



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

— February 2007 Issue —

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



NURSERY SCHEDULE

FEBRUARY

- 04 – Nellie & Hannah McFadden
- 11 – Troy & Jessica Moseley
- 18 – Bob & Faye Williams
- 25 – Vicki Johnson & Sharon Bagley

MARCH

- 04 – Linda Olive & Sonya Williams
- 11 – Kristy Hines & Jenny Lovassy
- 18 – David & Mary Alice Olive
- 25 – Jon & Tanya Amis

FINANCIAL SUMMARY AS OF FEBRUARY 1, 2007

Budgeted expenditures (ytd)	\$ 8,619.27
Actual on-budget expenditures (ytd)	\$ 7,886.82
Actual off-budget expenditures (ytd)	\$ 0.00
General Fund offerings (ytd)	\$ 8,228.15
Building Fund offerings (ytd)	\$ 0.00
Love offerings (ytd)	\$ 0.00
Total offerings (ytd)	\$ 8,228.15
January General Fund offerings	\$ 8,228.15
January Building Fund offerings	\$ 0.00
Building Fund balance	\$ 18,903.31
Missions Fund balance	\$ 12,092.29
General Fund balance	\$ 19,983.85

TO THOSE WHO HAVE A REAL DESIRE FOR SALVATION

J.C. Ryle

If you desire salvation, and want to know what to do, I advise you to go this very day to the Lord Jesus Christ and earnestly and heartily entreat him in prayer to save your soul.

- Tell him that you have heard that he receives sinners, and he has said, "Him that comes unto me I will in nowise cast out."
- Tell him that you are a poor vile sinner, and that you come to him on the faith of his own invitation.
- Tell him you put yourself wholly and entirely in his hands; that you feel vile and helpless, and hopeless in yourself; and that except he saves you, you have no hope of being saved at all.
- Beseech him to deliver you from guilt, the power, and the consequences of sin. Beseech him to pardon you, and wash you in his own blood.
- Beseech him to give you a new heart, and plant the Holy Spirit in your soul. Beseech him to give you grace and faith and will and power to be his disciple and servant from this day forever.

Go this very day, and tell these things to the Lord Jesus Christ, if you are really in earnest about your soul. If you have any desire to be saved, remember the advice I have given to you this day. Act upon it honestly and heartily, and you shall be saved.

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

NORMAL SUNDAY SERVICES

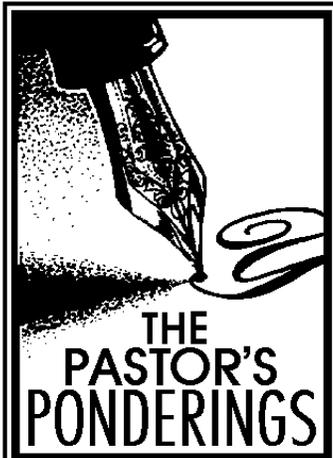
Morning Worship	9:30 AM
Sunday School	11:00 AM
Evening Worship	6:00 PM

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)	



CHRISTIANS ARE FORGIVEN

I'm not a great fan of Christian bumperstickers. Oh, I think it is OK to put the Word of God out, even on the bumper of a car, but some of the messages that you read on bumperstickers trouble me. But there

are some bumperstickers that I like. One of my favorites through the years has the simple message, "Christians Are Forgiven."

Now that is a true, biblical message. And not only is it true and biblical, it gets to the very heart of the Christian faith. You can have the trite bumperstickers like, "Honk if you love Jesus," but here is one I like -- "Christians Are Forgiven."

If you are a believer in Jesus Christ, then one of the wonderful things that happened to you is that all your sins have been forgiven because of Christ. God has pardoned and remitted your sins. He has not temporarily suspended the punishment of sin -- he has forever removed them!

The apostle John wrote, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9). If we come to God confessing our sins instead of denying them, he will forgive us. Confession is saying the same thing about our sins that God says about them. John Bunyan said that we must acknowledge our sins "to be what the Lord saith they are." Calvin called confession of our sins a "condemning [of] ourselves."

