



# MGrace 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

— June 2007 Issue —

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



### NURSERY SCHEDULE

#### JUNE

- 03 – Troy & Jessica Moseley
- 10 – Bob & Faye Williams
- 17 – Vicki Johson & Sharon Bagley
- 24 – Linda Olive & Sonja Williams

#### JULY

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

### FINANCIAL SUMMARY AS OF JUNE 1, 2007

Budgeted expenditures (ytd)	\$ 43,312.25
Actual on-budget expenditures (ytd)	\$ 46,258.65
Actual off-budget expenditures (ytd)	\$ 36,586.43
General Fund offerings (ytd)	\$ 46,544.30
Building Fund offerings (ytd)	\$ 0.00
Love offerings (ytd)	\$ 3,522.95
Total offerings (ytd)	\$ 65,448.08
May General Fund offerings	\$ 13,772.84
May Building Fund offerings	\$ 0.00
Building Fund balance	\$ 13,889.13
Missions Fund balance	\$ 10,616.77
General Fund balance	\$ 10,109.33

## DR. THEODORE ZACHARIADES



WILL BE

PREACHING AT

**GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH ON  
SUNDAY EVENING, JUNE 10, 6:00 PM**

Dr. Zachariades is a graduate of the Greek Bible Institute, Pikermi, Greece, and the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky (M.Div. & Ph.D). He is currently teaching courses for Luther Rice Seminary. He is also a member of the *Evangelical Theological Society & North American Patristics Society*.

He is married to Chrisa, and has four sons, Luke, Thomas, Jonah, and Nathan.

### SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

#### NORMAL SUNDAY SERVICES

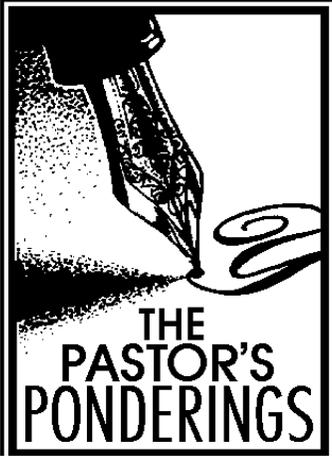
Morning Worship	9:30 AM
Sunday School	11:00 AM
Evening Worship	6:00 PM

#### WEDNESDAY EVENING

Bible Study and Prayer Meeting	7:00 PM
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#### 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)	



## THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD

No Psalm is so well known and loved by Christians the world over as Psalm 23. The poetic beauty of this Psalm is remarkable but the child of God loves it because it speaks personally to him about his relationship to God.

It begins, “The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.” It’s not just that the Lord is a Shepherd; it is that he is *my* Shepherd! That is the note of assurance that gives us great comfort. Many unconverted people know this Psalm, for they have memorized it, but what is important is that we know the Shepherd of the Psalm and not just the Psalm.

The writer of Psalm 23 was probably David. We do not know the exact historical circumstance that caused him to write it, but many believe it was written when he was fleeing from Absalom. David spent many lonely and trying days in the wilderness at that time and may very well have composed the Psalm then. Others believe David wrote it when he was young and tended his father’s sheep.

David speaks of the LORD as a Shepherd, and by implication refers to himself as a sheep. Spurgeon caught this when he said, “He compares himself to a creature weak, defenseless, and foolish, and he takes God to be his Provider, Preserver, Director, and indeed his everything.”

David knew something about being a shepherd. That was his occupation before he became king of Israel. Psalms 78:70-71 says, “[God] chose David also his servant, and took him from the sheepfolds: From following the ewes great with young he brought him to feed Jacob his people, and Israel his inheritance.” When Samuel came to anoint David as king, he was in the fields taking care of the sheep (1 Sam. 16).

A shepherd had many tasks. David knew this well. He must find grass for the sheep to graze upon and water for them to drink. He must protect them from bad weather and from animals that would seek their harm. He must find the lost sheep and retrieve those who get in trouble.

To do his job properly, a good shepherd had to be strong, devoted and selfless. David “knew by experience the cares and tender affections of a good shepherd towards his flock” (M. Henry). He knew what it meant to be a shepherd and he could transfer this imagery to God because he knew how God cared for him.

God is to us what a shepherd is to his sheep. He feeds us with the bread of heaven and leads us to drink the living water. He protects us from our enemies. He rescues us from danger and leads us to safety. He truly is our Provider, Preserver, Director, and indeed, our everything!

