



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 2013 Issue —



*"Now therefore fear the LORD and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness."
Joshua 24:14a*

NURSERY SCHEDULE

March

03 Vicki Johnson and Amber Solan
10 Pat and Kristy Hines
17 Kevin and Sara Smith
24 Kristin Scarbrough and Lori Hewlett
31 Linda Olive and Melanie Myatt

April

07 Jenny and Peter Lovassy
14 Troy and Jessi Moseley
21 Jon and Tanya Amis
28 Vicki Johnson and Amber Solan

CHURCH CLEANING

March - Moseleys
April - Lovassys
May - Myatts
June - Dean & Linda Olive

FINANCIAL SUMMARY AS OF MARCH 1, 2013

Budgeted expenditures (ytd)	\$ 18,894.38
Actual on-budget expenditures (ytd)	\$ 25,835.35
Actual off-budget expenditures (ytd)	\$ 0.00
General Fund offerings (ytd)	\$ 28,378.29
Designated Missions (ytd)	\$ 2,330.00
Love offerings (ytd)	\$ 870.00
Total offerings (ytd)	\$ 31,578.29
February Love offerings	\$ 870.00
February General Fund offerings	\$ 10,839.86
February Designated Missions	\$ 1,030.00
Building Fund balance	\$101,297.04
Missions Fund balance	\$ 18,862.10
General Fund balance	\$ 66,807.87

SPRING BIBLE CONFERENCE

MARCH 22-24

Speaker:

Dr. Sam Waldron

Theme:

A Man as Priest in His Home

- **Friday** – 7:00 PM
- **Saturday** – 9:30 & 10:30 AM
- **Sunday** – 9:30; 11:00 AM & 1:30 PM



Christian husbands and fathers have an important ministry in the home. What kind of ministry is it? All Christian ministry is priestly in character, including that of a man in his home. This conference, however, isn't for men only. It is for everyone who wants to see their home ordered on a Biblical model.

Coffee and donuts will be served at 9:00 AM Saturday morning. Lunch will be served at 12:15 PM on Sunday.

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

NORMAL SUNDAY SERVICES

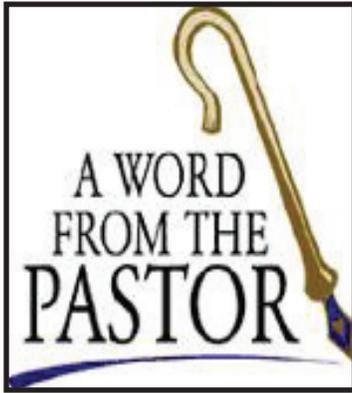
Morning Worship 9:30 AM
Sunday School 11:00 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

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)



Present Suffering and Future Glory

Romans 8 is one of the most well-known and cherished chapters in the entire Bible. And that for good reason! Just think of some of the well-known and beloved verses it contains (1, 16, 28, 32, 39)! But there is a verse in this chapter, that, though not as well-known, contains a most-

needed message for the saints of God who are undergoing trials. That verse is 18: "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to [or in] us."

Paul teaches us that the suffering we endure in the world is light in comparison with the splendor of the life to come. He tells us to "consider" this. He uses an accounting term to convey this thought. The picture is of an accountant adding up the figures in two different columns and then comparing the two totals. The first column is entitled, "the sufferings of this present time." The second column is entitled, "the glory that is to be revealed."

When Paul totals the figures from both columns, he discovers that they are not even worth comparing! Stott says, "'Suffering' and 'glory' are inseparable, since suffering is the way to glory (see v. 17), but they are not comparable." The future glory awaiting believers far surpasses the sufferings they face in this world. The one far outweighs the other!

In the first column, Paul has in mind the suffering Christians endure in this present world. He speaks of it as "the sufferings of this present time." This suffering is first and foremost the result of being a Christian. This is persecution endured for Christ's sake, for confessing him as Lord. We don't face much of that in our society but there are Christians elsewhere that do. They face the consequences of evil men who reject Jesus as the Christ.

