



Grace Messenger

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



NURSERY SCHEDULE

JULY

- 01 – Kristy Hines & Jennifer Lovassy
- 08 – David & Mary Alice Olive
- 15 – Jon and Tanya Amis
- 22 – Nellie & Hannah McFadden
- 29 – Troy & Jessica Moseley

AUGUST

- 05 – Bob & Faye Williams
 - 12 – Vicki Johnson & Sharon Bagley
 - 19 – Linda Olive & Sonja Williams
 - 26 – Kristy Hines & Jenny Lovassy
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FINANCIAL SUMMARY AS OF JULY 1, 2007

Budgeted expenditures (ytd)	\$ 51,974.70
Actual on-budget expenditures (ytd)	\$ 53,104.55
Actual off-budget expenditures (ytd)	\$ 37,727.47
General Fund offerings (ytd)	\$ 68,159.04
Building Fund offerings (ytd)	\$ 0.00
Love offerings (ytd)	\$ 4,051.95
Total offerings (ytd)	\$ 72,210.99
June General Fund offerings	\$ 11,241.24
June Building Fund offerings	\$ 0.00
Building Fund balance	\$ 16,295.86
Missions Fund balance	\$ 8,918.69
General Fund balance	\$ 9,332.85

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

— July 2007 Issue —

GOD BLESS AMERICA

BY IRVING BERLIN

"WHILE THE STORM CLOUDS GATHER FAR ACROSS THE SEA,
LET US SWEAR ALLEGIANCE TO A LAND THAT'S FREE,
LET US ALL BE GRATEFUL FOR A LAND SO FAIR,
AS WE RAISE OUR VOICES IN A SOLEMN PRAYER. "

GOD BLESS AMERICA,
LAND THAT I LOVE.

STAND BESIDE HER, AND GUIDE HER
THRU THE NIGHT WITH A LIGHT FROM ABOVE.

FROM THE MOUNTAINS, TO THE PRAIRIES,
TO THE OCEANS, WHITE WITH FOAM

GOD BLESS AMERICA,
MY HOME SWEET HOME.

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

NORMAL SUNDAY SERVICES

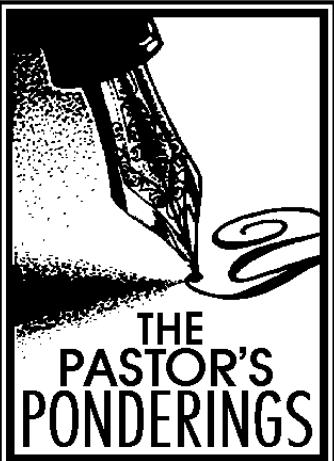
Morning Worship	9:30 AM
Sunday School	11:00 AM
Evening Worship	6:00 PM

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)	

WEDNESDAY EVENING

Bible Study and Prayer Meeting	7:00 PM
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THE CONVERSION OF A.W. PINK

A.W. Pink, the great Bible commentator, was converted when the Spirit of God brought home to his heart Proverbs 14:12. Ian Murray records Pink's story in the biography he wrote of his life.

"Our knowledge of Pink's childhood and youth is practically a total blank.

Whether he attended the nearest local school to Newstead Grove [England], whether he sat with many other youths in the summer sunshine at Trent Bridge to watch cricket, whether he had one of Nottingham's latest bicycles with which to ride in Sherwood—all these and other such things are unrecorded. What is clear is that as he and his younger brother and sister (Frank and Louise) grew up; their early training in the Scriptures showed no signs of bearing fruit and slowly all three children drifted into lives of unbelief. It may be that schooling contributed to that end. Academically, Pink's education appears to have been reasonably good and, unlike many children of that period, he stayed at school until he was sixteen, but in later years he was to express his fears respecting the effects of twentieth-century secular education...

"To the added grief of his parents Pink's unbelief took a religious form. From Christianity he turned to theosophy, a cult which, though only formed into a Society in 1875, claimed a special knowledge preserved from generation to generation by a brotherhood of initiates. Its best-known British publication, the magazine *Lucifer*, indicated clearly enough its anti-Christian nature, while its leading journal, *The Theosophist*, published monthly at the Society's headquarters in Madras, India, purveyed in esoteric form the 'wisdom' of Eastern religions, including belief in reincarnation. What drew Pink to theosophy is unknown. Perhaps, as in the case of others, it was the Society's claim to possess occult phenomena, and certainly their practices were allied to Spiritualism. Once interested, he soon became thoroughly committed and in his early twenties he was frequently to be found addressing cult meetings not only in Nottingham but much further afield. The London headquarters—from whence *Lucifer* had originated—were familiar to him and in a photograph taken of leading theosophists of that period the young A. W. Pink was to be found seated in their midst.

