



M Grace Messenger

GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH

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

GBC HOMEPAGES

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

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

DEAN OLIVE, Pastor

— May 2008 Issue —

"Knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ" (Colossians 3:24).



NURSERY SCHEDULE

MAY

04 – Lori & Joshua Hewlett
11 – Tanya & Jon Amis
18 – Mary Alice & David Olive
25 – Nellie & Hannah McFadden

JUNE

01 – Linda Olive & Sonya Williams
08 – Vicki Johnson & Sharon Bagley
15 – Faye & Bob Williams
22 – Kristi Hines & Jenny Lovassy
29 – Sara & Kevin Smith

FINANCIAL SUMMARY AS OF MAY 1, 2008

Budgeted expenditures (ytd)	\$ 35,719.48
Actual on-budget expenditures (ytd)	\$ 34,433.59
Actual off-budget expenditures (ytd)	\$ 0.00
General Fund offerings (ytd)	\$ 50,347.35
Love offerings (ytd)	\$ 3,390.00
Total offerings (ytd)	\$ 53,737.35
April Love offerings	\$ 1,350.00
April General Fund offerings	\$ 11,947.00
Building Fund balance	\$ 39,596.63
Missions Fund balance	\$ 7,022.67
General Fund balance	\$ 36,990.30



GUEST PREACHER

SUNDAY, MAY 11

GARY LONG

**PASTOR OF SOVEREIGN GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH
SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI**

**GARY LONG WILL BE SPEAKING AT 9:30 AND
11:00 AM AND 6:00 PM**

Pastor Long is not only the pastor of Sovereign Grace Baptist Church, he is also the managing editor of Particular Baptist Press, a publishing company that publishes reprints and original works highlighting the doctrines of grace in historic Baptist literature. A love offering will be received for the printing ministry.

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

NORMAL SUNDAY SERVICES

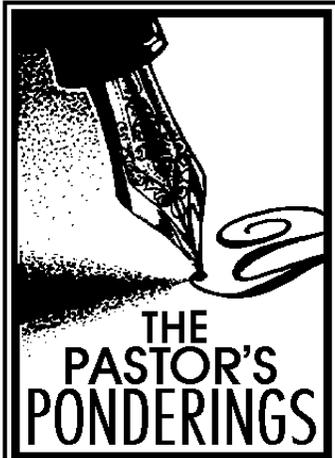
Morning Worship 9:30 AM
Sunday School 11:00 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

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)



“HOW TO PRAY”

Paul packed a lot of information about prayer into Ephesians 5:18. He wrote, “Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints.” The context

in which this challenge to pray appears is important

The apostle had just called the Ephesians to put on the whole armor of God (vv. 10-17). He even named six distinct pieces of armor – the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, the shoes of gospel preparation, the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. He then rounded off all that he had to say about spiritual warfare by addressing the subject of prayer.

There is a great line in the hymn, “Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus,” that was taken from this passage of Scripture: *Put on the gospel armor/Each piece put on with prayer.* Each piece of the armor must be put on in prayer; every soldier must go forth to battle in prayer.

We are not fully equipped to do battle against unnumbered foes apart from prayer. Prayer is the resource that makes all the pieces of armor effective. There will be no victory without it. We must fight all spiritual battles on our knees. A. W. Pink said, “Prayer is that which alone gives us the necessary strength to use the other pieces of armor! After the Christian has taken unto himself those six pieces, before he is thoroughly furnished to go forth unto the battle and fitted for victory, he needs the help of his General.”

What is prayer? Prayer is conversing with God. It isn’t a contemplative exercise; it is communicating with God. God is a person and we speak to him in prayer. John Bunyan said prayer is “a sincere, sensible, affectionate pouring out of the heart or soul to God, through Christ, in the strength and assistance of the Holy Spirit, for such things as God has promised, or according to the Word of God, for the good of the church, with submission in faith to the will of God”

Ephesians 6:18 is a directive on how to pray. One of the things Paul says we are to do is to pray “with all prayer and supplication.” He used two words in speaking about prayer. The word “prayer” is a general and comprehensive term, while “supplication” is more specific and restricted. Supplication is prayer intensified. Both of these two words are used in Phil. 4:6: “Be anxious for nothing, but in

everything *by prayer and supplication*, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.”

When Paul speaks of “all” prayer and supplications, he means “all kinds” of prayers. There are several types or kinds of prayers. Charles Hodge says, “Genuine praying covers all the bases. A good soldier employs all the various types of prayer that are at his disposal.”

What kinds of prayers are at the disposal of the saint?

