



M Grace Messenger

GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH

122 Walnut Street
Madison, AL 35758
256-837-8821

GBC HOMEPAGE

<http://www.gracemadison-al.com>

"Preaching the free grace of God which brings a change of lifestyles, masters, and destinies."

DEAN OLIVE, Pastor

— December 2007 Issue —

"We should serve in the newness of the Spirit and not in the oldness of the letter" (Romans 7:6).



NURSERY SCHEDULE

DECEMBER

02 – Amber Solan & Sara Smith
09 – Vicki Johnson & Sharon Bagley
16 – Bob & Faye Williams
23 – Kristy Hines & Jenifer Lovassy
30 – Linda Olive & Sonja Williams

JANUARY

06 – Jon & Tanya Amis
13 – David & Mary Alice Olive
20 – Nellie & Hannah McFadden
27 – Linda Olive & Sonja Williams

FINANCIAL SUMMARY AS OF DECEMBER 1, 2007

Budgeted expenditures (ytd)	\$ 93,342.34
Actual on-budget expenditures (ytd)	\$ 92,714.35
Actual off-budget expenditures (ytd)	\$ 42,827.47
General Fund offerings (ytd)	\$128,268.97
Building Fund offerings (ytd)	\$ 0.00
Love offerings (ytd)	\$ 5,683.95
Total offerings (ytd)	\$124,223.40
November General Fund offerings	\$ 9,679.52
November Building Fund offerings	\$ 0.00
Building Fund balance	\$ 27,469.68
Missions Fund balance	\$ 4,882.47
General Fund balance	\$ 20,600.24



CHRISTMAS TIME AT GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH 2007

December 16 – Our good friends from Providence Presbyterian Church will be joining us for a Christmas meal at 5 p.m. Following the meal we will have a joint worship service consisting of Christmas hymns and a message from Rev. Mark Winder. The ladies of Providence will be bringing the desserts and we will provide the meal.

December 23 – The morning service will be as usual, at 9:30 a.m. There will be no Sunday School. The evening worship hour will be at the normal time and will consist of Christmas carols, special Bible readings, and a message from God's Word.

December 30 – The morning service will be at 9:30 a.m. but there will be no Sunday School. Sunday School classes resume on January 6. The evening service will be at the normal time.

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

NORMAL SUNDAY SERVICES

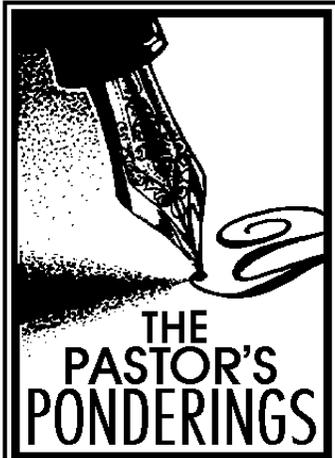
Morning Worship 9:30 AM
Sunday School 11:00 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

WEDNESDAY EVENING

Bible Study and Prayer Meeting
7:00 PM

FIRST SUNDAY SERVICES

Morning Worship 9:30 AM
Sunday School 11:00 AM
Dinner at the Church 12:00 Noon
Afternoon Service 1:30 PM
(No Evening Service)



JESUS IS KING

Jesus is King. Prophets foretold of him reigning with scepter in hand. He was born a King ready to sit on David's throne. He was and is called Lord, which is really the same thing as saying King. He reigns presently in the hearts of his people and

will return again to reign in power and great glory.

The NT teaches that Jesus inaugurated a kingdom at his first coming and that He will consummate it at his Second Coming. When He comes the second time, the kingdoms of this world will become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever! (Rev. 11:15). But His kingdom has already been inaugurated. It is present now in a mystery form.

Genesis 49 is a chapter that contains the blessings and prophecies that Jacob spoke to his twelve sons before his departure to be with the Lord. The word he spoke concerning Judah is the most significant of the prophecies for it finds ultimate fulfillment in the Person of Jesus Christ (vv. 8-12).

Jacob's prophecy was a royal prophecy, signified by the scepter. The tribe of Judah was the royal tribe, the one that produced kings. David was the greatest king of Judah and he is but a foreshadowing of the Lord Jesus Christ. Jacob's prophecy received its initial fulfillment in David and its ultimate fulfillment in the Christ, the son of David.

The heart of the prophecy concerning Judah is found in v. 10. Jacob said, "The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh comes; and to Him shall be the obedience of the people." The "scepter" is the symbol of ruler-ship. A scepter is a staff held by a king and is a symbol of his authority and sovereignty. One who holds a scepter is a king.

Jacob said, "The scepter shall not depart from Judah... until Shiloh comes." Shiloh is the name of a place in the OT, a town near Bethel. For a period of time during the reign of the Judges, the tabernacle was set up there (1 Sam. 1:3). But Jacob's reference to Shiloh is not to a place but to a person. This is obvious for after he says, "Until Shiloh comes," he adds, "And to Him shall be the obedience of the people."