"When news of Pink's eloquent propagation of theosophy reached Madam Besant in Madras she opened a correspondence with him and subsequently proposed to confer a title upon him which would rank him among the cult's chiefs—a dignity which apparently entailed his removal to India. One of Pink's closest friends, although a fellow theosophist, was not

enamoured with the proposal. An opera singer by profession and having a high opinion of Pink's baritone voice he urged him to study for the same career. But although the two men went together to Paris about this time, the appeal of Madam Besant's offer was much stronger than that of music and Pink accepted it. It 'fed his ego,' as he commented to friends in later years.

"Meanwhile Thomas Pink [his father] was not altogether silent. He always waited up until his son returned from meetings late in the evening and, to Arthur's annoyance, often accompanied his 'Good-night' with some brief but telling word of Scripture. One such evening, in the year 1908, as Pink hurriedly passed his father and dashed upstairs to his room, the text which he received was, 'There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death' (Prov. 14:12). As he shut the bedroom door, intending to do some work on a speech for an important annual conclave of theosophists, the text remained with him and so disturbed his concentration that work was impossible. The story continues in the words of Charles and Elsie Pressel:

'A.W.P. decided he was fatigued, and would take a bath to relax, but during this process all he could see "mentally" was "There is a way that seemeth right, etc." Again he returned to work on his speech and all his mind brought forth was Proverbs 14:12. He, A.W.P., told us he could no longer reject the God of the Bible and began to cry unto the Lord in prayer, convicted by the Holy Spirit and his power to bring a soul to see his lost condition and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as his Saviour. His early training taught him about our Lord, but now, like Paul of old, was the appointment with a Holy Sovereign God. For almost three days he did not leave his room to join the family, but his father and mother prayed, and in late afternoon on the third day A.W.P. made his appearance and his father said, "Praise God, my son has been delivered."

'A.W.P. kept his next appointment before the Society of Theosophists; the speech he was preparing was never completed but by God's grace he made known to them the God of the Bible. A "groan" went up from the listeners. Many remarked that he had "gone mad" and needed a rest, for they were aware of his plans to join Madam Besant.'

"Pink himself that night believed that he had been given a remarkable enduement of the Spirit. His last address among theosophists was, in fact, a gospel sermon on the true God and Jesus Christ, his Son, in whom alone there is full salvation. The same night he resigned his membership of the Society and when news of the evening's proceedings at length reached Madras, Pink was labeled as 'insane.'"

Perhaps this is a text that you need to hear and understand. Ponder it today: "There is a way which seemeth right to a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death" (Prov. 14:12).

WEB SITES

A PLACE FOR TRUTH –

www.aplacefortruth.org/

DON CURRIN MINISTRIES –

www.doncurrinministries.org/

HIS BY GRACE –

www.gracesermons.com/hisbygrace/

THE COUNCIL ON BIBLICAL MANHOOD AND

WOMANHOOD –

www.cbmw.org/index.php

THE W. A. CRISWELL SERMON LIBRARY –

www.wacriswell.org/

THE WAY OF THE MASTER –

www.wayofthemaster.com/



THEOLOGY

CORNER



A REFORMED AND BAPTIST CATECHISM

QUESTION #90 – “How is the word to be read and heard, that it may become effectual to salvation?”

ANSWER – For the word to become effectual to salvation, the hearers of the word must attend to it with diligence and prayer, receive it by faith and do what it says.

SCRIPTURE – Proverbs 8:34; Psalm 119:11, 18; Hebrews 4:2; 2 Thessalonians 2:10; Luke 8:15; James 1:25; 1 Peter 2:1-2

COMMENTARY – “Preaching appears in the Bible as a relaying of what God has said about Himself and His doings, and about men in relation to Him, plus a pressing of His commands, promises, warnings, and assurances, with a view to winning the hearer or hearers ... to a positive response” (J. I. Packer).

ILLUSTRATION – As a minister was once preaching, he saw several of the men asleep and thereupon sat down. Upon his silence, and the noise that presently arose in the church, they awoke, and stood up with the rest, upon which *he* arose, and said, “The sermon is not yet done, but now that you are awake, I hope you will hearken more diligently,” and then the service went on.



YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND THE MARRIAGE CEREMONY OF SARA BAGLEY AND KEVIN SMITH AT FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH MADISON ON AUGUST 11, 2007 AT 1:30 PM. RECEPTION TO FOLLOW.



JULY 4 – No Prayer Meeting due to the holiday.

JULY 11 – There will be no Prayer Meeting so we can attend the Bible Conference at Prosperity Presbyterian Church, Yukon, Tennessee. This church is pastored by our good friend, Rev. Dana Crowell. Rev. Calvin Todd, pastor of the Fayetteville A.R.P. Church, will be the preacher.

JULY 22 – Guest preacher, Mack Tomlinson, former editor of Heart Cry Magazine and co-pastor of Grace Church, Denton, Texas.

JULY 26 – The Sovereign Grace Baptist Pastor’s Fellowship monthly meeting is scheduled to be held at Providence Baptist Church, Pulaski, TN, at their new meeting house. Services begin at 10 a.m. Three men will be preaching. The church will provide lunch.