That is why David could then say, “I shall not want.” There is nothing that we need that He will not supply and nothing can prevent Him from supplying what we need. Peter Jeffery says, “In strength He is almighty, in wisdom he is omniscient, in love He is unequalled, and in resources He is unbounded. There are no evils that He cannot deal with; no dangers that He cannot avert; no enemy that He cannot defeat, and no needs that He cannot supply.”

But the word “*want*” means more than simply supplying what is lacking. It also means that we will not be discontented with what He provides. It means we will find in Him all we need and that we will be satisfied with Him.

Robert Ketcham, an American pastor in the GARBC for over 60 years, was speaking to a Sunday school in a church one day and asked if there were any children who could quote the entire twenty-third Psalm. He said a little golden-haired girl, 4½ years of age, volunteered. The pastor was a bit skeptical whether this little girl could really repeat the entire Psalm but asked her to come forward and say it to everyone anyway. He said the little girl came to the front, faced the audience, made a perky little bow, and said, “The Lord is my Shepherd, that’s all I want.” She bowed again and went and sat down.

The little girl caught the thrust of Psalm 23. If the Shepherd of the Psalm is ours, then that’s all we need and that’s all we want. God gives us everything that we need and makes us content with it, for He is both dependable and fully satisfying. If the Lord God is our shepherd, then we will not want. He himself is all we need. On the basis of the LORD being our shepherd, we shall not want. The children of God are well looked after.

## WEB SITES

- BIBLE BAPTIST BULLETIN** –  
[www.biblebb.com/](http://www.biblebb.com/)
- GOSPEL OUTREACH MINISTRIES** –  
[www.gospeloutreach.net/main.html](http://www.gospeloutreach.net/main.html)
- GRACE GEMS** –  
[www.gracegems.org/](http://www.gracegems.org/)
- MT. ZION ONLINE** –  
[www.mountzion.org/](http://www.mountzion.org/)
- HEART REFORMATION** –  
[www.geocities.com/~stahr\\_family/](http://www.geocities.com/~stahr_family/)
- RIQUEZAS DE GRACCIA** (mp.3 sermons in Spanish) –  
[www.riquezasdegracia.com:80/](http://www.riquezasdegracia.com:80/)



## GO TO CHURCH ON YOUR VACATION

When you take your vacation this summer, be sure that you don't take a vacation from church. Seek out a good church to attend on the Lord's Day. It will be good for you and it will encourage and bless the congregation with whom you meet. Small congregations in particular are greatly encouraged with visitors. So be sure to find a suitable place of worship while on vacation. Rest and recreation for your body should not be at the expense of your soul.



## Puritan Gems

### I AM NOT WHAT I ONCE WAS

JOHN NEWTON

I am not what I ought to be. Ah, how imperfect and deficient. I am not what I wish to be. I abhor what is evil, and I would cleave to what is good. I am not what I hope to be. Soon I shall put off, with mortality--all sin and imperfection. Though I am not what I ought to be, nor what I wish to be, nor what I hope to be—I can truly say that I am not what I once was—a slave to sin and Satan. And I can heartily join with the apostle and say that 'by the grace of God I am what I am!' (1 Cor. 15:10).

**QUESTION #89** – “How is the Word made effectual to salvation?”

**ANSWER** – “The Spirit of God makes the reading, but especially the preaching of the word, an effectual means of convincing and converting sinners and of building up believers in holiness and comfort through faith unto salvation.”

**SCRIPTURE** – Psalm 19:7; 119:130; Hebrews 4:12; 1 Thessalonians 1:6; Romans 1:16; 16:25; Acts 20:32.

**COMMENTARY** – “Preaching is not simply the exposition and application of the Word of God generally. It is the exposition and application of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. A minister is a Christian man. He is one who knows the Lord, understands that there is no other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved. The sermon which is the richest, most profitable, instructive, and edifying is the one which is fullest of the Lord Jesus Christ” (John R. de Witt)

**ILLUSTRATION** – An elderly pastor, addressing a young minister at his ordination said, “Preach Christ crucified, and dwell chiefly on the blessings resulting from His righteousness, atonement, and intercession.” Robert Murray McCheyne exclaimed, “I preached as never to preach again; as a dying man to dying men.”

## THEOLOGY

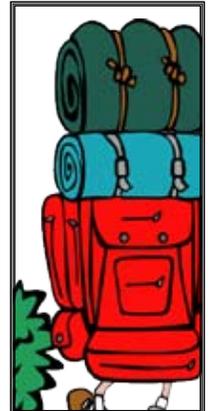


CORNER

A REFORMED AND  
BAPTIST CATECHISM

## YOUTH CAMP – 2007

Youth Camp at Camp Beth Eden is July 23-27. Cost per camper is \$115.00. The deadline for registration is June 11. Don Theobald from Ontario, Canada will be preaching a series of messages entitled, “Profiting from the Proverbs.” Sign up now!



