



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

— March 2011 Issue —

*"Do not be slothful in zeal,
be fervent in spirit,
serve the Lord."
(Romans 12:11).*



NURSERY SCHEDULE

March

06 Melanie Myatt and Nellie McFadden
13 Kristy and Pat Hines
20 Jenny and Peter Lovassy
27 Troy and Jessica Moseley

April

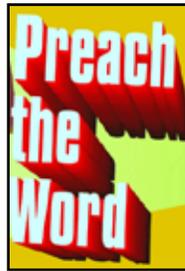
03 Vicki Johnson and Amber Solan
10 Kevin and Sara Smith
17 Kristin Scarbrough and Lori Hewlett
24 Jon and Tanya Amis

CHURCH CLEANING

March - Doris Marshall
April - Jon & Tanya Amis
May - Palazzolos
June - Dean & Linda Olive

FINANCIAL SUMMARY AS OF MARCH 1, 2011

Budgeted expenditures (ytd)	\$ 24,028.98
Actual on-budget expenditures (ytd)	\$ 23,768.24
Actual off-budget expenditures (ytd)	\$ 0.00
General Fund offerings (ytd)	\$ 23,027.59
Designated Missions (ytd)	\$ 250.00
Love offerings (ytd)	\$ 0.00
Total offerings (ytd)	\$ 23,277.59
February Love offerings	\$ 0.00
February General Fund offerings	\$ 10,780.11
February Designated Missions	\$ 100.00
Building Fund balance	\$ 70,553.40
Missions Fund balance	\$ 7,201.95
General Fund balance	\$ 76,201.21



Grace Baptist Church is Hosting

THE SOVEREIGN GRACE BAPTIST PASTORS FELLOWSHIP

Thursday, March 17

Service Schedule

- ✦ 10:00 AM – **Chad Beck**, pastor of Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, Orinda, TN
- ✦ 11:00 AM – **Jim Gables**, co-pastor of Vineland Park Baptist Church, Hueytown, AL
- ✦ 12:00 Noon – Lunch provided by the church
- ✦ 1:15 PM – **Mark Webb**, pastor of Grace Bible Church, Olive Branch, MS

The meeting isn't for pastors only. All are welcome who want to hear God's Word preached and enjoy fellowship with brethren from other churches. Coffee will be ready for those who arrive early.

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

NORMAL SUNDAY SERVICES

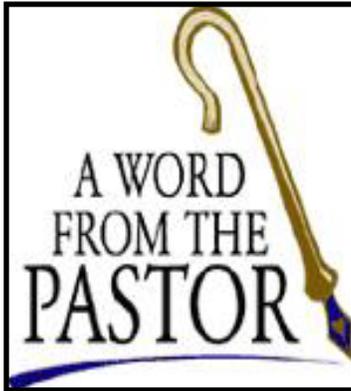
Morning Worship 9:30 AM
Sunday School 11:00 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

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)



Anchored to the Rock and Geared to the Times

1 Chron. 12:32 commends the men of Issachar as being men who “understood the times.” They knew what was happening in their day; they hadn’t kept their heads in the sand. They were men of insight and wisdom who could discern the times “and knew what Israel should do.”

Acts 13:36 tells us that David “served his own generation.” He didn’t live for himself but served the people in his day. It is easy for a king to serve his own selfish needs but David gave his life in service for his countrymen.

God’s purpose for us, like David, is to serve our own generation, and if we are to do that well, then we must be like the men of Issachar by understanding the times in which we live. Christians ought to be culturally aware. It is difficult to reach people with the gospel if we do not understand the generation or times that characterize our era.

However, as important as it is for us to understand the times, we must first be grounded in the faith. Youth for Christ once had the motto, *Anchored to the Rock, Geared to the Times*. We can serve our generation well only if we are first anchored to the rock. We must not be so distracted in trying to understand our culture that that we become ignorant of Christ and His Word.

