



M Grace Messenger

GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH

122 Walnut Street
Madison, AL 35758
256-837-8821

GBC HOMEPAGES

<http://www.gbcmadison-al.com>
<http://sermonaudio.com/gbcmadisonal>

"Preaching the free grace of God which brings a change of lifestyles, masters and destinies."

DEAN OLIVE, Pastor

— August 2014 Issue —

"Do not turn aside from following the LORD, but serve the Lord with all your heart." 1 Samuel 12:20

NURSERY SCHEDULE

August

03 Vicki Johnson and Kristin Scarbrough
10 Lori Hewlett and Melanie Myatt
17 Troy and Jessi Moseley
24 Linda Olive and Andrea Page
31 Amber Sloan and Wilma Pinch

September

06 Jenny and Peter Lovassy
13 Melanie Myatt and Kristin Scarbrough
20 Vicki Johnson and Lori Hewlett
27 Troy and Jessi Moseley

CHURCH CLEANING

August - Pages
September - Moseleys
October - Johnsons

LAWN CARE

August - Moseleys
September - Amises

FINANCIAL SUMMARY AS OF AUGUST 1, 2014

Budgeted expenditures (ytd)	\$ 84,401.35
Actual on-budget expenditures (ytd)	\$ 88,840.93
Actual off-budget expenditures (ytd)	\$ 1,065.00
General Fund offerings (ytd)	\$ 96,961.36
Designated Missions (ytd)	\$ 4,695.50
Love offerings (ytd)	\$ 2,235.00
Benevolence (ytd)	\$ 1,060.00
Total offerings (ytd)	\$105,041.86
July Love offerings	\$ 90.00
July General Fund offerings	\$ 15,606.37
July Designated Missions	\$ 515.00
Building Fund balance	\$131,887.88
Missions Fund balance	\$ 5,106.22
General Fund balance	\$ 56,940.30

FIRE SOUTHEAST REGIONAL CONFERENCE OCTOBER 6 - 7

THEME:

TO SEEK AND TO SAVE:

The Mission of our Triune God

Monday, October 6

Registration begins at 5:30 pm
Session 1 begins at 7:00 pm

Tuesday, October 7

9 AM first service
Last session begins at 7:00 pm
Lunch and Supper provided



Speakers:



Geoff Thomas



Don Currin



Trevor Johnson



Martin Rizley

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

NORMAL SUNDAY SERVICES

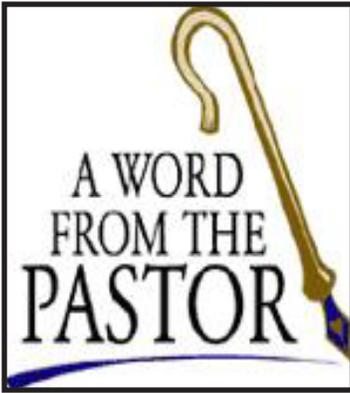
Morning Worship 9:30 AM
Sunday School 11:00 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

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)



An Act of Love and Devotion

A remarkable story is related in the Gospels about a woman who did a marvelous thing for the Lord Jesus (Mt 26:6-13; Mk 14:3-9; Jn 12:1-8). Mary, the sister of Martha and brother of Lazarus, anointed Jesus with very expensive oil.

The disciples thought her act was wasteful but Jesus rebuked them and told them to leave her alone. He said, "She has done a beautiful thing for me."

Mary anointed him with the very costly fragrance because she dearly loved him. Mary took no thought at the expense involved in declaring her devotion to Jesus. Jesus was worth everything to her! Jesus commended her by saying, "She has done what she could."

Mary poured the expensive perfume on his head and his feet. It was customary for a guest in a home in that day to have oil placed poured on the head and feet as a kind gesture of welcome and friendship. Psalm 23 gives us an indication of that custom. "You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil."

What made this event extraordinary was the cost of the fragrant oil. On normal occasions, a much cheaper oil was used for visitors. But this was "an alabaster flask of very costly oil of spikenard," worth more than 300 denarii. A denarii was a day's wages for a laborer. The use of this expensive perfume indicates that Mary did not regard Jesus as an ordinary guest. She regarded him as a very special person and signified it by anointing him with oil fit for a king.

The costly fragrance was an expression of Mary's deep love for the Lord Jesus. Hendricksen says, "Along with the perfume, Mary poured out her heart in gratitude and devotion." O, how Mary loved the Lord!

Jesus saw something else in her act of love and devotion. He declared that she anointed his body beforehand for his burial. His death was near so her deed functioned as a memorial. What Jesus came to do in dying for our sins, being buried in the tomb, and rising triumphantly from the grave, is remembered in her deed, but she is remembered too. Jesus said, "Wherever the gospel is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in memory of her."

Her story has been told over and over again and

is still being told today. There probably isn't a Sunday that goes by where her story isn't preached somewhere in the world. There isn't a day that goes by where people the world over aren't reading her story. Her deed lives on the pages of God's Word and it encourages us to honor and glorify the Lord Jesus as she did.