There is the prayer of **confession**. We must be open and honest before God when we pray. We must confess our sins. We need not confess them to anyone else, but we should confess them to God (1 John 1:9). Our prayers don’t rise very high if we approach God with unconfessed sin. “If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me” (Psalm 66:18). It is very important for us to confess our sins when we pray.

There is the prayer of **praise**. Praise is speaking highly of someone we esteem. Because God is great, he is to be praised. God is worthy of our praise because of all that he is. He has acted towards us in mercy and grace. He is therefore to receive our worship and our praise. “Let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God” (Heb. 13:15).

There is the prayer of **thanksgiving**. Gratitude is a reflection of an appreciative heart. Thanksgiving is rendered to God for all that he does for us. Ingratitude is a sin. The Psalms are full of prayers of thanks to God. “O, give thanks to the Lord, for he is good...” and, “Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise. Be thankful to him, and bless his name.”

There is the prayer of **intercession**. Intercession is when we pray for others. That aspect of prayer is mentioned in the context of Ephesians 6:18. Paul directs them to pray “for all the saints” (18) and even for himself (19-20).

And there is the prayer of **petition**. We are to come before God asking him to meet our needs. Prayer is asking, seeking, and knocking (Matt. 7:7-8). It is crying out to God for the things we need. There is nothing wrong in praying for our needs. On the contrary, we ought to ask God for our daily bread, for wisdom to make decisions, and for good health to serve him.

The important thing is to be sure to cover all the bases when it comes to praying! Let’s be sure to include confession, praise, thanksgiving, intercession, and petition in our prayers.



WEB SITES

Bible Research –

www.bible-researcher.com

Christian Witness to a Pagan Planet –

www.spirit-wars.com

Calvinist World-View –

www.calvinistworldview.com

At What Price Truth –

www.atwhatpricetruth.com

Historical Reproductions –

www.historicprints.com



MAY 4 – We welcome the Tim Williams family to our church. They are part of the North Africa Project of Faith Bible Church, Sharpsburg, Georgia. They plan to join Elisabeth Meade on the mission field in the future.

MAY 11 – Gary Long, pastor of the Sovereign Grace Baptist Church, Springfield, Missouri, will be preaching.

MAY 12-15 – National FIRE Conference at the Mount Hermon Christian Center, Santa Cruz, California.

MAY 16 -- The Ladies of Grace will meet on Friday, at 10:00 AM for a special spring cleaning service project at the church. Feel free to bring your favorite cleaning tools and products. Contact Faye Williams if you have questions or suggestions.

JUNE 15 – David Steere, pastor of the Baptist Chapel in Fressingfield, England, will be preaching.

JULY 13 – Bill and Jennifer Hale, missionaries to Cambodia, will be with us for the day.

JULY 21-25 – Sovereign Grace Youth Camp, Conway, Missouri.



Puritan Gems

WALKING WORTHY OF CHRIST

RICHARD SIBBES

“The special work of our ministry is to lay open Christ, to hold up the tapestry and unfold the mysteries of Christ. Let us labour therefore to be always speaking somewhat about Christ, or tending that way. When we speak of the law, let it drive us to Christ; when of moral duties, let them teach us to walk worthy of Christ.”

QUESTION #100 – What rule hath God given for our direction in prayer?

ANSWER – The whole word of God is of use to direct us in prayer; but the special rule of direction is that form of prayer which Christ taught his disciples, commonly called The Lord’s Prayer.

SCRIPTURE – 1 John 5:14; Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 11:2-4

COMMENT – “Let us have a great esteem of the Lord’s Prayer; let it be the model and pattern of all our prayers. There is a double benefit arising from framing our petitions suitably to this prayer: 1) Hereby error in prayer is prevented. It is not easy to write wrong after this copy; we cannot easily err when we have our pattern before us. 2) Hereby mercies requested are obtained; for the apostle assures us that God will hear us when we pray ‘according to his will’ (1 John 5:14). And sure we pray according to his will when we pray according to the pattern he has set us” (Thomas Watson).

ILLUSTRATION – James Hervey, giving an account of his method of catechizing children, says, “As to instructing children, my method is to ask them easy questions, and to teach them easy and short answers. The Lord’s Prayer was the subject of our last explanation. In some such manner I proceeded: Why is this prayer called the Lord’s prayer? Because our Lord taught it. Why is Christ called *our* Lord? Because He has bought us with His blood. Why does He teach us to call God Father? That we may go to Him as children to a father. How do children go to God as a Father? With faith, not doubting but He will give them what they want. Why our Father in *heaven*? That we may pray to Him with reverence. What is meant by God’s name? God Himself, and all His perfections. What by *hallowed*? That He may be honoured and glorified. How is God to be honoured? In our hearts, with our tongues, and by our lives.”

