



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

— January 2009 Issue —

"Let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe."

Hebrews 10:28



NURSERY SCHEDULE

JANUARY

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

FEBRUARY

01 – Kevin & Sara Smith
08 – Linda Olive & Sonja Williams
15 – Vicki Johnson & Sharon Bagley
22 – Bob & Faye Williams

FINANCIAL SUMMARY AS OF JANUARY 1, 2009

Budgeted expenditures (ytd)	\$111,632.04
Actual on-budget expenditures (ytd)	\$100,808.91
Actual off-budget expenditures (ytd)	\$ 215.95
General Fund offerings (ytd)	\$156,774.83
Love offerings (ytd)	\$ 12,000.00
Total offerings (ytd)	\$169,818.50
December Love offerings	\$ 5,530.00
December General Fund offerings	\$ 17,395.24
Building Fund balance	\$ 50,987.59
Missions Fund balance	\$ 9,719.11
General Fund balance	\$ 57,683.55

GRACE BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE

THE DOCTRINE OF MAN

BY DR. SAM WALDRON (VIA DVD)



CLASSES MEET ON MONDAYS AT 7:00 P.M.
BEGINS JANUARY 12 AND ENDS MAY 18 (DV)

This class explores the origin, identity, constitution, and free agency of man; man's original relationship with God and integrity before God; the creation ordinances; the Fall; actual, original, and imputed sin; the consequences of sin; and common grace. The student should be able to understand and identify the major historical and contemporary issues with regard to the doctrine of man and develop and express a biblical approach to those issues.

The cost is \$25.00 plus books. The course consists of 17 lectures. For more information, see Pastor Olive.

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

NORMAL SUNDAY SERVICES

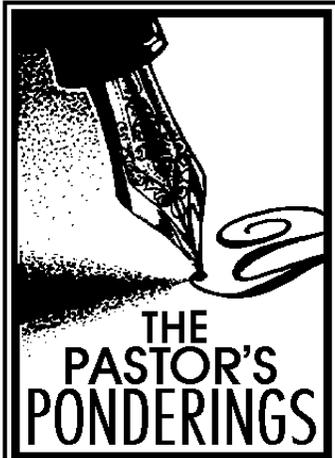
Morning Worship 9:30 AM
Sunday School 11:00 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

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 we think about time and how we use the time allotted to us is of vital importance. As we enter a new year, we would do well to ponder our use of time.

Time is precious. It ought not to be wasted. But it is hard not to waste because it never

stops moving. Time doesn't stand still for anyone. It is always in motion. It takes no breaks, it has no intervals, and it shows no respect of persons. It is always moving, always passing, always ticking. Once it has passed it cannot be retrieved.

Just suppose there was a bank in town that credited your account each morning with \$1440.00, but no balance is carried over from day to day. Any balance left at day's end is deleted. That means if you only spent \$200.00, then \$1240.00 would be removed at the end of the day.

What would you do with the money deposited daily into your account? Would you spend it or would you lose it? Surely, you would spend it! You wouldn't leave any of it in your account till the end of the day. \$1440 per day is a lot of money. That adds up to \$43,800 average per month or \$525,600 per year.

We have such a bank as that. It is called the Bank of Time. Every day we are credited with 1440 minutes. Every night, the time which we have not used is gone; it is no longer in the bank. You can't go back for a second chance and you can't borrow from tomorrow.

Time not used is wasted. Time is a valuable commodity; we cannot afford to let it slip away from us. I am more conscious of time now than I ever have been before. I am well past half a century in age now and I am more amazed than ever at how fast time passes! I am also disappointed that I have left so many of my minutes in the Bank not spent.

How much do you value time? I recently read an article that put the importance of time in perspective. Here's what it said.

How do you value ONE YEAR? Why don't you ask a student who failed a grade.

How do you value ONE MONTH? Ask a Mother whose baby arrived prematurely.

TIME

How do you value ONE WEEK? Ask the editor of a weekly newspaper.

How do you value ONE HOUR? Ask someone who lies terminally ill waiting to die.

How do you value ONE MINUTE? Ask someone who missed a plane, a train, or a very important engagement that can never be rescheduled.

How do you value ONE SECOND? Ask an Olympic athlete who missed gold by that much time.

Time is so precious. That is why the apostle Paul exhorted both the Ephesians and the Colossians to "redeem the time" or "make the most of every opportunity."

