



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

— May 2014 Issue —

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

NURSERY SCHEDULE

May

04 Kristin Scarbrough and Lori Hewlett
11 Troy and Jessi Moseley
18 Linda Olive and Vicki Johnson
25 Kevin and Sara Smith

June

01 Linda Olive and Andrea Page
08 Kevin and Sara Smith
15 Jenny and Peter Lovassy
22 Vicki Johnson and Amber Solan
29 Kristin Scarbrough and Lori Hewlett

CHURCH CLEANING

May - Amises
June - Scarboroughs
July - Amber Solan / Kristy Hines

LAWN CARE

May - Page Family
June - Palazzolos and Nathan DeWitt
July - Dean Olive and Peter Lovassy

FINANCIAL SUMMARY AS OF MAY 1, 2014

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| Budgeted expenditures (ytd) | \$ 49,607.32 |
| Actual on-budget expenditures (ytd) | \$ 50,219.90 |
| Actual off-budget expenditures (ytd) | \$ 1,065.00 |
| General Fund offerings (ytd) | \$ 55,353.91 |
| Designated Missions (ytd) | \$ 3,550.50 |
| Love offerings (ytd) | \$ 2,035.00 |
| Benevolence (ytd) | \$ 1,060.00 |
| Total offerings (ytd) | \$ 61,999.41 |
| April Love offerings | \$ 1,835.00 |
| April General Fund offerings | \$ 15,812.06 |
| April Designated Missions | \$ 1,000.00 |
| Building Fund balance | \$125,835.28 |
| Missions Fund balance | \$ 0.00 |
| General Fund balance | \$ 64,700.98 |

The Godly Mother

Christians must resist the reduction of motherhood to sentimentality, and particularly that sentimentalism that undermines what mothers are truly to represent -- nurture, fortitude, courage, dedication, faithfulness, discipline, and trust in God.

Let's make certain that there is more to our celebration of Mother's Day than sentiment. The mothers we should honor are those who raise children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, who honor their marriages and live faithfully, who teach and nurture and discipline by the Bible. These are mothers who defy the spirit of the age, protect their children from danger, maintain godly discipline and order in the home, and feed their children the pure milk of God's Word.

These mothers deserve honor upon honor, and their reward will be great in heaven. Yet, in the meantime, a card and a kiss on Mother's Day won't hurt. It's just not nearly enough.

-Albert Mohler

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

NORMAL SUNDAY SERVICES

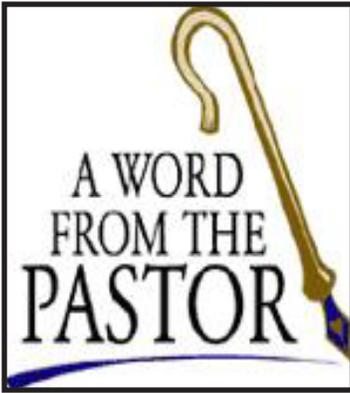
Morning Worship 9:30 AM
Sunday School 11:00 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

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)



Delighting in God

A verse of Scripture that molded and shaped the life of George Muller was Psalm 37:4, “Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.” Muller is most well known for managing an orphanage in Bristol, England,

operated and funded through prayer and faith. But he also took great delight in the Lord.

Perhaps Psalm 37:4 has been a blessing to you as it was to Muller. It is a text from which we can find much instruction and hope. This verse is one of several positive commands for believers who live in a world filled with evil doers.

Besides delighting in the Lord, the psalmist counsels his fellow saints to trust in the Lord, to do good, to dwell in the land and cultivate faithfulness, to be still before the Lord and wait patiently on the Lord (37-3-7). And in the middle of those guidelines, he adds, “Delight yourself in the Lord,” and attaches the promise, “and he will give you the desires of your heart.”

In whom should we delight? First and foremost, the object of our affections should be the Lord. When our delight is in the Lord, everything else that happens in our lives is brought into focus. When we delight in the Lord, we know the greatest joy while at the same time we are motivated to give the greatest glory to the One who supremely deserves it.

The primary goal and aim of our lives should be to glorify God. “*Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God*” (1 Cor. 10:13). The chief end of man, as the Shorter Catechism says, is to glorify God, but it also adds, and I think rightly, “to enjoy Him forever”

The reason we should delight in the Lord is because he is the Lord. He is the one true God; he is our Creator; he is our Redeemer; he gives to us all that we have; his will is perfect; his Word is holy, just, and good. We can learn to delight in him more by delighting in his Word. God reveals himself to us in Scripture. Several times we read in the Psalms of one who takes delight in God’s word (e.g. Psalm 119:16, 35, 70, 77, 92, 174).

One of the things we do with those who have captured our affections is communicate with them. We write to them, talk to them, share with them, etc.

We love to hear their words and we love to speak to them. Is that not true in our relationship with the Lord?

We will most certainly find great joy and delight in God when we learn more about him from Scripture and communicate more with him in prayer. There is a great dearth of delighting in the Lord by Christians today because they don’t spend much time with him. Our delight will be greater if we spent more time in getting to know him.

