



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

— November 2010 Issue —

"But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD." (Joshua 24:15).



NURSERY SCHEDULE

November

07 Pat and Kristy Hines
14 Jenny and Peter Lovassy
21 Troy and Jessi Moseley
28 Vicki Johnson and Amber Solan

December

05 Kristin Scarbrough and Lori Hewlett
12 Jon and Tanya Amis
19 Linda Olive and Sonja Williams
26 Faye and Bob Williams

LAWN CARE

Your work in helping to keep our place looking nice is greatly appreciated. A new sign up list will be posted in February for 2011 and we hope that another good group of workers will volunteer.

CHURCH CLEANING

November - Dean and Linda Olive
December - Moseleys

FINANCIAL SUMMARY AS OF NOVEMBER 1, 2010

Budgeted expenditures (ytd)	\$167,145.70
Actual on-budget expenditures (ytd)	\$149,650.41
Actual off-budget expenditures (ytd)	\$ 9,279.38
General Fund offerings (ytd)	\$127,161.35
Love offerings (ytd)	\$ 1,730.42
Total offerings (ytd)	\$132,936.77
October Love offerings	\$ 0.00
October General Fund offerings	\$ 10,438.91
October Designated Missions	\$ 370.00
Haiti Relief (ytd)	\$ 5,150.00
Building Fund balance	\$ 64,548.95
Missions Fund balance	\$ 10,900.46
General Fund balance	\$ 62,425.44

GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH

20th Anniversary Celebration 1990-2010

November 7, 2010

Special Speaker

STEVE MARTIN

Pastor of Heritage Community
Church

Fayetteville, Georgia



Service Schedule

9:30 AM – Worship Service with Steve Martin preaching
11:00 AM – PowerPoint Presentation of the History of GBC with Testimonies
12:00 Noon – Lunch
1:30 PM – Worship Service with Steve Martin preaching

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

NORMAL SUNDAY SERVICES

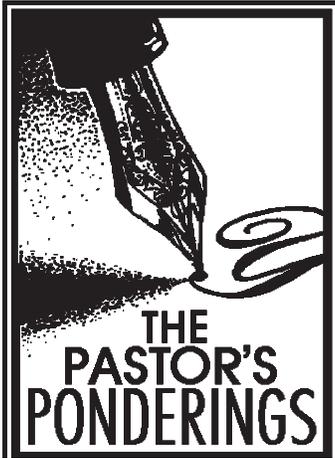
Morning Worship 9:30 AM
Sunday School 11:00 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

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)



Twenty Years Old in 2010

Twenty years is a long time, relatively speaking. To a child that just turned three, twenty years seems very old; but for a senior citizen that just turned ninety, it isn't old at all.

Grace Baptist Church is twenty years old this year, 2010. The church seems old to me until

given us many victories. We, therefore, have every reason to be thankful.

We can be thankful today that the reasons for the establishment of Grace Baptist Church are still important to us. The men who prayed about beginning this work saw four major reasons for its formation.

First, Grace Baptist Church was established in the belief that doctrine is vital to the life of a church. The founders wanted to be members of a church that knew what it believed and that was united in its commitment to orthodox teaching. So the 1689 Baptist Confession of Faith (with some revisions) was adopted, placing us in a historical lineage of our Baptist forefathers.

I remember preaching the 300th anniversary services for Great Ellingham Baptist Church in England in the year 1999. That's old! Twenty years is a drop in the bucket. But even 300 years isn't old when you consider the age of the Church that Jesus Christ established on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, himself being the chief cornerstone (Ephesians 2:20).

Though in the large picture we are very young as a church, we are very thankful for how the Lord has helped us thus far. We can truly say with the hymn writer:

*Here I raise my Ebenezer
Hither by Thy help I've come
And I hope by Thy good pleasure
Safely to arrive at home.*

The words of this hymn are based on 1 Samuel 7:12. Samuel wrote of Israel setting up a monument, calling it Ebenezer, which means "stone of help." The monument commemorated Israel's victory over the Philistines. God's power was manifested in the nation and the memorial was a reminder to all of the deliverance that God had wrought for them.

We are not raising a stone of remembrance on our 20th anniversary but we should retain memories of the Lord's goodness and mercy to us as a church. It is good to remember and to give thanks. If we would constantly remind ourselves of God's past mercies we surely would be found praising and thanking him more.

When Samuel raised this Ebenezer, he declared, "thus far the Lord has helped us." The "thus far" or "hitherto," as the KJV puts it, points to the past. Samuel was saying, "Up to this point the Lord has helped us." We too can say that. Thus far, in the short history of our church, the Lord has helped us. He has brought us through many difficulties and he has



Second, Grace Baptist Church was established so that a Baptist church might exist in Madison that was serious about worship. With the invasion of contemporary worship into Evangelicalism, we wanted a place where we could magnify the name of the Lord without it being driven by entertainment. The Lord's name is to be feared. Worship is therefore to be characterized by reverence.

