



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

— September 2010 Issue —

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



NURSERY SCHEDULE

September

05 Jon and Tanya Amis
12 Bob and Faye Williams
19 Vicki Johnson and Amber Solan
26 Jenny Lovassy and Kristy Hines

October

03 Jessica and Troy Moseley
10 David and Mary Alice Olive
17 Vicki Johnson and Amber Solan
24 Linda Olive and Sonja Williams
31 Jon and Tanya Amis

LAWN CARE

September - P. Lovassy & T. Moseley
October - Jon Amis

CHURCH CLEANING

September - Vicki Johnson
October - Swinneys

FINANCIAL SUMMARY AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2010

Budgeted expenditures (ytd)	\$133,716.56
Actual on-budget expenditures (ytd)	\$123,992.58
Actual off-budget expenditures (ytd)	\$ 9,279.38
General Fund offerings (ytd)	\$104,580.02
Love offerings (ytd)	\$ 400.00
Total offerings (ytd)	\$108,400.02
August Love offerings	\$ 0.00
August General Fund offerings	\$ 14,889.32
August Designated Missions	\$ 40.00
Haiti Relief (ytd)	\$ 5,150.00
Building Fund balance	\$ 61,085.04
Missions Fund balance	\$ 11,310.18
General Fund balance	\$ 66,896.42

Sound Worship Conference



Biblical guidance for making musical choices in a noisy world

Friday, September 17

7pm Service "Is the Bible Enough?"

Saturday, September 18

10:30 Workshop: "How Does Music Communicate?"

12:00 Lunch

1:00 Workshop: "Is Beauty in the Eye of the Beholder?"

Sunday, September 19

9:30 Service: "Why Do We Sing in Church?"

11:00 Workshop: "Christian Hymnody"

6pm Sacred Hymn Concert



Scott Aniol is the executive director of Religious Affections Ministries (www.religiousaffections.org). He has education in church music, theology, and musicology and regularly travels the country speaking in churches, conferences, and schools on the topics of worship, music, culture, and aesthetics.

Scott has published two books, *Worship in Song* in 2009, and *Sound Worship*, was published this year.

Scott and his wife, Becky, have two young children, Caleb (3 yrs) and Katelyn (1 yr).

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

NORMAL SUNDAY SERVICES

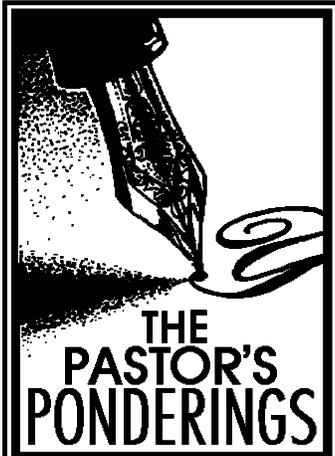
Morning Worship 9:30 AM
Sunday School 11:00 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

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)



The Importance of Singing

One of the most significant commands Paul gave to the Ephesians is, “be filled with the Spirit” (5:18). Christian service is to be carried out under the control and direction of the Holy Spirit.

In the very next verse, Paul describes one result of being

filled with the Spirit. Being filled with the Holy Spirit leads to singing (19). The first thing people who are filled with the Holy Spirit do is sing. He says, “speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord.”

Can you picture the Christian life without song? Imagine coming to church on Sundays and there being no music—no hymns to sing, no organ or piano to hear, no preludes, no offertories, no expressions of thanks and praise to God in song. Christianity without music would be minus the most soul-inspiring form of offering praise to God and would lack one of the primary means of spiritual instruction. The desire to praise God in song is put in our hearts by the Holy Spirit. Spirit-filled people sing and make melody in their hearts!

Music is a wonderful gift from God. It is the language of the heart. Luther called music “a noble gift of God next to theology.” Donald Hustad says:

“When words fail us, we sing.

Because of the attributes of God, we sing. Because of our deep love for our Lord, we sing. When we are filled with the Spirit, we sing. To what better use can the tongue be put than praise of its Maker? The hymn-writer prays for ‘a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer’s praise.’ How many professing Christians are not using the one which God gave them?”

Singing audibly with melody that comes from the heart is what we should strive for when we gather together on the Lord’s Day. Charges Hodge refers to it as the rhythm of the affections clothed in words. That is the singing of those filled with the Spirit! It is not mere lip service in praise; it is heart-worship manifest in song.

If you don’t like music, you need to learn to like it. There is going to be music in heaven (Rev. 5:9-11; 14:2-3; 15:2-3). If you learn to love music that glorifies God on earth, you will be ready for all the singing

that is going to take place in heaven!

Paul tells us that our singing is in two directions. We sing horizontally to one another and vertically to the Lord. Spiritual music is a means of believers’ ministering to each other and it is a means of worshipping the Lord. Paul writes about “speaking to one another in psalms...” and also of “singing and making melody in [our] hearts to the Lord.”