Mary is remembered, not with a memorial of stone, but by her beautiful and loving action. And her story, as Kent Hughes says, "is part of the 'gospel' (good news) because she was a demonstration of what happens in a life touched by the Savior of love." When Jesus forgives our sins and removes our transgressions from us, we begin naturally to show our love for him in acts of devotion.

I wonder, are we like Mary? Are we doing what we can for the Lord Jesus? Have we taken inventory of the means that the Lord has put in our hands for honoring him and then used it for his glory? Is there anything too costly to give to Jesus? Let's give our treasure to spread the gospel. Let's give our lives to magnify his name. Let's give our all in lifting high the name of Jesus Christ our Lord!

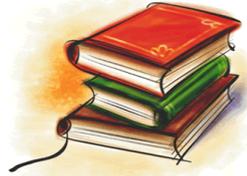
Are there imitators of Mary in our midst? Will the Lord Jesus say of us, "They did what they could." John Angel James charges us all: "Jesus did not withhold from you His very precious blood! What are you willing to do for Him? What beautiful jar of expensive perfume have you broken, will you break for Him?" Acts of devotion are not payments given for pardon. We are saved by grace apart from works, but receiving the free grace of God moves us to give our all for him.

J.C. Ryle said, "The pathway to lasting honor is to honor Christ." Mary graciously traveled that pathway. The lives of many a king and emperor are not remembered today, but the grateful act of one humble Christian woman is remembered by Bible readers all over the world.

Do you love Jesus like Mary did? Do you worship him like she did? The person who adores the Lord Jesus Christ as the Savior of his soul, will not quibble about how much it cost to worship and serve him; he will not complain that he does not have the time. The true worshipper of Christ will give whatever he has in order to bring praise to his name!

How are we going to be remembered? Will be remembered at all? If so, will it be because we are stingy or generous? Grouchy or gracious? Lazy or active? Useless or devoted? Everywhere that the gospel is preached, what Mary did in anointing Jesus is told in her memory.

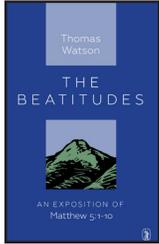
BOOK REVIEW



The Beatitudes: An Exposition of Matthew 5:1-10

Thomas Watson,

Banner of Truth Trust, pp. 305, republished 2014.



The Beatitudes, by Puritan preacher, Thomas Watson, was first published in 1660. The 2014 edition has been entirely revised and editorial notes supplied.

The opening verses of the best-known of all Christ's sermons were handled by many of the Puritans, for the Beatitudes gave full scope to the combination of sound doctrine, practical wisdom and heart-searching application which characterized their preaching.

In addition to these general Puritan characteristics, Thomas Watson added certain of his own: a master of a terse, vigorous style and of a beauty of expression, he could speak not only to win men's understanding but also to secure a place for the truth in their memories. More than most of his generation he sought to follow the example of Christ's teaching by employing all manner of illustrative material from common life, and with simplicity and charm he spoke words not easy to forget. Two hundred years after Thomas Watson's death William Jay of Bath said that he could go to any one of his books and "find it ever fresh, pointed and instructive."

J. I. Packer says, "What announces itself as an exposition of Matthew 5:1-10 turns out to be a digest of all the central Puritan teaching on the Christian life. The Beatitudes are treated as mineshafts into the whole economy of grace — as indeed they are."



AUGUST 3 – Martin Rizley, pastor of the Reformed Baptist Church of Texarkana, will be preaching God's Word and sharing information about his upcoming mission work to Spain.

AUGUST 24 – Fred Smith will be preaching God's Word in the evening worship service.

SEPTEMBER 3 – Steve Page will be bringing the message at the mid-week prayer meeting.

SEPTEMBER 7 – Steve Grissom, pastor of Haven Baptist Church in Madison, will be preaching in the morning worship hour in the pastor's absence. Bob Marsh will be speaking at the Lord's Supper in the afternoon service.

OCTOBER 5-7 – Geoff Thomas, pastor of Alfred Place Baptist Church, Aberystwyth, Wales, is the preacher for our Fall Bible Conference in conjunction with our hosting the regional FIRE conference. He will be preaching on Sunday, Oct. 5, and then for the FIRE conference on Monday and Tuesday evening, Oct. 6-7. The theme of the FIRE Conference is, **TO SEEK AND TO SAVE: The Mission of Our Triune God.** Also preaching on Tuesday, Oct. 7, is Trevor Johnson, Don Currin, and Martin Rizley.

Spurgeon's Catechism with Scripture Proofs



Question 2: What rule has God given to direct us how we may glorify him?

Answer: The Word of God which is contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments (Eph. 2:20 2 Tim. 3:16) is the only rule to direct us how we may glorify God and enjoy him (1 Jn. 1:3).

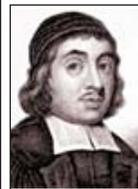
Scripture Proof: Eph. 2:20, the church is "built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone." 2 Tim. 3:16, "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness." 1 Jn. 1:3, "That which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ."

