a lot of Christians fail in is "contentment". The word means - satisfaction with what one has – and may I add, being satisfied with what God has graciously given us. However, in this world people believe "money" brings happiness, but in reality, it only brings misery. The Lord said, "godliness with contentment is great gain", which means - "to be devout," denotes that piety which, characterized by a Godward attitude" – therefore it is godliness and not money that should deliver happiness to every Christian. God reminds us in reference to money that, "we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out". So why do so many Christians seek more money instead of more godliness? You can have both money and godliness, yes, but only if God graciously supplies both as an act of grace. We must remember that "the love of money is the root of all evil". We must first and last seek godliness if we are going to be happy because God warns us seeking more than God gives us could cause us to "fall into temptation and a snare". What is a "snare", it is defined this way, -it is a trap, the allurements to evil by which the Devil – a place that no Christian wants or needs to be. It is this love for money that has caused many Christians and churches to fall into the snare of the devil and leave the truth of the word and godliness. God said of this "love for money" that it will only "drown men in destruction and perdition". The word "perdition" means - ruin or loss or waste – another place no true Christian or church wants to be. God said "while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith" or in seeking more than God gives by grace it caused them to err from the faith and godliness. The greatest godliness in a human heart is faith in God, faith in Jesus Christ, and faith in His sovereignty to supply our every need.

"Godliness and Contentment." Continued

Paul wrote these words to the church at Philippi, "*Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account. But I have all, and abound: I am full, having received of Epaphroditus the things which were sent from you, an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, wellpleasing to God. But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus. Now unto God and our Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen.*" Philippians 4:17-20 Beloved, please understand, seeking money instead of godliness can cost you in eternal rewards, something no true Christian should want. Patience is needed for us to be godly and content. James wrote, "*Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.*" James 5:8. A Believer with a patient heart will always be godly because we trust the Lord in contentment. Paul wrote to Timothy these words, "*But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.*" 1 Tim. 6:11 Listen beloved, we all know, and God certainly knows we need money to live in this world. But when our love for money takes away from our godliness then we have allowed "*foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.*" And for this there is no excuse, God never bless those that lose faith in Him to supply our needs. Nothing is more important than God and our serving God in the Truth of His word.

"Church Announcements and Upcoming Events"

- **The Church will be observing the Lord's Supper** today Sunday Oct. 22.
Our Church is now 62 years old Happy Anniversary Church!
- **Do Not Forget** to Set Your Clocks Back One Hour on Nov. 5th

Jesus Calls Out His First Disciples

"And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers. And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men. And they straightway left their nets, and followed him. And going on from thence, he saw other two brethren, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in a ship with Zebedee their father, mending their nets; and he called them. And they immediately left the ship and their father, and followed him." Matthew 4:18-22