Jonathan Edwards saw the necessity of using time rightly. On his 20th birthday, Edwards wrote a list of resolutions that he hoped, by the grace of God, to keep. Resolutions 5–7 are on the stewardship of time:

5. Resolved, never to lose one moment of time, but to improve it in the most profitable way I possibly can.
6. Resolved, to live with all my might, while I do live.
7. Resolved, never to do anything, which I should be afraid to do if it were the last hour of my life.

Edwards tried to live in light of the preciousness of time. He sought in every way to use the time that had been given to him for the glory of God.

One of the greatest missionaries that ever lived was Adoniram Judson. He spent his life preaching the gospel in Burma. He once made this statement.

"A life once spent is irrevocable. It will remain to be contemplated through eternity... The same may be said of each day. When it is once past, it is gone forever. All the marks which we put upon it, it will exhibit forever... Each day will not only be a witness of our conduct, but will affect our everlasting destiny... How shall we then wish to see each day marked with usefulness... It is too late to mend the days that are past. The future is in our power. Let us, then, each morning, resolve to send the day into eternity in such a garb as we shall wish it to wear forever. And at night let us reflect that one more day is irrevocably gone, indelibly marked" (*The Life of Adoniram Judson*, by E. Judson).

May God help us to be wise stewards of our time. There is no guarantee that any of us will see tomorrow. There are two things which, if lost, can never be recovered – the soul and time. Remember, a moment once lost, is lost forever. Let us use every moment God gives us on this earth to serve and worship him.

WEB SITES

THE GRACE LIFE PULPIT

– www.swordandtrowel.org/

C.H. SPURGEON: AN AUDIO ARCHIVE

– www.mountzion.org/spurgeon.html

GRACE TO YOU SERMONS BY JOHN MACARTHUR

– www.gty.org/Resources/Sermons

MARTYRS MEMORIAL FREE PRESBYTERIAN

– www.ianpaisley.org/exhort.asp

SERMONS BY STUART OLYOTT

– www.knowyourbible recordings.org/sermons.php

SERMONS AND SPEECHES BY AL MOHLER

– www.albertmohler.com/audio_list.php



FEBRUARY 1 – The annual church business meeting will be held in the afternoon after the first Sunday meal.

APRIL 17-19 – Our annual Spring Bible Conference is scheduled with Mack Tomlinson from Denton, Texas as the preacher.

SEPTEMBER 20-22 – We are hosting a regional FIRE conference at our church. The main speaker is David Ellis, from Stowmarket, England.

LADIES OF GRACE

The Ladies of Grace will meet at 10:00 AM on Friday, January 16. Mrs. Jenny Cochran will be speaking to the ladies about ministering to others through hospitality in the home.



Puritan Gems

EXAMPLES IN HOLINESS

COTTON MATHER

“Examples do strangely charm us into imitation. When holiness is pressed upon us we are prone to think that it is a doctrine calculated for angels and spirits whose dwelling is not with flesh. But when we read the lives of them that excelled in holiness, though they were persons of like passions with ourselves, the conviction is wonderful and powerful.”

QUESTION #105 – What do we pray for in the third petition of the Lord’s Prayer?

ANSWER – In the third petition (which is, *Your will be done in earth, as it is in heaven*) we pray, that God, by his grace, would make us able and willing to know, obey, and submit to his will in all things, as the angels do in heaven.

SCRIPTURE – Psalm 119:34-36; Acts 21:14; Matthew 26:39; 2 Samuel 15:25; Job 1:21; Psalm 103:20-22.

COMMENT – “There is a twofold will. (1) God’s secret will, or ‘the will of his decree’. We pray not that God’s secret will may be done by us. This secret will cannot be known, it is locked up in God’s own breast, and neither man nor angel has a key to open it. (2) God’s ‘revealed will.’ This will is written in the book of Scripture, which is a declaration of God’s will, and discovers what he would have us do in order to our salvation. We pray for two things in these words, ‘Thy will be done?’ (1) For active obedience; that we may do God’s will actively in what he commands. (2) For passive obedience; that we may submit to God’s will patiently in what he inflicts” (Thomas Watson).

ILLUSTRATION – A Sunday School teacher, instructing his class on the third petition of the Lord’s prayer, said to them, “You have told me, my dear children, what is to be done—*the will of God*; and *where* it is to be done—*on earth*; *how* it is to be done—*as it is done in heaven*. How do you think the angels and happy spirits do the will of God in heaven, as they are to be our pattern?” The first child replied, “They do it *immediately*.” The second, “They do it *diligently*.” The third, “They do it *always*.” The fourth, “They do it *with all their hearts*.” The fifth, “They do it *all together*.” Here a pause ensued, and no other child appeared to have any answer; but after some time a little girl rose and said, “Why, sir, they do it *without asking any questions*.”

