



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

— October 2014 Issue —

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

NURSERY SCHEDULE

October

05 Linda Olive and Andrea Page
12 Amber Solan and Wilma Pinch
19 Jenny and Peter Lovassy
26 Vicki Johnson and Nellie McFadden

November

02 Melanie Myatt and Lori Hewlett
09 Linda Olive and Andrea Page
16 Amber Solan and Wilma Pinch
23 Jenny and Peter Lovassy
30 Melanie Myatt and Nellie McFadden

CHURCH CLEANING

October - Johnsons
November - Parkers
December - Olives

FINANCIAL SUMMARY AS OF OCTOBER 1, 2014

Budgeted expenditures (ytd)	\$108,516.03
Actual on-budget expenditures (ytd)	\$ 112,542.62
Actual off-budget expenditures (ytd)	\$ 2,891.06
General Fund offerings (ytd)	\$122,028.18
Designated Missions (ytd)	\$ 5,660.50
Love offerings (ytd)	\$ 2,885.00
Benevolence (ytd)	\$ 1,060.00
Total offerings (ytd)	\$131,633.68
September Love offerings	\$ 0.00
September General Fund offerings	\$ 13,587.95
September Designated Missions	\$ 465.00
Building Fund balance	\$133,960.28
Missions Fund balance	\$ 5,812.26
General Fund balance	\$ 54,627.70

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

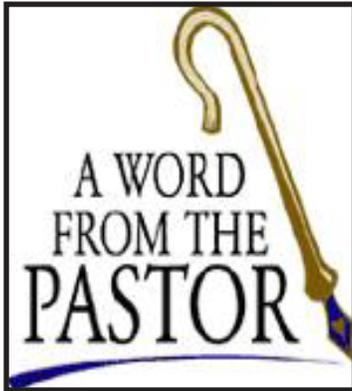
Morning Worship 9:30 AM
Sunday School 11:00 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

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)



The Son Forsaken by the Father

When Jesus was crucified for our sins, he cried with a loud voice, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” (Mt 27:46; Mk 15:34). Wrath fell on Jesus that day and the blessed communion that he had always known with the Father was broken.

Our Lord’s cry from the cross is a quotation from Psalm 22:1. Jesus quoted this verse because the Psalm is about him. Calvin said, “Jesus expressed this horror of... God-forsakenness by quoting the only verse of Scripture which actually described it, and which he had perfectly fulfilled.” God’s Word pointed to this scene many hundreds of years before. And now it was coming to pass.

This cry is but one of seven utterances of Jesus from the cross. It is the fourth one and is often referred to as “the cry of dereliction.” While on the cross, Jesus was abandoned by God. Nothing that he ever suffered was more difficult than this.

There is great mystery in the Son being forsaken by the Father. A question that is often raised has to do with the relation between the Father and the Son. How can God forsake God? If he was separated from the Father, how could he retain his deity?

Though we do not know all that took place in the abandonment of the Son by the Father, we have no warrant to say that in the three hours of darkness, Jesus became something in essence other than he had always been. The best we can say is that “at the moment of death... he was, in some mysterious way... estranged from his Father” (John Frame).

Lloyd-Jones described this scene at the cross this way: “Something was happening there which was in a category on its own. Our Lord was conscious of being forsaken of God. His communion with the eternal Father was temporarily broken. He, who had come from the eternal bosom and had been with God from the beginning, for the one and only time in all eternity was not able to see the face of God.”

Jesus entered temporarily into a state of God-forsakenness. Communion with his Father was broken. The Father turned away from the Son when he bore our sins on the tree. Habakkuk said of God, “You are of purer eyes than to behold evil, and cannot look on wickedness” (1:13). In bearing the curse of sin and God’s judgment on sin, Jesus experienced the unfathomable horror of separation from God, who cannot look on sin.

In the words of Paul, “For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him” (2 Cor. 5:21). The barrier between the Father and the Son that day was due to sin.

Sin separates us from God. Isaiah said, “Your iniquities have separated you from your God” (59:2). Thus sin separated Jesus from the Father that day.

In some sense, Jesus suffered the agony of hell in his crucifixion. We think of hell as a place of unending agony, and it is, but at the root, hell is separation from God. Hell is a place of abandonment. God leaves the wicked in hell to be punished for their sin.

Jesus suffered the agonies of hell on the cross. “Hell came to Calvary that day, and the Savior descended into it and bore its horrors in our stead” (Hendricksen). What agony of soul it was for him who knew no sin, to become sin for us and to experience the anguish of separation.

John said, “In this is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins” (1 John 4:10). Propitiation signifies the removal of wrath. Jesus’ death turned away the wrath of God by satisfying offended justice. Forgiveness for sin can only be extended to the guilty if divine justice is satisfied.

This is the heart of the gospel. This is the reason God sent his Son! This is the reason Jesus died on the cross! Our sins deserve wrath but Christ suffered as our substitute, thereby satisfactorily dealing with sin. God’s wrath no longer abides on those for whom Christ is a propitiation.