THEOLOGY



CORNER

A REFORMED AND
BAPTIST CATECHISM

CONGRATULATIONS 2008 GRADUATES



Michael Bagley – Bob Jones High School, May 20.

Joshua McFadden –Scottsboro High School, May 23. Josh plans to attend Northeast AL Community College.

Allen Williams –Lincoln County High School, May 23. Allen plans to attend The University of Tennessee in Chattanooga to study mechanical engineering.

Laura McFadden – Bryan College, Dayton, Tennessee, May 10, with a degree in English literature.

Jessica Claire Moseley – UAH College of Nursing, May 11, with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing.

The Sin of Grumpiness

John Crotts

A euphemism is a nicer sounding word used to describe a bad situation. We say that someone “passed away” instead of the harder sounding “died.” Instead of saying a person is “fat,” we might comment that they are a “little heavy.”

While these can be kind expressions to soften situations, euphemisms can also become spiritual traps. Whenever we redefine our sins in nicer terms we are in danger of not taking the sin seriously. In our culture we do this all of the time.

“He got up on the wrong side of the bed.” “I’m having a bad hair day.” “She’s just in one of those moods.” All of these common descriptions dangerously minimize the cause and cure of real sins against God and others.

It doesn’t sound wicked to inadvertently get up on a particular side of the bed. It could happen to any of us. But what if we described the attitudes and behaviors we really mean by these expressions like God does in the Bible? All of the sudden the harmless sounding condition sounds down right evil.

The Bible says, “Do all things without grumbling or questioning” (Phil. 2:14). A few verses earlier, the Bible gets even closer to the heart of the matter. “Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others (Phil. 2:3, 4).

Selfishness and discontentment that express themselves in grumbling, complaining, sulking around alone, and not wanting anyone to bother you is much closer to a biblical description of your true condition. It really has nothing to do with your hair’s behavior; it has everything to do with your heart’s attitude.

Using euphemistic expressions has the added effect of making it sound like you aren’t responsible for your behavior. You can’t help it when you get into one of those moods, can you? You are just a victim of the side of the bed or your hair’s wild whims.

The Bible says you are always responsible for your attitudes and behaviors. 1 Cor. 10:13 is a wonderful promise, but it also includes tight accountability. “No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.”

Thank God that life will never get so tough that you have to sin. God has promised to sovereignly limit any and all temptations so that you will never be overwhelmed and inevitably fall. He will always give you an escape. The flip side of that promise, however, is that when you do sin, it is all your fault.

Why are selfishness, discontentment, and complaining even sins anyway? God is good, wise, and powerful. When you act grumpy you are setting yourself up in opposition to such a wonderful God and his ways.

Grumpiness says, “I don’t like my circumstances, and I’m going to let you know about it.” Meanwhile, God has put you in those very circumstances. They are far better than you deserve to be in. You should be in hell if it were a perfectly just matter of getting what you deserved.

In addition to his goodness, God is all-wise. His plan for your morning, day, and life are ideal. It is true that he takes us down hard roads sometimes, but even they are for his perfect purposes. If we could step back and see the big picture from his perspective, we would bow down in amazement at God’s wonderfully wise plans.

God is also powerful—all-powerful. He can and does pull off all of his plans. It is not like he wishes he could make his good and wise plan for your day happen, but sadly you got up on that cursed wrong side of the bed. God is so powerful, he can overcome even your messiest of hair days!

Every single one of your grumpy noises, snarls, complaints, profanities, and even your grumpy facial expressions are wicked sins against Almighty God. They all come from a heart that thinks your plan for your situation would be better than God’s.

If you are accustomed to excusing your behavior by euphemistic expressions you are in double trouble. These expressions blind you to the true condition of your heart. They tempt you to think you have no control over your attitude. And they eliminate God’s remedy for the problem.

If you don’t diagnose the problem properly, you can never administer the cure. Grumpiness is a sin. You need to call it what it is, confess it to the Lord, and repent of it. The Lord Jesus died on the cross to take the wrath of God that grumblers deserve. Jesus took the hell that you earned (perhaps even this morning) on himself. Three days later he rose from the dead, showing the world that God had accepted his offering.

He offers forgiveness to all who turn from their sins and trust wholly in Christ.

The solution to your problem is not to get out of the other side of the bed, or to get a new hairstyle; it is the cross. Repent of your selfishness, and ask the Lord Jesus Christ to give you a heart that loves him and is satisfied with all of his dealings in your life.

John is the pastor of Faith Bible Church, Sharpsburg, Georgia.