**JUNE 3** – MIKE MCFADDEN BEGINS A SIX-WEEK SUNDAY SERIES FOR THE ADULTS ON THE SUBJECT OF HUMILITY.

**JUNE 10** – DR. THEODORE ZACHARIADES WILL BE PREACHING IN THE EVENING SERVICE

**JUNE 20** – PRAYER MEETING WILL NOT BE HELD SO WE CAN ATTEND THE BIBLE CONFERENCE AT PLEASANT VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH, HARTSELLE, ALABAMA.

**JULY 1** – OBSERVANCE OF THE LORD'S SUPPER IN THE AFTERNOON SERVICE.

**JULY 4** – NO PRAYER MEETING

**JULY 19** – 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.

# TWO WORLDVIEWS IN CONFLICT

by Dan Manthei

Only one system can be correct—evolution or the Bible. When people try to harmonize these two worldviews, usually the Bible's teaching is modified to fit evolution/long ages.

Whichever worldview foundation a people or nation chooses will have a dramatic influence on the future direction of that people.

The educational system in the West has progressively replaced the biblical foundation with belief in evolution as 'truth.' This system trains the leaders—teachers, judges, media operators, politicians, etc. These leaders then set the social agenda, which gradually becomes written into law...

It is not difficult to see the results. God is being removed from public life. Man now determines what is right and wrong, and laws are written by whoever possesses the most political power. No longer do we look to the Bible as the basis for establishing law—instead, we now base our laws on man's desires and opinions.

Sadly, many mainline churches, parachurch organizations, seminaries, and Bible schools have also accepted the evolutionary foundation and teach it as 'truth.'

The November 1997 Barna Report states that 'Christianity seems to be losing influence in people's lives rather than gaining impact. In fact, Christians have had an alarming lack of impact on the national culture as a direct outgrowth of their faith.' If Christians use the same foundation as the world, can they expect to produce godly results?

Our Christian leaders who would have us accept evolution, or the

equally unbiblical 'long ages' story, are really also telling us that God didn't quite get the order of creation right in Genesis either. As a matter of fact, if those leaders are right, God got the whole thing backwards. He didn't just miss one point; He messed up on every point.

When God says He created the earth before the sun, birds before reptiles, whales before land animals, man before death, and that He destroyed the whole earth with a flood, did He really mean what He said or are we dependent on the wisdom of Christian leaders who trust the word of men (scientists/teachers) to tell us what God really meant?



Once we take that first step of rationalizing/manipulating God's Word, where do we stop? Since God is perfect, as He states in His Word, He knows exactly how He created the earth and He is capable of communicating that to us. If we cannot trust God to tell us how He created the world, or if He cannot tell us in such a way that we will understand, how can we trust Him to communicate other important principles?

If God said one should labor for six days (Exodus 20:9-11), does that mean one should work for billions of years? Yet in the very same passage He says He made everything in six days, with evening and morning, just as ordinary days have. If God didn't get that right, what else can we trust? Clearly, in Exodus 20:11, God says that He created the universe and all that is in it in six days...

If the six days of Exodus 20 can be stretched into billions of years, then the precedent has been set to allow the moral absolutes of the Bible to

be stretched in any direction man desires... Pro-abortionists could also justify their claim that abortion is acceptable because the child is unwanted, and so the mother is saving the child from the future pain of rejection. Infanticide would also be perfectly acceptable if the child caused the parents too much pain... The major roadblock slowing this progress in America is the fact that it was founded on biblical absolutes, which still linger in the back of most people's thinking.

Once you begin rationalizing away the literal meaning of God's Word, the options are limitless. If we say the Bible is not 'scientific,' and that it deals only with 'why' and not 'how' God did things, can we be sure Christ was born of a virgin? Or that He literally rose from the dead? After all, these are also 'scientifically impossible' events.

If we can't trust any of these crucial matters in Genesis, how can we trust God to get it right about salvation?

But, in fact, the God of the Bible is very articulate and precise. He says exactly what He means and means exactly what He says. Throughout the Bible, God is very specific. He tells us exactly what to do to be saved. He told Israel exactly what they needed to do to receive His blessings. He told Moses exactly how to build the tabernacle. He told Noah exactly how to build the Ark. And in Genesis 1, He tells us exactly what He means as well. As a society or as individuals, we ignore or modify God's Word at our peril.

[From Answers in Genesis; **you might want to plan a visit to the new Creation Museum built by Answers in Genesis** – see <http://www.creationmuseum.org/>]