But that is exactly what often happens. Christians get so caught up in the culture that they lose their sparkle and shine as believers. The danger in being culturally aware is that we forget the Word. So before we are geared to the times, we better be anchored to the rock!

Being anchored to the rock is a beautiful figure of speech. Again and again we read in the Bible about our God being a rock, e.g. “The Lord is my rock... who is a rock save our God?” (Ps 18:2, 31). And Heb 6:19 speaks about the “anchor of the soul” that we have in Christ which is “both sure and steadfast.”

The Rock Christ Jesus and His Word is what we must stand firm upon. This is our fixed reference point and thus we say with the Psalmist, “I shall not be moved” (10:6). What we are anchored to never changes. The culture is always changing but not that on which we stand. Here are some of the fixed reference points for believers that never change.

God doesn’t change. He is the same, always the same. He isn’t one way today and another way tomorrow. This is set forth so beautifully in well-known Old Testament and New Testament texts. Mal. 3:6 says, “For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.” And Heb. 13:8 says, “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.”

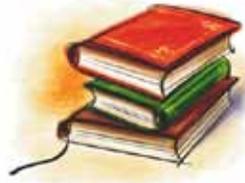
The Word doesn’t change. We hold to the faith “once delivered to the saints” (Jude 3). The Bible never needs revising. What was true then is true now. We need to know the Word and have wisdom to apply it to our age. It is foolish for churches to conduct surveys in order to see what the world wants and then try to give it to them. They need the gospel. They need the unchanging word of the living God. The felt needs of people can never set the agenda for the church. The real needs of people sets our agenda. They are infected with sin and there is one remedy for their souls.

The gospel message doesn’t change. The message will always be the person and work of Christ. The message will always be, he was crucified for our sins, he was buried, he rose on the third day, and he was seen of men (1 Cor. 15:3-8). The world has a sin problem and the only solution for it is the gospel. This is fixed; it never varies. Every generation, every culture, every nation needs Christ!

The method of gospel proclamation doesn’t change. The apostles preached the gospel to the world and that should be our methodology. “Preach the word, be instant in season and out of season” (2 Tim 4:2) Christians are tempted on every hand to use modern methods for spreading the gospel but the first Christians didn’t give in to other methodologies. The Greek’s had drama but the apostles never used that method. The Puritans lived in Shakespeare’s time but they never brought the theater to the church. Paul said, “For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect” (1 Cor. 1:17). We must not only proclaim the same message as the apostles; we must also practice their method of proclaiming it! And when we preach, we much look for a verdict! The gospel demands a believing response.

So let us be anchored to the rock while we are geared to the times. That is an excellent philosophy of ministry. It tells us that we need to understand the age in which we live while we are fully anchored to Christ and His Word. Let’s understand the culture we live in but always be fixed to that which is unchangeable.

BOOK REVIEW



The Legacy of the King James Bible: Celebrating 400 Years of the Most Influential English Translation

by Leland Ryken

Published by Crossway, 265 pages

Leland Ryken is eminently qualified to write a book on the legacy of the King James Bible. His years of teaching sixteenth- and seventeenth-century English literature and his extensive writings on the Bible as literature and familiarity with modern English translations put him in the seat of profound authority. His personal acquaintance with the text of the KJV from a very early age gives his delightful stories a ring of authenticity.

Dr. Ryken will lead you into a deep appreciation of this four-hundred-year-old translation—the beauty of its language, its undeniable influence on American and English culture, and its molding of literary personalities, poets, musicians, and yes, even politicians. Once I began reading Ryken’s book, I couldn’t put it down. It will tempt you to go to your bookshelf, blow the dust off your KJV, and begin reading it again. Ryken has clearly and precisely demonstrated what has made it such an enduring cultural phenomenon—the simplicity of its prose, the beauty of its poetry, the cadence of its diction, and the grandeur of its message.

Donald L. Brake, Dean Emeritus, Multnomah Biblical Seminary; author, *A Visual History of the King James Bible*.



MARCH 6 – The church will be observing the ordinance of the Lord’s Supper in the afternoon service.