This one who is to come from Judah will govern. He will be a king. This, of course, fits the description given in Isaiah 9:6-7: "For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will

be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace There will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this" (9:6-7).

The ultimate fulfillment of the prophecy of Jacob and that of Isaiah is Christ. Out of Judah would come One to whom obedience would be given "of the people." Other OT writers also saw the universal reign of this future king. Psalm 2:8, "Ask of me, and I will make the nations your inheritance." Daniel 7:13-14, "There before me was one like a son of man... He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men of every language worshiped him."

Christ Jesus is King. The throne is his by right. He is the ruler of his people and shall rule all the nations. "And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end" (Luke 1:31-33).

Christ Jesus the Messiah was born a king. The Scriptures tell us that "wise men" came after His birth to worship him as the King of the Jews. The wise men asked, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews?" And then they said, "For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him" (Matt. 2:2).

While He lived on the earth, He preached the kingdom of God (Mark 1:15). When He died, He died as a king. When Jesus stood before Pilate, He was asked, "Are You the King of the Jews?" Jesus answered him, "It is as you say" (Matt. 27:11). A marker was nailed over his cross that said, "This is Jesus the King of the Jews" (Matt. 27:37). He is now exalted in heaven and reigns as King over His people (Col. 1:13). And when He comes again, He will come as our glorious King (1 Tim. 4:1; Rev. 19:16).

He is the One now before whom we bow; He is the One who rules over us and brings us peace and rest! The OT taught that the Messiah would hold three offices – Prophet, Priest, and King. Jesus holds all three of these Messianic offices. He is our Prophet to instruct us; He is our Priest to save us; He is our King to rule us. All who recognize Jesus as the Messiah, the Christ of God, must therefore acknowledge his Kingship.

Let us bow before Him and acknowledge him as the King of kings and Lord of lords.



DECEMBER 2 – Ben Holland, assistant pastor of Grace Community Church and son-in-law to Steven and Leah Drake, will be preaching in the afternoon service.

DECEMBER 16 – Providence Presbyterian Church will be joining us for a Christmas meal at 5 p.m. Following the meal we will have a joint worship service consisting of Christmas hymns and a message from God’s Word by pastor Mark Winder.

DECEMBER 23 – Special Christmas Program including Bible readings, preaching, and singing. The service will be held in the evening at 6 p.m.

DECEMBER 23 AND 30 – There will be no Sunday School on these two days.

JANUARY 6 – Observance of the Lord’s Supper in the afternoon service.

JANUARY 7 – A class on apologetics will begin with lectures on DVD by Dr. Greg Bahnsen. For more information on this 15 week class, see the pastor.

FEBRUARY 3 – The annual church business meeting will be held in the afternoon.

MARCH 13 – We will be hosting the Sovereign Grace Baptist Pastor’s Fellowship.

APRIL 18-20 – Spring Bible Conference with Kevin Landis, pastor of Bible Chapel of Delhi Hills, Cincinnati, Ohio.



Puritan Gems

NO DEFECT IN THE REDEEMER

THOMAS MANTON

“There is a sufficiency in the merits of Christ for all, so that if it had pleased God to give Christ to all mankind, his justice had been sufficiently satisfied. For there is no defect in the Redeemer, and therefore there are so many general expressions in scripture to set out the value of Christ’s sacrifice; so that if there were ten thousand times more sins committed than there are, here is enough to expiate them all, the person that suffered being so eminent, and the sufferings so great and infinite. Those that perish do not perish out of any defect or insufficiency in the merit of Christ, as if enough were not done to save them; but out of their own fault, because they did not believe it” (Sermon on Isaiah 53:6).

QUESTION #95 – “How is baptism rightly administered?”

ANSWER – Baptism is rightly administered by immersion, or dipping the whole body of the believer in water, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, according to Christ’s institution, and the practice of the apostles, and not by sprinkling or pouring of water, or dipping some part of the body, after the tradition of men.

SCRIPTURE – Matthew 3:16; 28:19-20; John 3:23; 4:1-2; Acts 8:38-39

COMMENT – “I have never doubted that immersion is intended to symbolize union with Christ or that immersion was the method used in the New Testament. The [Greek] word *rantizo* means to sprinkle and the [Greek] word *baptizo* means to dip or to immerse. The Holy Spirit could easily have used *rantizo* if he meant us to sprinkle. The Greek Orthodox Church uses immersion when baptizing infants because they grasp their own language” (Erroll Hulse).