Forgiveness of course is linked with the notion of sin. If there is no sin, there is no need for forgiveness. But where there is sin, then forgiveness is a vital necessity! Not one single one of us will ever be restored to favor with God and will ever enter heaven except our sins are forgiven!

Forgiveness forever solves the problem of sin in the believer's life—all sins past, present, and future are forever removed! God no longer holds our sins against us. One of the Puritans, Thomas Adams, said, "Sins are so remitted, as if they had never been committed."

Not everyone experiences forgiveness. The Bible declares

that only those who believe in Christ as their Savior and Lord have the free pardon of sins. Paul preached to the Jews in Antioch in Pisidia, "Let it be known to you brethren, that through this Man is preached to you the forgiveness of sins; and by him everyone who believes is justified from all things from which you could not be justified by the law of Moses" (Acts 13:38-39).

Psalm 130:3 asks a question. "If you, Lord, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand?" The answer is -- no one! If God kept a record of iniquities no one would be able to stand in the judgment. But the next verse declares, "But there is forgiveness with you" (4). Leon Morris said, "Forgiveness reveals something about the character of God. He is a God who pardons, not a grim tyrant who holds sinners everlastingly responsible. He sent his Son to die on a cross to effect forgiveness. This surely means more than the remitting of penalty; it points to the establishment of a warm personal relationship with the forgiving God."

For Christ's sake and based upon his sacrificial death for sinners, God extends forgiveness to all who will believe on him. He removes their sins and will not hold them against the believer. Forgiven! Debt paid in full! What an immense and unmeasurable blessing!

Are you a Christian? If so, your sins are forgiven. "As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us" (Psalm 103:12). There is a definite point that is "north" and another that is "south," the North and South Poles. But there are no such points for "east" and "west." It doesn't matter how far you go to the east; you will never arrive where west begins. And it doesn't matter how far you go to the west; you will never arrive where east begins. West and east never meet. To remove our sins "as far as the east is from the west" is by definition to put them where no one can ever find them. That is the forgiveness God has granted us.

D. James Kennedy said he saw an unmarked tombstone outside of Sydney, New York, which had but one word on it, "Forgiven." Christians are forgiven. Bask in the joy of that today. Sin deserves divine punishment because it is a violation of God's holy law, but because of God's grace, our sins have been removed. Ephesians 1:7 says, "In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace."

WEB SITES

- Bible Research** –
www.bible-researcher.com/index.html
- Herman Bavinck** –
www.bavinck.homestead.com/index.html
- Proclaiming the Gospel** –
www.pro-gospel.org/
- Reformed Baptist Theological Review** –
www.rbtr.org/
- Monergism** – www.monergism.com/



FEBRUARY 4 – The Annual Church Business Meeting will be held in the afternoon at 1:15 p.m.

FEBRUARY 11 – Pastor Mark Winder will be preaching in the morning service and Fred Smith in the evening. Pastor Olive will be away preaching at the Grace Bible Camp, Bentley, Louisiana.

FEBRUARY 18 – Sunday Night Get-Together resumes with a DVD on the life of the translator of Scripture, William Tyndale.

MARCH 7 – The church will be observing the ordinance of the Lord's Supper in the afternoon service.

MARCH 11 - Paul Alexander, former pastor to Westminster Presbyterian Church, now missionary to the Ukraine, will be bringing the evening message.

MARCH 15 – We are hosting the Sovereign Grace Pastor's Fellowship meeting. Services begin at 10:30 a.m. with lunch at 12:30 p.m.

MARCH 18 – Sunday Night Get-Together, featuring a film on the life of missionary, William Carey, *Candle in the Dark*.

APRIL 20-22 – Spring Bible Conference with John Crotts, pastor of Faith Bible Church, Sharpsburg, Georgia.