Third, Grace Baptist Church was established out of a desire to aim for true conversions, not

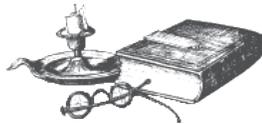
empty professions of faith. Having been members of Baptist churches that used manipulative methods and high-pressure techniques to obtain decisions, we wanted to be part of an assembly that passionately proclaimed the gospel, but which did so in full dependence on the Holy Spirit to quicken the spiritually dead.

Fourth, Grace Baptist Church was established so people could come and hear the word of God preached, not politics, not emotional stories, not man's felt needs. Expository preaching has been the goal in full belief that the Holy Spirit uses the word of God to bring sinners to faith and in building up the saints.

These things are still important to us. Let us hope and pray that the generations that will follow us will not veer from this course. Doctrinal commitment, reverent worship, trust in God to save the lost, and faithful proclamation of the word is worthy of continuation and preservation.

So let us reflect upon the Lord's goodness to us as a church. Let's remember the path that we have trod and bless his name for the way he has helped us every step of the way. And let's keep our eye on the future by serving him faithfully today. An anniversary isn't a time to stop; it is a time to reflect and move on with resolve and faith to live for Jesus Christ come what may.

BOOK REVIEW



Should Christians Embrace Evolution?

Edited by Norman C. Nevin
Published by IVP, 2010, 220 pp.

The question of whether Christians should believe the theory of evolution is critically important because it directly relates to the issue of the authority of Scripture. This excellent book shows clearly the theological and philosophical problems with theistic evolution (the proposition that God used evolution to create the world). If you accept theistic evolution, you must reject the biblical teaching that Adam was made from dust and that all people on earth are descended from Adam and Eve. Also, if you accept theistic evolution, you cannot believe the biblical teaching that death (including human death) came after (and because of) the Fall of Adam. The book also explains that it is not even God's character to use such a clumsy and violent process as evolution.

I would encourage Christians to be familiar with the powerful scientific arguments for creation that are presented in this book. Andy McIntosh gives an excellent summary of the crucial argument that evolution cannot produce the genetic information necessary to create life. Another vitally important argument for biblical creation, given by John Walton, is that there is no evidence that life can arise spontaneously from a chemical soup. The book gives several other important arguments for design from leading creationists. The whole point of evolution is to exclude God from the act of creation, and to believe in evolution requires an act of faith. It is far better to exercise faith in believing God's Word than to exercise faith in an anti-God theory.

Reviewed by Stuart Burgess



NOVEMBER 7 – We welcome Pastor Steve Martin to our church today for our 20th anniversary of Grace Baptist Church. Steve is the pastor of Heritage Community Church, Fayetteville, Georgia. David Vaughn, missionary to France, was sent out by this church. One of the joys we have had as a church for the last 20 years is to support missionaries like David.

NOVEMBER 20 – Ladies of Grace meet at 9:00 AM at the church. There will be a discussion of Noel Piper's book, Faithful Women and their Extraordinary God. Be sure to read the book and be prepared for the conversation.

NOVEMBER 21 – A series of lessons for adults and youth is scheduled to begin on November 21. The lessons will be based on the excellent book by Eric J. Alexander, Our Great God and Savior. Nine men will be teaching 16 lessons. Books will be available for everyone.

DECEMBER 5 – The ordinance of the Lord's Supper will be observed in the afternoon service on December 5 (dv).

DECEMBER 26 AND JANUARY 2 – No Sunday School these two Sundays. All other services will be at the normal times.

JANUARY 2 – Darrell Lingerfelt, pastor of Providence Baptist Church, Pulaski, Tennessee, will be preaching in the afternoon service (dv).

We Believe

The 1689 Confession of Faith



CHAPTER 6

THE FALL OF MAN: SIN AND ITS PUNISHMENT

(PARAGRAPHS THREE, FOUR AND FIVE)

3. The family of man is rooted in the first human pair. As Adam and Eve stood in the room and stead of all mankind, the guilt of their sin was reckoned by God's appointment to the account of all their posterity, who also from birth derived from them a polluted nature. Conceived in sin and by nature children subject to God's anger, the servants of sin and the subjects of death, all men are now given up to unspeakable miseries, spiritual, temporal and eternal, unless the Lord Jesus Christ sets them free.

Job 14:4; Ps. 51:5; Rom. 5:12-19; Rom. 6:20; 1 Cor. 15:21-22, 45, 49; Eph. 2:3; 1 Thess. 1:10; Heb. 2:14-15.

4. The actual sins that men commit are the fruit of the corrupt nature transmitted to them by our first parents. By reason of this corruption, all men become wholly inclined to all evil; sin disables them. They are utterly indisposed to, and, indeed, rendered opposite to, all that is good.

Matt. 15:19; Rom. 8:7; Col. 1:21; Jas. 1:14.