But that isn't the only kind of suffering that Paul has in mind here. His expression is quite broad. It covers suffering of all sorts that we endure in this present hour. It includes suffering that comes because we live in an imperfect world. It includes suffering that is the result of our fall in Adam. It includes all the weaknesses of the body, including disease and sickness.

But the wonderful thing about suffering, no matter what its cause, is that it is only for the present! It is characteristic of the present age. Peter said that it is "now for a little while" (1 Peter 1:6). It doesn't last forever! It only lasts for a short while. It is important that we learn how to face suffering, but one of the biggest helps is to know it is temporary.

The second column is "the glory that is to be revealed." Here Paul sets forth suffering in contrast to the glory that is to come.

We sometimes speak of heaven as glory land. And it is. But glory is not just a place to which we are going; it is the condition in which we will live. Glorification is the last of the five golden chains mentioned in vv. 29-30. This glory will not be ours until this present order of things has come to an end; however, we are as good as glorified, according to v. 30, though it has not yet come to pass. But it is certain!

What awaits us is glory, or glorification, the transformation of our bodies. We will live in a state of perfection outside the presence of sin. We will no longer be marred with the effects of sin. There will be no more pain, sickness, death, etc. These things will have passed away (Rev 21:4). John tells us that when we see Jesus, we shall be like him, i.e. we shall be glorified (1 Jn 3:2).

Paul's point is this. It doesn't matter how much suffering you face in this present world for it isn't worth comparing to the glory that is coming! He said a similar thing in 2 Cor. 4:17: "For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory" (NKJV). Note the contrast. Suffering now is light and temporary, but the glory is exceeding and eternal.

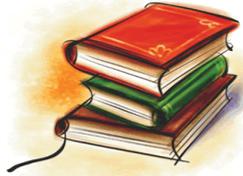
So we should be looking forward to the glory that is to be revealed "to us" or as some translations have it, "in us." Stott says, "This end-time disclosure will be made to us, because we will see it, and in us, because we will share in it and be changed by it."

It is vital that we not focus on our present troubles in this world. We need to be looking at what is coming! If we keep our eyes on the Lord of glory we will realize that whatever we face in this world is trivial in comparison to heaven. The future glory is so great, the present sufferings are insignificant by comparison! One writer says, "Even the excruciating pain of the martyrs will seem like pinpricks when the Savior graces their brows with the crown of life... If we could only appreciate the glory that is to be ours, we could count the sufferings along the way as trivia!"

Oh, if we could but soak our minds and hearts in this one verse, we would be able to endure whatever afflictions and trials the Lord takes us through! Some of the trials we face in life are most painful. I don't mean to minimize them at all. But the glory that awaits us far outweighs them!

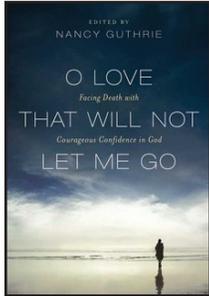
The joy of our future glory exceeds immeasurably the suffering we now endure. Let eternity be taken into account and we will never despair. Would you have comfort for trials in this present world? Then consider the glory that will be revealed in us and to us.

BOOK REVIEW



O Love That Will Not Let Me Go

Edited by Nancy Guthrie
IVP, pp. 160



For many modern-day Christians, death has become what J. I. Packer terms “the great unmentionable.” This attitude denies not only the reality of the human condition, but also the reality of God’s promises for believers beyond this life. The church needs to think more about death in the light of the gospel.

O Love That Will Not Let Me Go is a compilation that includes the writings of twenty-two classic and contemporary theologians and Bible teachers on how to prepare to die in faith. It is edited by Nancy Guthrie, written as a result of her believing sister’s courageous demise. It is designed to encourage us to “live now like we believe the Gospel is true.”

The short meditations are drawn from sermons, books and the writings of classic theologians, such as Jonathan Edwards and John Calvin, and of leading contemporary communicators, such as John Piper and J. I. Packer. The writers provide a solidly scriptural and countercultural way to view the inevitability of death, explaining how and why believers can face physical death with hope, joy and confidence in God’s promises for the life to come.

