

# SOVEREIGN GRACE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

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

1217 Dillon Texarkana, Texas 75501

December 27, 2020

Newsletter Number 801

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## *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, 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 Mollette, cousin Kayla, 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, James Jackson and wife, Hailey Renee McManus, Little Cam Works, Brother Dan Sullivan the work in Thailand, Brother Raul and the work in Romania, Bro. Sergey Mochalov and the Churches in Russia.

## *The Pastors Thoughts:*

### **Biblical Forgiveness**

*"To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me." Acts 26:18*

I would like to point your attention to the word "forgiveness" once again. I have preached and written on this subject many times, because the greatest gift God gives the lost sinner is the forgiveness of their sins. This extremely gracious act on God's part is a true blessing to all saved. This scripture says that God opened our eyes, God turned our sinfully dead darkness to light, and God turned us from Satan's blinding power, so that we lost sinners could see Jesus Christ as our Saviour, forgiving all our sins through His blood. God did all this so that He could "sanctify us" which means - to make us holy, or to purify us from our sins -. What a blessing to us, more than we will ever realize in this lifetime, only in heaven we as children will ever understand this blessing in its fullest. Now, please understand this act of grace and mercy is only for the saved in Jesus Christ, the lost soul will never be forgiven one single sin, they will never experience what forgiveness is, they continue to live in darkness, destined for the eternal fires of hell. The lost has their hearts, eyes, and ears, darkened by Satan and he does not allow them to hear or see eternal forgiveness in Jesus Christ. However, the Christian, those whom God has brought light, should be able to see and understand this gracious act of forgiveness. Think about it, we, who were lost, sinful, blind, and our spirits were dead, have been quickened from Satan's power of darkness. However, I must serve this warning, since the Christian can see God's word and have a limited understanding of His word, we must abide in His word. God said, *"This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. (25) If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit."* Galatians 5:16, 25 As Christians, as recipients of God's grace and mercy, as those who have been cleansed or made holy by the blood of Jesus, receiving a complete pardon or forgiveness from all our sins, we are to walk in that holiness in this life given by God. Please understand this, if we are walking in God's word, we will never fulfill the lust of the flesh, because the lust of the flesh is ungodly. God said of Christians, *"And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem."* Luke 24:47 and the Lord went farther with our responsibility with these words, *"And ye are witnesses of these things."* Verse 48 Meaning we are to "testify" these things to the world, not in word only but in our life actions. I believe, since forgiveness is the believer's greatest gift in Jesus Christ blood, it should be the believer's greatest asset in

the way we live our life. Think on this, there is not one sin God will not forgive the saved, the only unpardonable or unforgivable sin, is the sin of unbelief in the gift of the Holy Spirit which is forgiveness and salvation in Jesus Christ. This is "a sin unto death" 1 John 5:16 – 19 but not for the believer, not for one who has all their sins forgiven. I also believe that as Christians there should not be any sins that we cannot forgive other believers. **Our hearts should be gracious because God is gracious to us.** I see a lot of Christians that have a hard time forgiving other Christians, but **how would we feel if God would refuse to forgive even one of our sins?** We would all be in hell for eternity, salvation would be for nothing and Jesus would have died in vain. Christian, we cannot find ourselves with unforgiving spirits because being unforgiving would be a sin, not on the sinner but yours, for not walking in the Spirit of God's word. Jesus said, "Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times? (22) Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven." Matthew 18:21 – 22 Therefore, if we fail to forgive one another over sin, then we become the sinner. This is talking about believers, Christians, those who have been cleansed by the blood of the Lamb. The lost has no forgiveness, God has never pardoned their sins and therefore they will die and go to hells eternal and unquenchable flames, not one single sin has God ever forgiven a lost soul. This shows us what a blessing it is to be saved. We see these words in Luke 17:3 - 4 "Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him. (4) And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him." However, we also see in our time Christians often fail to rebuke one another, and if they do the responsible party gets angry, and it seems that a lot of Christians just find it hard to forgive one another, **going through life angry at other Christians**, how sad. Please allow me to also say this, if a Christian sins against you please tell them, it is your responsibility to tell them. Second, if someone tells you please do not commit another sin by being angry with them, they are following God's word. Third, if your told of a sin then ask for forgiveness, and fourth, forgive the sin and move on as though it never happened. This is a revolving cycle "seventy time seventy". As Christians we ought to be gracious to each other as God has been gracious to us, if we fail to do so then the sin is ours. Thank you Lord for forgiveness. God is our example, please let us all walk in the steps of His Son.

#### ***"Grace for Grace"***

By Don Fortner

*"And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace."* John 1:16

In Christ we have received, from his boundless fulness, grace because of grace. — We have received redeeming grace because of electing grace, — regenerating grace because of redeeming grace, — sanctifying grace because of regenerating grace, — believing grace because of sanctifying grace, — persevering grace because of preserving grace, — grace in time because of grace in eternity, — experimental grace because of covenant grace, — pardoning grace because of promised grace, — imparted grace because of imputed grace, — everlasting grace because of everlasting grace, — the fulness of grace because of the freeness of grace, — heaps of grace upon heaps of grace (1 Cor. 1:30; Gal. 3:13-14; Eph. 1:3-2-10).

#### ***Thought From Charles Surgeon:***

"If Christ has died for me—then I cannot trifle with the sin which killed my best Friend! What sin is worth being damned for? If you have lived like the wicked—then you will die like the wicked, and be damned like the wicked! Look to the cross, and hate your sin—for sin nailed your Well-Beloved to the cruel tree! Sin is self-damnation! As salt tinges every drop in the ocean—so does sin affect every atom of man's nature! There is no cure for the love of sin—like the blood of Christ!"

#### ***Church Notices.***

Happy Birthday to Sister Donna Johnson, Saturday January 02