“Speaking to one another” signifies the interchange of thought contained in the musical pieces. We minister to one another in song. Singing horizontally to one another is one of God’s ways in ministering edification to our souls.

Paul tells us more about his in Col. 3:16, “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs...” Singing that is under the influence of the word of Christ will teach and admonish believers. This tells us that our songs should have good content! We should sing doctrine! Sadly, much of the music being sung in evangelical churches today has lost its instructive strength. Let’s make sure that what we sing is full of the truth.



But our singing should also be vertical. Paul writes, “singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.” This part of singing ought to be primary. The Psalms often express this vertical dimension, e.g. “Oh, sing to the LORD a new song! Sing to the LORD, all the earth. Sing unto the LORD, bless his name; show forth his salvation from day to day” (96:1-2).

Because we sing to the Lord, then what we sing is very important. Fluff and trivia should have no place in our repertoire. Music that has a beat prone to stir us emotionally and physically is not spiritually healthy. The songs we sing should express the worship of our hearts and do it in a way that is worthy of our great God and Savior.

Why do we sing? We sing in order to edify one another in the faith and we sing in order to praise and glorify God. The purpose of our singing then is not recreational, singing because it is fun. The purpose of our singing is not psychological, singing to soothe our minds. The purpose of our singing is not promotional, singing to build our organization. Singing is to bring edification to those who hear it and is to be an expression of praise to God in heaven!

The person who is filled with the Spirit has a song in his heart and on his lips. The Spirit-filled Christian’s song is about the wonders of God’s grace in Christ to sinners and has praise and godliness as its end.

BOOK REVIEW



Worship in Song: A Biblical Approach to Music and Worship

Scott Aniol

Published by BMH Books

Worship in Song is one of the most fascinating entries in the many books about music in worship. Aniol has serious credentials as a theologian AND as a trained and skilled musician. His insights are credible both theologically and musically. He writes with the insights of a biblical scholar, the sensitivity of a pastor, and the practical knowledge of a well-trained musician.

Scott makes a strong case for the ability of music to communicate apart from the words it carries. He articulates what we all know intuitively: music communicates emotions in a manner that anyone can understand.

Worship in Song is supremely readable. Pastor Aniol patiently takes the reader through the many complex facets of this topic with calm logic and care. I highly recommend the book to all who seek to worship the Lord in the beauty of His holiness.

Reviewed by Timothy Shafer, State College, PA



SEPTEMBER 17-19 – Fall Bible Conference with Scott Aniol. The theme is, “God-Glorifying Music.” On Friday evening and Sunday morning we will hear what God’s Word says about music; on Saturday there will be sessions about what constitutes good music; and on Sunday evening there will be a sacred music concert. Scott’s books and music are available through Amazon and iTunes ®.

SEPTEMBER 25 – The Ladies of Grace will have their first meeting of the fall will be held at the church on Saturday at 9 a.m. Vicki Johnson will lead a Bible study on faithfulness. The model of faithfulness will be examined along with the means for faithfulness in the believer’s life. If you have questions or need childcare during the meeting, please contact Vicki at vickihojo@aol.com..

OCTOBER 1 – Grace Baptist Church will be participating in the annual Madison Street Festival. Join us as we pass out Gospel Tracts and information about the church.

OCTOBER 3 – Observance of the Lord’s Supper Sunday afternoon, 1:30 PM.

OCTOBER 6 – Men’s Reading Group meets from 6-7 AM for a discussion of the book, *Who Made God? Searching for a Theory of Everything*, by Edgar Andrews.

NOVEMBER 7 – The year 2010 marks the 20th anniversary of Grace Baptist Church. We are going to celebrate God’s blessings on our congregation on November 7. A slide presentation will be shown in the Sunday School hour, marking the history of the church, and testimonies will be given by various people in our congregation.

We Believe

The 1689 Confession of Faith

CHAPTER 5

DIVINE PROVIDENCE

(PARAGRAPHS FIVE, SIX, AND SEVEN)

5. God, who is most wise, righteous and gracious, frequently allows His own people to fall for a time into a variety of temptations, and to experience the sinfulness of their own hearts. This He does in order to chastise them for sins which they have committed, or to teach them humility by revealing to them the hidden strength of evil and deceitfulness remaining in their hearts. His purpose is also to cause them to realize their need to depend fully and at all times upon Himself, and to help them to guard against sin in the future. In these and other ways His just and holy purposes are worked out, so that all that happens to His elect ones is by His appointment, for His glory, and for their good.