There are many arresting quotations that will grab your attention, such as, “If heaven is our country, what can the earth be but a place of exile?” (Calvin), and “Death dies when I die, and I begin to live when I die. It is a sweet passage to life. We never live till we die” (Sibbes).

Mrs. Guthrie has done the people of God a great service in compiling this book, bringing together material which takes us back to Scripture, focuses the heart and mind on Christ and the blessed hope given us in the Gospel, so that the prospect of going to be with Him is “far better” indeed. This excellent book should be read by as many believers as possible, and sooner rather than later.

William Horsburgh



MARCH 21 – We will be hosting the Sovereign Grace Baptist Pastor’s Fellowship. Speakers are Chad Beck, Sam Waldron, and Darrell Lingerfelt. The first session begins at 10:00 AM. Coffee and donuts will be served at 9:30 AM and lunch at 12:00 noon.

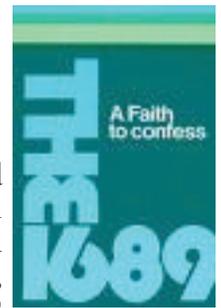
MARCH 22-24 – Spring Bible Conference with Dr. Sam Waldron. Dr. Waldron is one of the pastors of the Heritage Baptist Church of Owensboro, Kentucky, a Reformed Baptist Church which is also affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention. He also serves as the Professor of Systematic Theology at the Midwest Center for Theological Studies. He is the author of numerous books and pamphlets including *A Modern Exposition of the 1689 Baptist Confession of Faith*, *The End Times Made Simple*, *Faith, Obedience & Justification*, and is a contributor to the four-views book on church government, *Who Runs the Church?*

APRIL 21 - Edgar Harrell, a survivor of the sinking of the USS Indianapolis in WWII, will be giving his testimony. He will share an important message about the grace and providence of God

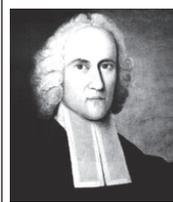
We Believe

The 1689 Confession of Faith CHAPTER 24

CIVIL GOVERNMENT



1. As the world’s supreme Lord and King, God has instituted civil government and has set up civil authorities, subject to Himself, to rule over communities for His own glory and the public good. For these purposes to be achieved He has given them the powers of life and death, both for the safety and encouragement of all men of good behavior, and for the punishment of the wicked.
Rom. 13:1-4
2. It is lawful for Christians to accept and carry out the duties of public office when called upon to do so, in which case it becomes their responsibility to maintain justice and peace in accordance with the sound laws of the kingdoms and states which they serve. New Testament teaching authorizes them to wage war when this is found to be just and necessary.
2 Sam. 23:3; Ps. 82:3, 4; Luke 3:14
3. As civil rulers are set up by God for the aforesaid purposes, Christians are to be subject to them in respect of all their lawful requirements, and that, for the Lord’s sake and for conscience’ sake, and not merely to avoid punishment. They should offer supplications and prayers for kings and all that are in authority, that under their rule they may live a ‘quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty’.
Rom. 13:5-7; 1 Tim. 2:1, 2; 1 Pet. 2:17



The Wisdom of Jonathan Edwards

“If the heart be chiefly and directly fixed on God, and the soul engaged to glorify him, some degree of religious affection will be the effect and attendant of it. But to seek after affection directly and chiefly; to have the heart principally set upon that; is to place it in the room of God and his glory. If it be sought, that others may take notice of it, and admire us for our spirituality and forwardness in religion, it is then damnable pride; if for the sake of feeling the pleasure of being affected, it is then idolatry and self-gratification.”