AUGUST 20 – Fall semester of Bible Institute begins with lectures via DVD by Dr. Sam Waldron on the theme, Justification by Faith. This course provides an historical and contemporary overview of the doctrine of justification. The development and meaning of justification by faith alone is traced through a study of Luther, Calvin, and the Protestant Confessions. Contemporary departures from the historic doctrine including those associated with the new perspective on Paul are explained and subjected to a biblical critique which also provides a fresh treatment of the biblical support of justification *sola fide*.

SEPTEMBER 14-16 – A week-end conference on Revival and the Local Church, led by Don Currin.



LOOK UPON THE CAUSE OF CHRIST'S SUFFERINGS.

THOMAS MANTON

“Mr Perkins well observeth it to be a superstitious looking upon Christ, when we reflect upon his passion without looking upon the cause. So to look upon him in a crucifix is superstition to the eye; and to look upon his sufferings as a dolorous and sad story, is superstition to the ear. Look, then, upon them as they refer to the cause, to wit, our sins. This is the consideration that maketh them profitable and useful to us. The cause yieldeth this profit” (Sermon on Isaiah 53:5).

WHAT GOD HAS DECREED MAN WILL CHOOSE

GEOFF THOMAS

A Puritan once said, “What God sovereignly decrees in eternity, man will always demand in time.” Man’s “free will” will always decide to choose the very thing that God has sovereignly ordained, and thus God’s purpose will be fulfilled. 100% God plus 100% man equals 100%. God’s sovereign will is done just as surely as man will be responsible for his every act of sin. One passage that sets this forth clearly is Matthew 27. The whole chapter is loaded with vain attempts by men to deny personal responsibility. What do we find there?

We meet Judas who is trying to deny his own responsibility for the death of Christ by pleading Christ’s innocence. He gave the thirty pieces of silver back to the chief priests and elders. They, in turn, replied, “What’s that to us? That was your responsibility.” Wasn’t it their duty to be certain that Christ was indeed guilty before condemning him to death? Surely it was.

Pilate knew that Jesus had done nothing worthy of crucifixion and yet he deliberately distorted and destroyed law and justice in punishing him. He tried to absolve himself from responsibility. Pilate went along with the “free will” election of Barabbas by the crowd. Remember, they had the power and authority to choose any prisoner to be released. It was entirely up to them. Matthew writes, “Now it was the governor’s custom at the Feast to release a prisoner chosen by the crowd” (Matt. 27:15).

The choice was left entirely up to the “free will” of the crowd, and the crowd knowingly and deliberately chose a notorious criminal

named Barabbas. Over the protests of Pilate’s wife, his own conscience, and the prohibitions of Roman and Hebrew law, Pilate still refused to stop the injustice. He caved in to the cry of the mob. When asked what they wanted done with “Jesus who is called Christ,” the crowd screamed in unison, “Crucify him!” Pilate tried every trick in the book to get the crowd to change its mind, but he only managed to make them shout louder, “Crucify him!”

“What God sovereignly decrees in eternity men will freely choose in time.”

Finally Pilate tried to deny his personal responsibility by washing his hands in front of the crowd. He said, “I am innocent of this man’s blood. It is your responsibility.” The people responded without hesitation and gladly took responsibility for the whole thing. They answered in defiance, “Let his blood be on us and on our children.” Could anyone be more guilty and more responsible for their acts than that crowd was? Did anyone better fulfill in more details (although totally unknowingly) the secret purpose of God in the death of his Son, than Pilate and that mob did? Yet we know that everyone was responsible, Judas, the chief priests, Pilate and the crowd.

There are two simple questions and two clear answers in Matthew chapter 27.

1. Exactly what did God Almighty eternally decree would happen to his Son? He would be crucified. Exactly what did that crowd vehemently demand to take place? The crucifixion of Christ. What God sovereignly decrees

in eternity men will freely choose in time.

2. What is the only thing that will satisfy the wrath of God revealed against man’s ungodliness and unrighteousness? The shed blood of Jesus! What is the only thing that will satisfy the hatred and passion of the crowd? The shed blood of Jesus Christ! What God sovereignly ordains in eternity man will choose by his own free will in time...

Thomas Watson says, “God always has a hand in the action where the sin is, but he never has a hand in the sin of the action.” It doesn’t matter what happened, where it happened, when it happened, or to whom it happened. If it took place at all then it didn’t happen in a vacuum. God had a hand in it; God controlled it all, but he is never guilty of the sin of the action. It is impossible for God to sin. He never tempts people to act sinfully.

The contemptuous drunken anger and hurt pride in Xerxes that made him decide to divorce Vashti – God was not guilty of that sin. That was Xerxes’ sin alone. The hatred in the brothers that made them sell Joseph into slavery in Egypt – God wasn’t guilty of that sin. That was his brothers’ alone. The unthinkable action of Jews and Romans in crucifying the blameless Jesus Christ – God was not guilty of that sin. That was man’s alone, but it was the action of men who live and move and have their being in God. It was the action of men whose hearts are in God’s hand. God always has a hand in the action where the sin is, but he never has a hand in the sin of the action...