ILLUSTRATION – “The summer after the battle of Gettysburg, I was preaching in a Virginia brigade at the camp below Orange Court House, during the great and blessed revival in Lee’s army. Many soldiers were finding Christian hope. After preaching one day in an old church near the camp, a Presbyterian chaplain arose, called up several soldiers, and proceeded to ‘baptize’ them, as he termed it, from a little bowl of water. When the services were about to close, a Baptist chaplain invited the congregation to go after dismissal to a baptistery which had been prepared at the foot of the hill, where the ordinance of baptism would be administered. He handed me his Bible as we went down the hill, asking me to read some passages and pray. I read the account of the baptism of Jesus, the commission in which he enjoins baptism, the account of Philip and the eunuch, and the passage in Romans, and then many soldiers were baptized. As the crowd went away, a soldier was heard to say to his comrades, ‘I tell you what, fellows, this that they did down here was a great deal more like them Scriptures than what they did up yonder’” (John Broadus, *Immersion: Essential to Christian Baptism*).

THEOLOGY



CORNER

A REFORMED AND BAPTIST CATECHISM

ALWAYS READY FOR DEFENDING THE FAITH: A COURSE ON APOLOGETICS

A seminary course on apologetics entitled, “Always Ready for Defending the Faith,” will be taught on Monday evenings, beginning January 7 and ending April 28. The course consists of 15 seminary-level lectures, taught by Dr. Greg Bahnsen (DVD). The cost is \$25 plus books. If you are interested in taking this class, please see Pastor Olive for more details.

THAT'S MY KING

Rev. S. M. Lockeridge

My King was born King. The Bible says He's a Seven Way King. He's the King of the Jews - that's an Ethnic King. He's the King of Israel - that's a National King. He's the King of righteousness. He's the King of the ages. He's the King of Heaven. He's the King of glory. He's the King of kings and He is the Lord of lords. Now that's my King.

Well, I wonder if you know Him. Do you know Him? Don't try to mislead me. Do you know my King?

David said the Heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament shows His handiwork. My King is the only one of whom there are no means of measure that can define His limitless love. No far seeing telescope can bring into visibility the coastline of the shore of His supplies. No barriers can hinder Him from pouring out His blessing. He's enduringly strong. He's entirely sincere. He's eternally steadfast. He's immortally graceful. He's imperially powerful. He's impartially merciful. That's my King.

He's God's Son. He's the sinner's savior. He's the centerpiece of civilization. He stands alone in Himself. He's honest. He's unique. He's unparalleled. He's unprecedented. He's supreme. He's pre-eminent. He's the grandest idea in literature. He's the highest personality in philosophy. He's the supreme problem in higher criticism. He's the fundamental doctrine of historic theology. He's the carnal necessity of spiritual religion. That's my King.

He's the miracle of the age. He's the superlative of everything good

that you choose to call Him. He's the only one able to supply all our needs simultaneously. He supplies strength for the weak. He's available for the tempted and the tried. He sympathizes and He saves. He's the Almighty God who guides and keeps all his people. He heals the sick. He cleanses the lepers. He forgives sinners. He discharged debtors. He delivers the captives. He defends the feeble. He blesses the young. He serves the unfortunate. He regards the aged. He rewards the diligent and He beautifies the meek. That's my King.



Do you know Him? Well, my King is a King of knowledge. He's the wellspring of wisdom. He's the doorway of deliverance. He's the pathway of peace. He's the roadway of righteousness. He's the highway of holiness. He's the gateway of glory. He's the master of the mighty. He's the captain of the conquerors. He's the head of the heroes. He's the leader of the legislatures. He's the overseer of the overcomers. He's the governor of governors. He's the prince of princes. He's the King of kings and He's the Lord of lords. That's my King.

His office is manifold. His promise is sure. His light is matchless. His goodness is limitless. His mercy is everlasting. His love never changes. His Word is enough. His grace is sufficient. His reign is righteous. His yoke is easy and His burden is light. I wish I could describe Him to you . . . but He's indescribable. He's indescribable. That's my King. He's incomprehensible. He's invincible.

He's irresistible. I'm coming to tell you this, that the heavens of heavens can't contain Him, let alone some man explain Him. You can't get Him out of your mind. You can't get Him off of your hands. You can't outlive Him and you can't live without Him. The Pharisees couldn't stand Him, but they found out they couldn't stop Him. Pilate couldn't find any fault in Him. The witnesses couldn't get their testimonies to agree about Him. Herod couldn't kill Him. Death couldn't handle Him and the grave couldn't hold Him. That's my King.

He always has been and He always will be. I'm talking about the fact that He had no predecessor and He'll have no successor. There's nobody before Him and there'll be nobody after Him. You can't impeach Him and He's not going to resign. That's my King! That's my King!

Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory. Well, all the power belongs to my King. We're around here talking about black power and white power and green power, but in the end all that matters is God's power. Thine is the power. Yeah. And the glory. We try to get prestige and honour and glory for ourselves, but the glory is all His. Yes. Thine is the Kingdom and the power and glory, forever and ever and ever and ever. How long is that? And ever and ever and ever and ever. And when you get through with all of the 'ever's, then . . . Amen.

The late Dr. S.M. Lockeridge, from San Diego, California, preached this in a sermon in Detroit in 1976. It is well worth hearing! You can hear it on the internet at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=yX_7j32zgNw