How to Get the Most from Reading your Bible

by Thomas Watson

Abridged and Modernized by Matthew Vogan

1. Remove hindrances. (a) remove the love of every sin (b) remove the distracting concerns of this world, especially covetousness [Matt. 13:22] (c) Don't make jokes with and out of Scripture.
2. Prepare your heart [1 Sam. 7:3]. Do this by: (a) collecting your thoughts (b) purging unclean affections and desires (c) not coming to it rashly or carelessly.
3. Read it with reverence, considering that each line is God speaking directly to you.
4. Read the books of the Bible in order.
5. Get a true understanding of Scripture [Ps. 119:73]. This is best achieved by comparing relevant parts of Scripture with each other.
6. Read with seriousness [Deut. 32:47]. The Christian life is to be taken seriously since it requires striving [Luke 13:24] and not falling short [Heb. 4:1].
7. Persevere in remembering what you read [Ps. 119:52]. Don't let it be stolen from you [Matt. 13:4,19]. If it doesn't stay in your memory it is unlikely to be much benefit to you.
8. Meditate on what you read [Ps. 119:15]. The Hebrew word for meditate' means to be intense in the mind'. Meditation without reading is wrong and bound to err; reading without meditation is barren and fruitless. It means to stir the affections, to be warmed by the fire of meditation [Ps. 39:3].
9. Read with a humble heart. Acknowledge that you are unworthy that God should reveal himself to you [James 4:6].
10. Believe it all to be God's Holy Word [2 Tim 3:16]. We know that no sinner could have written it because of the way it describes sin. No saint could blaspheme God by pretending his own Word was God's. No angel could have written it for the same reason. [Heb 4:2]
11. Prize the Bible highly [Ps. 119:72]. It is your lifeline; you were born by it [James 1:18] you need to grow by it [1 Pet 2:2] [cf. Job 23:12].
12. Love the Bible ardently [Ps. 119:159].
13. Come to read it with an honest heart [Luke 8:15]. (a) Willing to know the entire and complete will of God (b) reading in order to be changed and made better by it [John 17:17].
14. Apply to yourself everything that you read, take every word as spoken to yourself. Its condemnation of sins as the condemnation of your own sin; the duty that it requires as the duty God would require from you [2 Kings 22:11].
15. Pay close attention to the commands of the Word as much as the promises. Think of how you need direction just as much as you need comfort.
16. Don't get carried away with the minor details, rather make sure to pay closest attention to the great things [Hosea 8:12].
17. Compare yourself with the Word. How do you compare? Is your heart something of a transcript of it, or not?
18. Pay special attention to those passages that speak to your individual, particular and present situation. e.g. (a) Affliction — [Heb. 12:7, Isaiah 27:9, John 16:20, 2 Cor 4:17. (b) Sense of Christ's presence and smile withdrawn -- [Isaiah 54:8, Isaiah 57:16, Ps. 97:11] (c) Sin — [Gal 5:24, James 1:15, 1 Peter 2:11, Prov 7:10 & 22-23, Prov 22:14] (d) Unbelief — [Isaiah 26:3, 2 Sam 22:31, John 3:15, 1 John 5:10, John 3:36].
19. Pay special attention to the examples and lives of people in the Bible as living sermons. (a) Punishments [Nebuchadnezzar, Herod, Num 25:3-4&9, 1 Kings 14:9-10, Acts 5:5,10, 1 Cor 10:11, Jude 7] (b) mercies and deliverances [Daniel, Jeremiah, the 3 youths in the fiery furnace]
20. Don't stop reading the Bible until you find your heart warmed [Ps 119:93]. Let it not only inform you but also inflame you [Jer 23:29, Luke 24:32].
21. Put into practice what you read [Ps 119:66, Ps 119:105, Deut 17:19].
22. Christ is for us Prophet, Priest and King. Make use of His office as a Prophet [Rev 5:5, John 8:12, Ps 119:102-103]. Get Christ not only to open the Scriptures up to you, but to open up your mind and understanding [Luke 24:45]
23. Make sure to put yourself under a true ministry of the Word, faithfully and thoroughly expounding the Word [Prov 8:34] be earnest and eager in waiting on it.
24. Pray that you will profit from reading [Isaiah 48:17, Ps 119:18, Nehemiah 9:20].