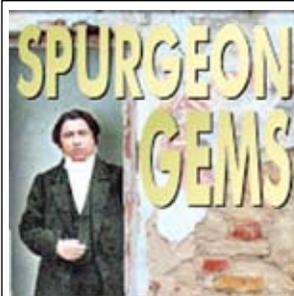
2 Chron. 32:25-26, 31; Rom. 8:28; 2 Cor. 12:7-9

6. God, as a righteous judge, deals otherwise with wicked and ungodly men. He awards them blindness and hardness of heart for their sins. He withholds from them the grace which might have enlightened their minds and exercised their hearts, and in some cases recalls the gifts He had bestowed upon them. Also, He sets them in situations which their evil hearts seize upon as opportunities for sin. In other words, He abandons them to their own innate corruptions, to the temptations of the world, and to, the power of Satan, with the consequence that they harden themselves by the use of the very means which God employs for softening the hearts of others.

Ex. 8:15, 32; Deut. 2:30; 29:4; 2 Kings 8:12-13; Ps. 81:11-12; Isa. 6:9-10; Matt. 13:12; Rom. 1:24-26; 11:7-8; 2 Thess. 2:10-12; 1 Pet. 2:7-8

7. God’s general providence reaches out to all creatures, but in a very special way it is directed to the care of His church. All things are controlled providentially for the good of the church.

Isa. 43:3-5; Amos 9:8-9; 1 Tim. 4:10



THE MELODY OF JESUS’ NAME

All music becomes wearisome but that of heaven; but oh! if the minstrel doth but strike this celestial harp, though he keepeth his fingers always among its golden strings, and be but poor and unskilled upon an instrument so divine, yet the melody of Jesus’ name, and the sweet harmony of all his acts and attributes, will hold his listeners by the ears and thrill their hearts as nought beside can do. The theme of Jesus’ love is inexhaustible, though preachers may have dwelt upon it century after century, a freshness and fullness still remain.

An Argument for the Superiority of Printed Media Over Visual Media

Scott Aniol

The purpose of this essay is not to argue that visual media is inherently evil. Nor is its purpose to contend that visual media lacks any value. The purpose of this essay is to prove that printed media is simply better than visual media, and when faced with the choice to choose one or the other for educational or recreational purposes, a conscientious person should choose printed media over visual media in most cases. With each of the following points the possibility of immoral content is erased, quality in each form is assumed, and each medium is evaluated for its own inherent worth.

Expressions of fiction are the primary focus of this essay, though these points could apply to other forms as well. An application of these points might be a comparison between reading *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Brontë or viewing the film version. Another poignant example might be to compare reading the gospel accounts of the death of Christ or viewing *The Passion of the Christ* by Mel Gibson.

1. Printed media communicates through logic and analysis; Visual media communicates only through images. The very nature of visual media prevents its capacity for profound depth. Visual media cannot thoroughly evaluate the human condition like printed media can. Printed media can literally borough into the hearts and minds of its characters, thus enabling the reader to understand and benefit from

the development of each character and his relationship to the overall moral of the work. Visual media can explore character development to some extent, but due to time constraints and the nature of the visual, it cannot reach the potential of printed media in these respects. "Words communicate in linear, logical form; something communicated in words can thus be judged to be true or false. But an image cannot be true or false" (Kenneth A. Myers, *All God's Children and Blue Suede Shoes*, Wheaton, IL, Crossway, 1989), 162).

2. Printed media demands skill and work; Visual media encourages mindless consumption. Visual media is certainly more popular because it requires little if any active participation. In fact, visual media is attractive primarily because it is "easy." Understanding, appreciating, and benefitting from printed media takes discipline and requires a certain amount of skill. This occurs, of course, on different levels, but each level encourages aspirations toward higher adeptness.

3. Printed media stimulates imagination; Visual media discourages creativity. Printed media allows the reader to fill in gaps with his mind, while visual media leaves little room for imagination, painting every picture for the viewer. Visual media can encourage a degree of creativity, but certainly not to the magnitude of printed media.

4. Printed media promotes education; Visual media invites vicarious participation. While many defenders of visual media insist that exposure to realistic visual imitations of life benefits the viewer, the

nature of the medium actually solicits vicarious participation in the events. For instance, a boy watching a violent war film in order to "appreciate the seriousness of war" will more likely delight in the gratuitousness of the violence than weep over the depravity of the human condition. Because printed media demands more skill and lacks the sensationalism of visual media, such benefits as a healthy hatred for sin are more plausible.

5. Printed media develops the whole person; Visual media cannot. Reading increases vocabulary, develops attention span, fosters imagination, cultivates reasoning skills, and stimulates the ability to articulate thoughts and ideas. Any of these benefits that are possible with visual media are never as extensive as with printed media, and visual media often discourages them.

6. Visual media inhibits the ability to appreciate printed media. Because participating in visual media is effortless, it is addictive, and with its discouragement of qualities such as attention span or depth of understanding, it actually inhibits the ability to appreciate and therefore benefit from superior printed media. Participation in visual media is not necessarily sinful. But all other factors being equal, printed media is superior to visual media in its ability to develop important qualities. All things being equal, those concerned with their education and betterment should choose printed media over visual media as their regular practice.