Attached to the command to delight ourselves in the Lord is a marvelous promise. The psalmist says that if we delight in the Lord, the Lord will give us the desires of our hearts. The promise is quite amazing. God will give a believer the desires of his heart if he delights himself in the Lord.

The promise applies only to those who delight in the Lord. And, of course, the person whose delight is in the Lord desires things the Lord approves of. So the promise doesn’t mean that God will satisfy carnal desires, immoral desires, selfish desires, foolish desires. Those who delight in the Lord are not governed by such things. They want what God deems best.

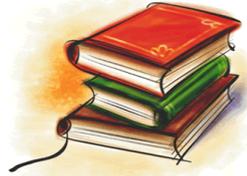
The longings of the heart are always directed by the object of our joy. If we delight in what pleases ourselves, then the desires of our heart will naturally be misdirected. But if we delight in the Lord, then the desires of our hearts will be properly channeled. Spurgeon said, “Those who delight in God desire or ask for nothing but what will please God; hence they may have what they will.”

In what, or more properly, in whom, do we take delight? If the goal of the heart is to find our joy in the Lord, then the desires of the heart will be good, wholesome and acceptable. When you delight in the Lord, what do you most want? Isn’t it close communion and fellowship with God the Father, conformity to Christ the Son, and the gracious influence of the Holy Spirit in your life?

So we must always be going back to our first concern, and that is to sincerely desire the glory of God and to find our joy in him. Do you delight in the Lord? Are you spending sufficient time with the Lord in prayer and the study of His Word?

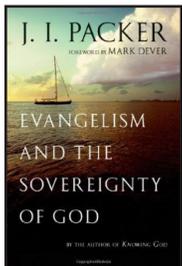
May every name, attribute, word and deed of the Triune God be a delight to us, and may meditating on and communicating more with the God, who is altogether lovely, bring joy to our souls and give us the desires of our hearts that we most long for.

BOOK REVIEW



Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God, by J. I. Packer

Recently reprinted as an IVP Classic, 2012. It is also available on Kindle.



With over 100,000 copies in print, *Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God* is truly a classic that should be read by every Christian. If God is in control of everything, can Christians sit back and not bother to evangelize? Or does active evangelism imply that God is not really sovereign at all?

J. I. Packer shows in this new edition to the popular IVP Classics how both of these attitudes are false. In a careful review of the biblical evidence, he shows how a right understanding of God's sovereignty is not so much a barrier to evangelism as an incentive and powerful support for it.

Packer is the author of numerous books, including the classic best-seller *Knowing God*. Packer served as general editor for the English Standard Version Bible and as theological editor for the ESV Study Bible.

Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God is also the free audiobook of the month for May, by Christian Audio. This can be obtained at <http://christianaudio.com/free/>



MAY 4 – The Lord's Supper will be observed in the afternoon service. Elder Bob Marsh will be preaching on John 8:12, "I am the light of the world."

JUNE 1 – Justin Dillehay, assistant pastor of Grace Baptist Church, Hartsville, TN, will be preaching in the pastor's absence in both the morning and afternoon services.

JULY 20 – Missionary Scott Kemp, who will be off to South Africa the later part of August (dv), will be preaching in the evening service.

AUGUST 3 – Martin Rizley, former pastor of the Reformed Baptist Church of Texarkana, will be preaching and sharing his upcoming mission work to Spain.

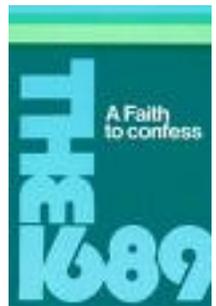
OCTOBER 5-7 – Geoff Thomas, pastor of Alfred Place Baptist Church, Aberystwyth, Wales, is the preacher for our Fall Bible Conference in conjunction with our hosting the regional FIRE conference.

We Believe

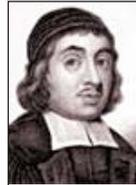
The 1689 Confession of Faith

CHAPTER 31

THE STATE OF MAN AFTER DEATH AND THE RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD



1. God has appointed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness by Jesus Christ, to whom the Father has given all authority and power to judge. At that day the apostate angels will be judged. So too will all persons who have lived upon the earth; they will appear before Christ's judgment throne to give an account of their thoughts, words and deeds, and to receive His award in accordance with what they have done in this earthly life, whether good or evil. Eccles. 12:14; Matt. 12:36; 25:32-46; John 5:22, 27; Acts 17:31; Rom. 14:10, 12; 1 Cor. 6:3; 2 Cor. 5:10; Jude 6
2. God's purpose in appointing a day of judgment is to make known the glory of His mercy in the eternal salvation of the elect, and the glory of His justice in the eternal damnation of the reprobate, that is to say, the wicked and disobedient. In that day the righteous will inherit everlasting life, and receive a fullness of joy and glory in the Lord's presence as their eternal reward. But the wicked, who do not know God and who do not obey the gospel of Jesus Christ, will be relegated to everlasting torments and 'punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power.'
Matt. 25:21, 34, 46; Mark 9:48; Rom. 9:22-23; 2 Thess. 1:7-10; 2 Tim. 4:8
3. To deter all men from sin on the one hand, and to give greater comfort to the godly in their adversity on the other, Christ would have us firmly persuaded that a day of judgment lies ahead. For the same reasons He has kept the day's date a secret so that men may shake off all confidence in themselves and, in ignorance of the hour in which the Lord will come, may be ever on the watch, and ever prepared to say, 'Come, Lord Jesus; come quickly. Amen.'
Mark 13:35-37; Luke 12:35-40; 2 Cor. 5: 10, 11; 2 Thess. 1: 5-7; Rev. 22:20