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Bob Williams will be teaching an eight week course of lessons using Jerry Bridges book, *Respectable Sins*, beginning on January 18 (dv). While many Christians are preoccupied with the major sins of society, there is a great need for us to be concerned about the subtle sins that plague our lives; sins like discontentment, impatience, pride, envy, gossip, anger, etc.

THEOLOGY

CORNER



A REFORMED AND BAPTIST CATECHISM

EIGHT WAYS TO GET MORE OUT OF YOUR BIBLE

Mark Altrogge

Are you discouraged with your Bible reading? Find it hard to be consistent? Want to get more out of the Word? Here are a few tips that have helped me to be more consistent and enjoy my devotions more over the years.

1. Prepare the night before. Every night before going to bed, I grind some coffee, put a filter in my Aero-press coffee maker, put my coffee cup on the counter and fill my Hot Shot with water, so all I need to do is push a button to heat the water for my morning cup o' joe. I make sure everything I need – Bible, marker, journal, Kleenex - is on the stand next to the couch in the den. This saves me having to scramble around wasting time in the morning and I can get reading more quickly.

2. Pray. I usually spend a couple minutes praying before I read. I thank my Father for his love and the gift of sleep, and for protecting my family and me during the night. I also thank him for his gracious invitation for me to enter boldly into his presence through the merits and blood of Jesus. Then I often pray John Piper's I-O-U'S: "Incline my heart to your testimonies", "Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law," "Unite my heart to fear your name," and "Satisfy me with your love."

3. Same time, same place every day. Find your best time, when you can concentrate and have the least number of distractions. For me, it's first thing in the morning. The house is quiet and no one else is up. If I start in on projects or reading the news, I never get to reading the Bible. In the evening I'm too distracted and tired. For some, eve-

ning is their best time. The important thing is to find a time when you are least distracted and can concentrate.

I read in the same place every day. As I said earlier, I keep my Bible, marker, journal and prayer notebook on the end-table next to the couch in the den. That way I don't have to waste time searching through the house for things before I read.

4. Keep track of what you read. After reading, in the back of my journal I write the day, date and the passage I read. That way I don't have to try to remember where I left off the day before. You can use a bookmark as long as it doesn't fall out and you lose your place.

5. Write in your Bible. Don't hesitate to underline, write in the margins, or circle words. Underlining and writing helps us concentrate more on what we're reading. My favorite marker is a light blue Sanford China Marker. You can underline lightly or darker and it never bleeds through the page.

6. Read consecutively. Don't skip around or play Bible Roulette. Finish one book before going to another. One way to consistently read through the Bible is to read through Matthew, then Genesis. Then Mark, then Exodus and so on. If you are keeping track of what you've read, you'll eventually work through the whole Bible. Nothing is more discouraging than picking up the Bible and reading at random every day.

7. Use a journal. I've used journals for years in my devotions. I like Moleskine lined journals. As you read, write down any verses that stand out to you or any thoughts you have about the passage. Writing slows you down and helps you focus. I usually try to look for one key verse or passage that stands out to me from that day's reading to record in my journal.

8. Respond to what you've read.

After recording one key verse or passage in my journal, I usually write a prayer in response. This prayer will sometimes be worship and praise to God for the truth I've just read about him or it may be supplication for him to change me to conform with his word. I keep the prayer to one, maybe two pages at the most. It takes me about ten minutes and propels me into my prayer time.

Whether you use these approaches or you have your own, try to build consistent habits of reading the Bible. There's no better way to fellowship with Jesus and delight in him.

Here's a few more practical suggestions for giving your Bible reading a kick in the pants. These have been very helpful for me over the years.

1. Pray as you're reading. This has been extraordinarily helpful for me over the years. Rather than segmenting my devotional time into reading and then prayer, I bring the two together. As I ponder the word of God, the Holy Spirit moves upon my heart, which then leads me to prayer, praise, thanksgiving, or adoration...

2. Apply one bit of truth. As you read, apply one bit of truth to one part of your life. Ask yourself, "How do I apply these verses to one area of my life?" This ties in closely with the previous point. The Holy Spirit will bring conviction and clarity as you read scripture. Seize these moments as opportunities to pray that God would help you apply His word to one area of your life...

I hope you find these helpful. May God give you rich times in His word.