MARCH 13 – Daylight Savings Time starts. Don’t forget to set your clocks forward one hour the night before.

MARCH 17 – Grace Baptist Church will be hosting the Sovereign Grace Baptist Pastors Fellowship on Thursday, March 17 (dv). Three men are scheduled to preach, Chad Beck, Mark Webb, and Jim Gables. The first meeting begins at 10 AM. Lunch will be provided.

MARCH 27 – Justin Dillehay, pastoral intern at Grace Baptist Church, Hartsville, TN, will be preaching at both the morning and evening services.

APRIL 3 – Darrell Lingerfelt, pastor of Providence Baptist Church, Pulaski, TN, will be preaching in the afternoon service.

MAY 16-19 – The annual FIRE conference will be held in Estes Park, Colorado.

OCTOBER 21-23 – Tony Carter, pastor of Eastpointe Church, Atlanta, GA, will be the preacher for our Fall Bible Conference. Please mark these days on your calendar and plan to attend every service.

We Believe

The 1689 Confession of Faith

CHAPTER 8

CHRIST THE MEDIATOR

(PARAGRAPHS FIVE, SIX AND SEVEN)

5. By His perfect obedience to God’s law, and by a once-for-all offering up of Himself to God as a sacrifice through the eternal Spirit, the Lord Jesus has fully satisfied all the claims of divine justice. He has brought about reconciliation, and purchased an everlasting inheritance in the kingdom of heaven, for all those given to Him by His Father.

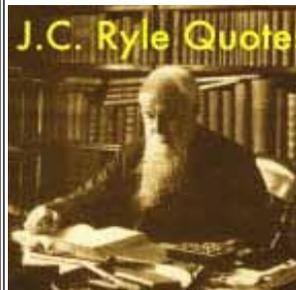
John 17:2; Rom. 3:25, 26; Heb. 9:14, 15

6. The price of redemption was not actually paid by Christ until after His birth in this world, but the value, efficacy and benefits of His redemptive work availed for His elect in all ages successively from the beginning of the world. This was accomplished by the promises, the types and the sacrifices in which He was revealed, and which signified Him to be the woman’s ‘seed’ (offspring) who should bruise the head of the serpent (the devil), also ‘the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world’. As the Christ He is ‘the same yesterday, and today, and for ever’.

1 Cor. 4:10; Heb. 4:2; 13:8; 1 Pet. 1:10, 11; Rev. 13:8

7. In His work as mediator between God and men, Christ acts according to His two natures, one divine, one human, in each nature doing that which is appropriate to it. Yet by reason of the unity of His Person, that which is appropriate to one nature is, in Scripture, sometimes attributed to the Person denominated by the other nature.

John 3:13; Acts 20:28



J.C. Ryle Quotes

PONDERING HEAVEN

“We know but little of the life to come in heaven. Perhaps our clearest ideas of it are drawn from considering what it will not be, rather than what it will be. It is a state in which we shall hunger no more, nor thirst any more. Sickness, pain, and disease, will not be known. Wasting, old age, and death will have no place. Marriages, births, and a constant succession of inhabitants, will be no more needed. They who are once admitted into heaven shall dwell there for evermore. And, to pass from negatives to positives, one thing we are told plainly – we shall be “as the angels of God.” Like them, we shall serve God perfectly, unhesitatingly, and unweariedly. Like them, we shall ever be in God’s presence. Like them, we shall ever delight to do His will. Like them, we shall give all glory to the Lamb. These are deep things. But they are all true.”

A Tale Of Two Corners: Knowledge and Maturity

by Kevin DeYoung

In this corner you have our friend Mr. Bookworm. He's not quite thirty years old. He's very intelligent. He's read Calvin, Edwards, Luther, and Bavinck. He knows Warfield and Hodge, Piper and Carson too. Since coming to the Lord in college, Mr. Bookworm has been on fire for learning. He listens to a dozen sermons each week on his iPod. He has a better grasp of current theological debates than most pastors. He loves Christian conferences, the good meaty ones. Mr. Bookworm knows all about hermeneutics, propitiation, covenant theology, the regulative principle, and the *ordo salutis*. He's even teaching himself a little Greek. Hebrew and Latin are around the corner. Ugaritic, if he's got time.