Thomas Watson Puritan Preacher & Author

**GOD IS MORE WILLING TO PARDON
THAN TO PUNISH**

"Are we under the guilt of sin? There is a promise, 'The Lord merciful and gracious' (Exodus 34:6), where God as it were puts on His glorious embroidery, and holds out the golden scepter, to encourage poor trembling sinners to come to Him. 'The Lord, [is] merciful.' God is more willing to pardon than to punish. Mercy does more multiply in Him than sin in us. Mercy is His nature... He shows mercy, not because we deserve mercy, but because He delights in mercy."

Praying for God's Glory and Our Good

Kevin Tucker

This is the second article of a four part series on the Lord's Prayer as found in Matthew 6:9-15. In the first article we noted that it is really a model for prayer, an outline for prayer given by our Lord for His followers. We saw God's paternity in verse 9 when Jesus began the prayer with '*Our Father in heaven.*' Then we the priority for God's glory in the last part of verse 9, when Jesus said '*hallowed be your name.*'

Now, in the first part of verse 10, we see God's program. Here, speaking of God, Jesus says '*Your kingdom come.*' The kingdom of God means the reign and rule of God.

In one sense the kingdom has already come. It came when the Lord Jesus Christ was here. Jesus Himself said, '*Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.*' (Matthew 4:17) The kingdom of God is here now in the hearts and lives of all who believe in Him and submit to Him. The desire of all Christians should be submission and obedience so that the Lord rules in their lives now as He rules in heaven.

We should also have a great desire that through Christ, the kingdom of God will come in the hearts of all people everywhere. When we pray '*Your kingdom come,*' we are necessarily praying for the success of the gospel. So, our prayer should be evangelistic and mission-minded. Praying for the kingdom to come is, in this sense, praying for the salvation of souls.

Finally, there is a day coming when His kingdom will be established here on earth. The whole message of the Bible looks forward to that day. We should be '*...waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God.*' (2 Peter 3:12) We should be anticipating the day when all sin and evil and

wrong and everything that is opposed to God and His glory will have finally been routed.

Now, in the second part of verse 10, we see God's plan; '*Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.*' This petition extends logically from the second just as the second was a logical conclusion of the first petition. When we pray '*Your will be done,*' we are praying first that God's will becomes our own will. Also, we are praying for His will to prevail all over the earth as it does in heaven.

The result of the coming of the kingdom of God among men is that the will of God will be done among men. So we are to be looking forward to the glorious coming of the kingdom of God here on earth when there will be '*... new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.*' (2 Peter 3:13)

In summary, our first and greatest passion should be for God's honor and glory. We should so know God that our foremost desire should be that the whole world should come to know Him too.

Now, in Matthew 6:11-13, we come to the second part of the Lord's Prayer. Here, Jesus deals with God's glory in His provision for our daily needs, forgiveness and protection from temptation. Here, the whole of man is remembered-body, soul and spirit. Though these last three petitions speak to our needs, we should remember that God's glory is on display here too. God is glorified when we acknowledge our complete dependence on Him for both our material and spiritual needs.

In verse 11, we see Jesus addressing God's provision for our daily needs when He says '*Give us this day our daily bread.*' We must always remember that God is the source of all of our provision. Even the hardest-working person owes all that he has to God's provision. Speaking of God, Paul says '*...he himself gives*

to all mankind life and breath and everything. And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, that they should seek God...' (Acts 17:25-27)

It is a wonderful thing that the God who is Creator and Sustainer of the universe, the One to whom '*... the nations are like a drop from a bucket, and are accounted as the dust on the scales,*' (Isaiah 40:15) considers our every need. Jesus tells us '*...even the hairs of your head are all numbered.*' (Matthew 10:30)

Amazingly, we go straight from '*your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven*' to '*Give us this day our daily bread.*' But this is the way of God, the One who '*...inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy,*' who nevertheless, dwells with those who are '*...of a contrite and lowly spirit ...*' (Isaiah 57:15) This is the whole miracle of redemption, that the Lord Jesus Christ takes hold of us here on earth and links us with the Almighty God of glory.

The '*us*' of the Lord's Prayer is those who belong to Christ. Speaking to believers, Paul wrote, '*He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God.*' (2 Corinthians 9:10-11)

In conclusion, we must note that the schedule of God's provision is '*daily.*' To accept the Lord's provision for the present day, without concern for our needs or welfare tomorrow, is a sign of our contentment in His goodness and faithfulness. Our testimony in this regard brings glory to God.