Commentary: God speaks. He speaks in his Word, the book we call the Bible. It has two sections, the Old and the New Testaments. The 66 books of the Bible, 39 in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament, comprise the Word of God, the Holy Scriptures.

The Bible is a holy book, given by God through the means of inspiration. The result is a book that is truthful in all that it says. This makes the Word of God trustworthy and dependable. We can stake our lives on the teachings of the infallible and inerrant Word of God.

What we believe (credenda) and what we practice (agenda) is based solely on the teachings of God's Word. First and foremost the Bible tells us the way of salvation in Jesus Christ. But it also guides us what we are to believe and in how we are to live. It is "the only rule to direct us how we may glorify God and enjoy him." What we are to believe and practice is grounded in the exclusive authority of God's Word.

The Scriptures are not tried by Confessions of Faith, Catechisms, and Commentaries, but they by the Scriptures. Writings which explain the Scriptures and state the fundamental doctrines of the Scriptures are valuable, but only the Word of God is without error.



Thomas Watson
Puritan Preacher & Author

HUMILITY IS A BECOMING GARMENT FOR GOD'S CHILDREN

"Let us carry ourselves as God's children in humility. 'Be ye clothed with humility' (1 Peter 5:5). It is a becoming garment. Let a child of God look at his face every morning in the mirror of God's Word and see his sinful spots. This will make him walk humbly all the day after. God cannot endure to see his children grow proud. He suffers them to fall into sin, as he did Peter, that their plumes may fall, and that they may learn to go on lower ground."

Don't You Care?

David Campbell

Don't you care? The disciples once asked Jesus that very question (Mark 4:38, NIV). A storm was raging, their boat was in danger of sinking, and Jesus, of all things, was asleep! Shouldn't he have been awake and helping them? Didn't he care if they drowned?

These men are not the only disciples to have questioned Jesus' care. Many others have done the same. Need we look any further than ourselves? Like the disciples on the lake we have been in difficult, painful, alarming situations and have questioned, in the anguish of our spirits, if our Savior really does *care*.

In this brief article we tackle the question head-on. Does Jesus care?

Circumstances may tempt us to wonder if he cares. Isn't this the case when difficulties are of long continuance? Or when afflictions are multiplied? Or when we seem specially singled out for suffering? A measure of difficulty we all expect. No-one imagines that there are going to be no hard times between here and heaven. But difficulties can go on and on and on with no end in sight, and they can increase in number rather than decrease, until we feel at last that God has marked us out for pain rather than for blessing. And when *that* happens it is so easy to find ourselves *wondering* if he cares.

Satan will allege that he does not care. In Ephesians Chapter 6 Paul writes of the 'fiery darts' or 'flaming arrows' of the wicked one. The reference is to the blasphemies, unbelieving

thoughts, doubts, objections, malicious allegations, with which he troubles the minds of God's children. Isn't this one of them? – 'Your Jesus doesn't *care!*' And he chooses his moment for shooting it *well*. Not when the believer's heart is happy; not when the Lord is so evidently being good to him; – then is not the time to charge the Savior with being uncaring. But when times are very hard and the believer's heart is broken – *then* is the time he will strike. The notion of a caring Savior, he will sneeringly say, is a myth.

Wait for him! Be
strong and take heart!
You will surely see 'the
goodness of the Lord
in the land of the
living' (Psa. 27:13-14)

The Bible assures us that he cares. In Peter's first letter, for example, we are invited to cast all our care upon God because he cares for us (1 Pet. 5:7). And since our Savior is as fully divine as his Father in heaven the words are equally applicable to him. In Jesus we have a caring God and Savior. Don't we see it supremely at Calvary? We need to look at the question of Jesus' care in the light of that amazing sacrifice and say to ourselves, '*it simply cannot be that the Son of God should so love me as to suffer and die for me and then be justly chargeable with not caring for me.*'

Experience confirms that he cares. What kind of Savior have you found Jesus to be over the years of your Christian life? Think about his dealings with you in providence. Think about his dealings with you in grace. To you, to me, to every one of his people, he has been so very good and kind. He has certainly permitted hardships. But hasn't he given us so many good gifts, and hasn't he been so gracious to us as sinners? What powerful testimony each one of us can bear to the reality of a caring Savior!

Jesus will prove that he cares. He did so to his disciples on the lake by calming the storm. And so he will do to his people who are sorrowing today. In some way or other, in his own perfect time, he will give the lie to Satan's allegations and dispel his people's doubts by *showing* that he cares. Wait for him! Be strong and take heart! You will surely see 'the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living' (Psa. 27:13-14).

It is for us to believe that he cares. The storm through which we are passing may be very fierce; the appearance of things may suggest that our Lord is indifferent; and Satan may be doing his utmost to convince us that he is indifferent. But he is not. Scripture asserts it; experience confirms it; and sooner or later the Lord will demonstrate it. These things being so our duty is surely to honor him by *believing* that he cares.

*Judge not the Lord by feeble sense
But trust him for his grace.
Behind a frowning providence
He hides a smiling face.*