

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, 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, 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, Clair and Jace Fails, Jim and Linda Meier, Keith Johnson, Carolyn Davis, Vickie Adkins, Shirley King, 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:

I am "God Made"

"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

I see people as competitors, wanting to be the best, strongest, smartest, best looking, etc. etc. etc. I see people racing down the road to get in front of someone else, racing to merge in front of you instead of behind you, I think you get the image I am painting. Few people in this world are humbled in nature. As Christians we need to slow down, we need to feast on the grace and blessings of God, and to do that, we need to see ourselves in the proper perspective. God described us this was, *"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;"* Romans 3:23 We never find God bragging on people, unless He is speaking about something He gave them the ability to accomplish. God went on to say, *"Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:"* Romans 3:24 As people we are so weak we cannot even believe on the Lord Jesus Christ on our own, we need God's power and faith to do that. *"So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God."* Romans 8:8 "When we see ourselves in the saved state we are always better Christians if we look back to see what God has done in our life, and understanding as Paul did, *"But by the grace of God I am what I am: 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. Therefore whether it were I or they, so we preach, and so ye believed."* 1 Corinthians 15:10 - 11 Paul admits that what he was in his Christian life was a gift of God, *"...but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me..."* Paul spoke of two things in our text scripture, but we must limit our thoughts:

1. *"not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think"* - Why not, why shouldn't we think highly of ourselves if we have accomplished much? Because in this flesh whether lost or saved we can only accomplish what God's grace has given us the ability to do. Notice here that Paul is not talking about our lost state but rather our saved state, *"For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you..."* God also told us, *"For our rejoicing is this, the testimony of our conscience, that in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom, but by the grace of God, we have had our conversation in the world, and more abundantly to you-ward."* 2

Corinthians 1:12 If a man such as The apostle Paul had no reason to glory in his accomplishments, then why would we? Look at this, “Thus saith the LORD, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches: But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the LORD.” Jeremiah 9:23 – 24

2. “...according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.” The word “faith” here means – a persuasion, that is, credence; moral conviction (of religious truth, or the truthfulness of God – So it is an action word, not only of believing in Christ but also believing and exercising God’s truths. As Christians and as Pastors we are all made like Paul, we are what we are by God’s grace. No matter how great of a church member or how great of a preacher/pastor you are, you are not self-made. The word “measure” means – a limited portion – therefore whatever you are, as great as you may be, please realize as Paul did when he wrote, “But by the grace of God I am what I am...” As Ministers and Christians in the churches we are not measured on our greatness, no, not at all, we are measured on the truth we preach. “Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine.” 1 Timothy 5:17

Please allow me to conclude with this thought. Christians are only as great as God hath blessed them, even if we labor more abundantly, we are still God blessed only. “but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me...” When listening to preachers, listen to their words, do not judge them on their preaching abilities or their styles of preaching. We are here to worship the Lord and we celebrate in the Truth of His word, not in the man delivering the sermon. It is not wrong to celebrate the good of the speaker and to honor him for preaching the truth, but please always remember he is what he is only by God’s grace. Humility is the greatest asset to the preacher, never thinking of yourself as great or not so great, I have known many great preachers that are humble and that makes them beautiful in their ministry. I have also known preachers who do not have great skill or styles as speakers who are just as great in word. We are all only as good as the “measure of faith” God has given to us.

It profits us nothing!

By Arthur Pink,

"Though I understand all mysteries and all knowledge . . . and have not love, I am nothing." 1 Corinthians 13:2

We must distinguish between things that differ, namely, a knowledge of spiritual things—and actual spiritual knowledge.

A knowledge of spiritual things can be acquired by the unregenerate.

Spiritual knowledge is peculiar to the children of God.

A knowledge of spiritual things is merely intellectual and theoretical.

Spiritual knowledge is vital and effectual.

One may take up "Bible study" in the same way as another would the study of philosophy or science. He may pursue it diligently and enthusiastically. He may obtain a familiarity of the *letter* of Scripture and a proficiency in understanding its terms, far in advance of the hard-working Christian who has less leisure and less natural ability. Yet what is such knowledge worth, if it . . .

does not affect the heart,

fails to transform the character and

make the daily walk pleasing to God!

Unless our "Bible study" is conforming us, both inwardly and outwardly, to the image of Christ—**it profits us nothing!**

Don Fortner: "Adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things." Titus 2:10. Let us take great care to conform our lives to our doctrine. *Doctrine* and *duty* cannot be separated. Every truth discovered in the Word of God ought to be applied to our lives. If our character and conduct does not reflect the grace and glory of God revealed in the gospel, our doctrine is utterly meaningless!