Puritan Gems GIVING LUST A BILL OF DIVORCE

Jonathan Edwards

“Sin is naturally exceeding dear to us; to part with it is compared to plucking out our right eyes. Men may refrain from wonted ways of sin for a little while, and may deny their lusts in a partial degree, with less difficulty; but it is heart-rending work, finally to part with all sin, and to give our dearest lusts a bill of divorce, utterly to send them away. But this we must do, if we would follow those that are truly turning to God: yea, we must not only forsake sin, but must, in a sense, forsake all the world, Luke xiv.33 ‘Whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.’”

Question #84 – “What doth every sin deserve?”

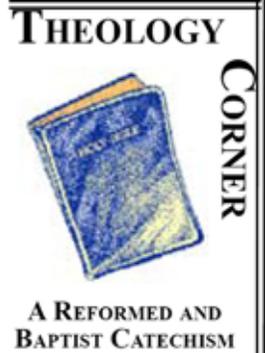
Answer – “Every sin deserves God’s wrath and curse, both in this life, and that which is to come.”

Scripture – Ephesians 5:6, “Because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience.” Galatians 3:10, “Cursed is everyone that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them.”

Lamentations 3:39, “Wherefore doth a living man complain, a man for the punishment of his sins?” Matthew 25:41, “Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels.”

Commentary – “Every sin doth deserve God’s wrath and curse, both in this life and that which is to come, because every sin is committed against an infinitely holy and righteous God, and his justice doth require infinite satisfaction; and if some sinners do escape some temporal punishments, they cannot escape the eternal punishment of hell, which is the only satisfying punishment, unless they have an interest in the satisfaction made by Christ” (Thomas Vincent).

Illustration – The famous preacher, William Jay, once entered a barn in order to speak to a farmer. Mr. Jay addressed the man with the words of Solomon, “My friend, in all labor there is profit” (Prov. 14:23). The farmer, who was a Christian, replied, “That is the truth, but there is one exception from it. I have long labored in the service of sin, but I got no profit by my labor.” The pastor said to the farmer, “Then you know something of the apostle’s meaning, when he asked, ‘*What fruit have ye in those things whereof ye are now ashamed*’” (Rom. 6:21). “Thank God,” the farmer replied, “I do; and I also know, that now, being freed from sin, and having become a servant unto righteousness, I have my fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life” (Rom. 6:22).



SUNDAY NIGHT GET-TOGETHER

FEBRUARY 18

WILLIAM TYNDALE: HIS LIFE, HIS LEGACY



WILLIAM TYNDALE (1494-1536)

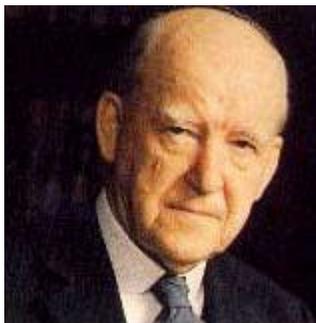
WAS ONE OF THE MOST INFLUENTIAL MEN IN CHURCH HISTORY. HE WAS THE FIRST TO TRANSLATE AND PRINT THE “FORBIDDEN BOOK”— THE ENGLISH BIBLE. FOR HIS FAITH HE WAS IMPRISONED FOR 500 DAYS AND THEN BURNED AT THE STAKE. THIS FILM TELLS HIS AMAZING STORY (RUNNING TIME: 1 HOUR).

IT WILL BE SHOWN AFTER THE EVENING SERVICE.

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL BE PROVIDED.

THE ITINERANT DOCTOR: MARTYN LLOYD-JONES

Geoff Thomas



Virtually every week, some day from Tuesday to Thursday, Dr Lloyd-Jones would take the train out of London and travel to preach in churches all over the British Isles. He had been doing it since he began as a minister in Wales. He was an evangelist to the UK and these were the opportunities he was given to bring the gospel continually to a thousand a week outside London.