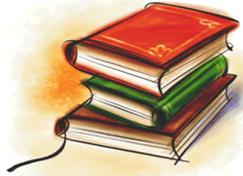
On the cross, on the cross,
where the King of glory died.
Here is grace, here is love,
flowing from that wounded side.
Amazing mystery,
that He should die for me,
as a perfect sacrifice.
On the cross, on the cross,
Love incarnate on the cross.
(Geoff Baker)

On that Good Friday, Jesus was “made sin” for us (2 Cor. 5:21), became “a curse” for us (Gal. 3:13), and was “wounded for our transgressions and crushed for our iniquities” (Isa. 53:5). Jehovah God laid on him “the iniquity of us all” (Isa. 53:6).

The magazine produced by the Moody Bible Institute, *Today in the Word*, told this story in the October issue of 1991. “During WWII six Navy pilots left their aircraft carrier on a mission. After searching the seas for enemy submarines, they tried to return to their ship shortly after dark. But the captain had ordered a blackout of all lights on the ship. Over and over the frantic pilots radioed, asking for just one light so they could see to land. But the pilots were told that the blackout could not be lifted and they crashed into the sea. They were abandoned.”

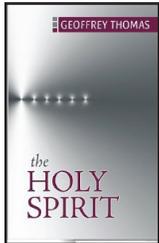
Being abandoned is an awful thing. Our Savior, who had experienced nothing but intimate communion with the Father from eternity, was abandoned and forsaken at the cross for us!

BOOK REVIEW



The Holy Spirit

by Geoffrey Thomas,
Reformation Heritage Books,
2011, pp. 227.



The Holy Spirit is often treated as either a dry doctrine for our mouths to recite or raw power to ignite our emotions. Geoff Thomas shows us that the Holy Spirit is both infinitely glorious and intensely personal. Neither a theory nor a force, the Spirit is God and acts as our God in gathering a people to Himself. This book follows the scriptural revelation of the Spirit from Genesis to Pentecost to today, covering such topics as His personality and Deity, His inspiration and anointing in the Old Testament, His conviction and regeneration, the spiritual gifts, putting to death sinful deeds by the Spirit, His sealing, and spiritual revival. It will help believers to know how much the Spirit of God loves them, and will help them to love the Spirit with all their hearts—and with Him, the whole Triune God. It may also help unbelievers to begin to thirst for the living water which they desperately need.

Endorsements

“Dr. Geoff Thomas has given us a book on the theme of the Holy Spirit, which, unlike so many recent books on this subject, can be trusted. As a pastor of many years experience he brings the subject to his readers with vivacity, illustration, and attention to theological accuracy. It will show us what our churches today need and yet not do so by glamorizing the past. It deserves to be widely read” (Maurice Roberts).

“Geoff Thomas comes from a tradition that has always honored the Spirit and longed for His power. Pastor Thomas, though, is also deeply rooted in biblical truth and rightly wary of experience that is not infrangibly tied to the Bible, which, it goes without saying, is the creation of the Spirit Himself. I hope this important meditation on the Spirit gets a wide hearing, for there is much biblical wisdom here” (Michael A. G. Haykin).



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.

OCTOBER 19 – Troy Moseley will be preaching in the evening service.

NOVEMBER 2 – The ordinance of the Lord’s Supper will be observed in the afternoon service.

NOVEMBER 5 – Irvin Steggles, pastor of Birchleigh Baptist Church, Kempton Park, South Africa, will be presenting the work of the African Pastor’s Conference and Africa Christian University. He is on the board of these institutions along with Erroll Hulse and Conrad Mbewe.

Spurgeon’s Catechism with Scripture Proofs



Question 4: What is God?

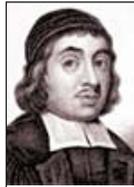
Answer: God is a Spirit (John 4:24), infinite (Job 11:7), eternal (Ps 90:2; 1 Tim. 1:17), and unchangeable (Jas. 1:17) in His being (Ex. 3:14), wisdom, power (Ps. 147:5), holiness (Rev. 4:8), justice, goodness, and truth (Ex. 34:6-7).

Scripture Proof: Malachi 3:6; 1 Kings 8:27; Jeremiah 23:24; Isaiah 40:22; Romans 16:27; Genesis 17:1; Revelation 19:6; Isaiah 57:15; John 17:11; Deuteronomy 32:4; Psalm 100:5; Romans 2:4; Psalm 117:2.

Commentary: A full answer to the question, What (or Who) is God?, cannot be given. God is beyond comprehensive human understanding but the Scriptures reveal the most fundamental perfections that describe His Being. The ten attributes listed in answer to the question isn’t complete even considering the descriptions of God given in the Bible. These attributes are but part of His ways. But what majesty and glory are represented in them. God is great beyond comparison.

God is a Spirit (or better, God is Spirit). He is invisible, without a body. He is infinite, i.e. without limit or boundary. God is eternal, i.e. without beginning or end; He is from everlasting to everlasting. He is unchangeable in his being, i.e. without any variation. God is also unchangeable in wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth. He is all wise, omnipotent, absolutely holy, just in all his ways, totally good, and the essence of truth.