5. During this earthly life corrupt nature remains in those who are born of God, that is to say, regenerated. Through Christ it is pardoned and mortified, yet both the corruption itself, and all that issues from it, are truly and properly sin.

Eccles. 7:20; Rom. 7:18, 23-25; Gal. 5:17; 1 John 1:8.



OUR SINS WIPED OUT

Though our sins be written with an iron pen, and graven with the point of a diamond upon the very horns of our altars, yet will the Lord make the record to disappear when his mercy is revealed to our faith. He blots out the handwriting, which was against us, he puts it out of the way, nailing it to the cross; he makes our sins, like clouds, to pass away forever. God can, O sinner, wipe out your transgressions so that they shall not exist, through the precious blood of Jesus he can finish your transgressions, and make an end of all your sin.

Christian Soldiers

Stan K. Evers

From the moment of conversion, every Christian joins the Lord's army. Only men fought in the army of the Roman emperor—both men and women “fight the good fight of faith” (1 Timothy 6:12). How long do we serve the divine King? Until we leave this world for heaven. There is no demobilization or retirement from his service. Neither is any soldier dismissed though some who wear the armour prove to be sham soldiers from the devil's ranks.

The Enemy

The Christian's enemies are many; however, they fight in three regiments.

First, the sinful heart regiment. A civil war rages in the City of Mansoul. Paul writes about this in his letter to the Galatians. “So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want” (Galatians 5:16-17). Sin no longer reigns (Romans 6) even though it remains (Romans 7) in the Christian's heart. By the Holy Spirit's power, we are to “put to death the misdeeds of the body” (Romans 8:13).

Second, the ensnaring world regiment. James asked a pertinent question, “Don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God” (James 4:4; cf. 1 John 2:15-17). In the final book of the Bible, the world is pictured as a prostitute alluring believers into immorality (Revelation 17-18). Christ has freed us from this world – “the present evil age” – already we belong to the “coming age” (Galatians 1:4; Hebrews 6:5). Therefore, we must not conform to the values and mindset of this ungodly world (Romans 12:1-2).

Third, the powerful devil's regiment. The devil is depicted

in Scripture as a cunning serpent, a hungry lion and a dangerous dragon – so be on your guard (1 Peter 5:8-9; Revelation 12:9)! Christ defeated Satan when he died on the cross, therefore we may resist him and see him flee (Colossians 2:15; James 4:7)! Paul affirms that, “The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet” (Romans 16:20). One day Satan, and his allies, will be thrown into the everlasting fire (Revelation 20:10).

Christ provides armour to defeat these three regiments (Ephesians 6:10-18). To understand what the various pieces of the armour mean,



read *Stand Firm*, Peter Jeffery (Bryntirion Press) and Williams Hendricksen's commentary on Ephesians (Banner of Truth).

The Warfare

Soldiers “endure hardship” (2 Timothy 2:3) – this is an inescapable part of warfare. Nevertheless, we fight bravely knowing that suffering is the path to glory (Hebrews 12:1-3). To “endure hardship” demands commitment. “No one serving as a soldier gets involved in civilian affairs” (v. 4). The professional soldier cannot serve his country on a part-time basis; he is a soldier at all times and is always ready to fight.

Likewise, the Christian soldier is on active service all the time for the whole of his life. Satan takes no holidays, neither does the Christian soldier. At home, work or at school

and in leisure times, he is ready for conflict.

The Aim

The Christian aims to “please his commanding officer” i.e. Christ (2 Timothy 2:4). In Hebrews 11:5, we read that Enoch was “commended as one who pleased God” and Paul writes to the Corinthians: “We make it our goal to please him” (2 Corinthians 5:9). How do we know what pleases him? He has given us a rule book, “the holy Scriptures,” which come from God's mouth (2 Timothy 3:15-16; Matthew 4:4). How should we please him? We give him unconditional obedience. A Roman soldier swore an oath of allegiance to his emperor. He obeyed orders even if this led to his death. To stimulate obedience to Christ, reflect on his absolute obedience to his Father which reached its climax in his painful death on a cross (Philippians 2:5-8).

The Reward

Soldiers receive medals for courageous and loyal service. The Christian's soldier's reward is “eternal glory” – we will “live with him” and “reign with him” (2 Timothy 2:11-13). Paul, a faithful soldier, wrote, shortly before facing martyrdom: “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day-- and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing” (2 Timothy 4:7-8). Will you be able to use Paul's words at the end of your life?

There is a crown not only for prophets, apostles, martyrs, spiritual leaders and the well-known names of Church history, such as Augustine, John Calvin, John Bunyan, C. H. Spurgeon, Mary Slessor, Gladys Aylward and Dr. Martyn Lloyd-Jones; there is a crown for every loyal soldier in Christ's army. There is a crown for you and me too if we “stand firm to the end” (Mark 13:13).