Mr. Bookworm is smart, serious about his faith, and genuinely wants to serve the Lord. But he's twenty-something and not all that mature. In terms of knowledge, he's playing in the Major Leagues, but as far as wisdom he's batting below .200 in A ball. He doesn't have gross sins, just some annoying ones. On the truth-grace scale, he's all truth. He's obnoxious, bordering on abrasive. He lacks all sense of proportion. He can't see that a debate over presuppositional v. evidentialist apologetics is not as serious as Athanasius v. Arianism. Everything is a first-order issue because there are no other kinds of issues.

To make matters worse, Mr. Bookworm talks too much. He sees every conversation as a forensics match waiting to happen. He's opinionated. He doesn't ask questions. People are scared of him and he doesn't know why. Except for those in complete agreement with him, Mr. Bookworm doesn't have many friends. He's not trying to be rude or arrogant. In fact, push come to shove he can be a winsome fellow. The problem is he has all this knowledge and doesn't know how to use it wisely or winsomely.

In the other corner is Mr. Simple-

Faith. He's been a Christian for 40 years. He prays and reads his Bible every day. He's raised four godly children. He's been married for over 30 years. He's quiet, sincere, and well-respected by everyone. But he's not a huge reader. He never has been. He reads two or three books a year, one of them might be a Christian book, usually something popular and pretty lightweight. Mr. Simple-Faith has decent theological instincts. He knows the Bible is all true, Jesus is the only way to God, hell is real, and we can't earn our way to heaven. He's orthodox, but

Our aim is for
Mr. Knowledge
to grow into Mr.
Head-and-Heart
and for Mr. Simple-
Faith to learn
to be Mr. Deep-
Truth.

beyond the basics he's pretty ignorant and, frankly, not very interested.

So who would you rather have as an elder in your church? Mr. Bookworm is more impressive, but Mr. Simple-Faith is probably going to make better decisions and be better received by the members of the congregation. Personally, I'd rather have maturity outpacing knowledge instead of the other way around.

It should go without saying that the goal is to have both. A mature Christian with little theological knowledge is not living up to his potential. A knowledgeable Christian without maturity has potential he doesn't know how to use.

A theologically astute, immature Christian is like a five year old flying

an Apache helicopter. Here's this massive weapon; it can destroy arguments and defend against heresy. It can soar to the heavens and take in glorious sights no one at sea-level will ever witness. This theological helicopter is good for search and rescue, just as good for seek and destroy. Every congregational army would be thrilled with such a vehicle. It's fast. It's furious. It's impressive. But it's also dangerous. And with a five-year old behind the wheel (or whatever they have in choppers), some people are going to get hurt. It's not wrong for a little kid to have a helicopter, but it would be nice if he grew up and took some flying lessons before taking the thing out for a spin.

On the other hand, a mature Christian content with the barest theological knowledge is like a 45-year old riding a tricycle. If I had to choose, I'd go with the trike-riding middle-aged man, but only because he's a little safer than the five-year old fighter pilot. In a perfect world, the 45-year old would learn to ride something for grown-ups. Sure he can get around on the tricycle. But he can't go very fast or very far. He's limited in terms of what he can see and experience. He can't do much to beat back enemies or scale new heights. He's steady, but not the best he can be.

The goal in Christian discipleship is that we don't have to choose between kids flying helicopters and adults riding little bikes. We want the most mature pilots flying the most intricate machinery. Our aim is for Mr. Knowledge to grow into Mr. Head-and-Heart and for Mr. Simple-Faith to learn to be Mr. Deep-Truth.

And if our congregations haven't reached this equilibrium yet, we can at least provide a safety instructor for the kids and kick off the training wheels for the adults.

This article originally appeared in the February 2011 issue of Table-talk.