My mother and father had thus first heard him in his visits to Merthyr Tydfil in the 1930s, preaching to a packed congregation at Zoar Chapel. My mother always remembered something he said, opening up a passage of the New Testament on the theme of 'man' and showing how we had not moved one inch from the condition described in the first century. She did not know that this was a familiar theme of his.

A great blessing

I heard him first in September, 1958, while just in my teens. Officers in camp had spoken of him with lowered voices - the same tone they adopted when such a hymn as 'A debtor to mercy alone' was referred to. These were the most delightful men to be with. I wanted to be like them. So when Dr Eifion Evans was inducted to the pastorate of Memorial Hall Forward Movement Church, Cardiff; I took the train from Barry to hear him.

The Welsh singing was terrific. The platform party was dark-suited. It was a serious occasion. DMLI-J spoke, and I adjusted to it steadily. The impression of the importance of this kind of preaching was the abiding legacy of that night. I told him years later that this was the first

time I had heard him. 'I preached on Mark 5 and the raising of Jairus's daughter' he said. 'I can't remember' I said. He tried to refresh my memory. 'I was speaking of how the Lord was going in one direction to Jairus's home when suddenly his journey was held up by the woman with the issue of blood who reached out and touched the hem of his garment. The Lord stopped and dealt with her then and there. I said how Eifion Evans was on his way to become a pharmacist, and then God intervened in his journey and he went another way to become a preacher.' 'I can't remember' I confessed. He looked a little baffled at this and said, 'David Jones had a great blessing that evening...' But I had a great blessing that night too; it was an awareness of the power of God...

How all men should preach

It was just that one sermon I needed as an adjustment to DMLI-J. After that I can recall the texts and also the themes of the sermons I heard during my student years. *But God, And Paul reasoned of righteousness, temperance and judgement to come, And the place was shaken where they were assembled together; How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation?* This latter was particularly meaningful after living for two years in the preaching wilderness of the USA and wondering whether my impression of the preaching of DMLI-J was simply the infatuation of my own adolescence. But then I listened again and it came - lucid, compelling, gripping, moving, elevating, thrilling, faith-enriching, constraining to new obedience, doxology and renewed assurance. Yes, that is how my sermons should be. That is how all men should preach...

When he came to a community three classes of people came to hear him. 1) Those who attended church, kept declining causes going and could tell you knowledgeable that this was the man who had given up Harley Street to become a preacher. They lacked any discernment. Nostalgia for the old days of big meetings had brought them along. They delighted in all they heard but for inadequate reasons. (2) Then there were the evangelicals who

were beginning to purchase his works, read *Banner of Truth* books, knew the larger issues that some had sacrificed buildings and manses to support. Those who could also brought their children to hear him. I took my daughter (now married to the editor of this magazine). She was then 10, and when we walked home together afterwards I asked her what she thought of it. 'It was like Sunday mornings but simpler' she said in total honesty. Exactly. 3) Then there were people drawn along by the buzz. They were the most stimulating to talk to, as they tried to describe their impressions. A Welsh vet. and his wife said 'He could make you believe that black was white'. That is, they put it all down to rhetoric. They had been moved. There had been an awakening, convicting work that night, but Christianity is so inconvenient, and, well, it had been just the stirrings caused by human eloquence. They awarded him 10 out of 10 for that, and went on their way, along the broad road to destruction.

Extraordinary

... The effect of his visits was extraordinary, a lifting of the spirit in a time of refreshing and joy. That it is 20 years since he last came and preached outside London is almost unbelievable. The sight and sound of him in the pulpit is as vivid as if it were last St David's Day. The vacuum his absence has left stubbornly refuses to be filled. We had hopes of his mantle falling on one or another but catastrophes have befallen those to whom we had looked most optimistically. These are cruel days. In an age of common congregations we need uncommon leaders. What is God teaching us? That the removal of leaders is the form which the divine judgment the whole of Britain is under has come on us evangelical Christians. *Woe to thee, O land, when thy king is a child* (Ecclesiastes 10:16). It is what we deserve, and we must cry to God that he remember mercy.

(Grace Magazine, November 1999)