How should we respond to such a God? We should respond with reverence and awe. And we should bow humbly before Him and beseech Him to reveal Himself to us through His Son, Jesus Christ, and ask that He quicken our hearts by the Holy Spirit.



Thomas Watson
Puritan Preacher & Author

BRUISED ENOUGH?

“It is hard to prescribe a just measure of humiliation. It is the same in the new birth as in the natural. Some give birth with more pangs, and some with fewer. But would you like to know when you are bruised enough? When your spirit is so troubled that you are willing to let go those lusts which brought in the greatest income of pleasure and delight. When not only is sin discarded but you are disgusted with it, then you have been bruised enough. The medicine is strong enough when it has purged out the disease. The soul is bruised enough when the love of sin is purged out.”

Amazing Grace

Geoff Thomas

You can define grace as God's unmerited favor. It certainly is that, but it is far more. It is omnipotence loving the most evil people in the world who repent and trust in the Lord Jesus. God's grace has reached out to the vile and unthankful, to the uninterested and bored, to the shameful and the callous, to the cruel and proud, and this grace of God has drawn such men and women in repentance to the Lord.

Let me give you two examples of grace that caused John Newton to append to it the adjective 'amazing.'

The Parable of the Laborers Told by the Lord Jesus

It's harvest time and the landowner goes to the farm gate and he hires a group of men to work for him that day, from eight o'clock to four o'clock for sixty dollars. He hires a few more at midday, and then at 3 o'clock a few layabouts say to one another, 'Fancy an hour of work?' 'O.K.' and then they get up and go and ask the boss if they can do some work for him. He adds them to his laborers and so for one hour they work at the harvest.

Then at four o'clock they all clock off for the day and to each one he gives sixty dollars, the same wage whether they have worked eight hours or one. The layabouts get the same money as those who have put in a full day's work. These men who worked all day in the sun complain, 'It's not fair that they get the same as us.' 'But,' he says, 'didn't you agree to work eight hours for sixty dollars?' 'Yes.' 'Then take your money and go. Don't I have the right to do what I want with my own money?' (Matt. 20:15). He was not being mean to those who had worked all day. It was a fair wage. He was being generous to

those who had only worked one hour. That is God's amazing grace.

There is the New York serial killer David Berkowitz (who was nicknamed Son of Sam) who shot dead six strangers and was convicted of their murders in 1977. In prison he came to understand the Jesus Christ had become the Lamb of God and that even the worst sinners may find complete forgiveness by Jesus' sacrifice. He put his trust in our Lord and since then he has lived a changed life in prison. His website is full of his faith in the Savior. He has changed his nickname now to Son of Hope.

Some Christians can grumble, 'He doesn't deserve to go to heaven.' They even say, 'He ought to fry in hell for what he did.' By such words they show that they don't understand God's grace. They think grace is what they deserve for living a religious life, and so grace is not amazing to them.

Think of it, that today a murderer, David Berkowitz, is seated in the heavenlies in Jesus Christ with all his sins forgiven, while people who have lived entirely proper lives but have never seen that they need to be pardoned and redeemed and adopted into the family of God are as lost as lost can be, and that they are going to hell. That is God's amazing grace.

The Salvation by Jesus Christ of the Dying Thief

How would you imagine a man had once behaved if he confessed that being crucified was a fair punishment for what he'd done in his life? You'd think that he must have been a very wicked man indeed and done the most unspeakable things. He was getting what he deserved...

The dying thief had sown murder and cruelty, and he reaped condemnation and crucifixion. I am speaking, of course, of the criminal who was crucified alongside our Lord, the criminal who turned to his companion, the other condemned criminal who

had been shouting angrily at the Lord Jesus, 'Don't you fear God? We deserve what we are getting, but this man has done nothing wrong.' Then he called to Christ asking him, 'Jesus remember me when you come into your kingdom' (Luke 23:42). He simply asked that in the whole administration of his eternal kingdom that Jesus wouldn't forget him...

What did Jesus say? Did he tell him that he must first go to purgatory for a thousand years and have all his guilt and shame purged out of him and that Jesus would encourage masses and prayers for his soul to be said for him which would shorten his time in that place of purgation? No, he did not. Jesus said, 'Today you will be with me in paradise.' That is, heaven, being where Jesus was. After his years of terrible evils he simply came to see his own wickedness and shame and called on King Jesus to show pity to him, and the answer was not, 'I won't forget you.' No. 'You will this day be welcomed by me into Paradise.'

It all happened that day; he breakfasted in prison that morning; he hung with Jesus on the cross that noon, and by midnight he was with Jesus in paradise... He was condemned by man that morning; he was punished by man that midday but that night God received him into glory with Jesus... 'that where I am there you will be also.'

That is grace abounding to the chief of sinners, amazing grace, from the guttermost to the uttermost, and it is all through the Lord Jesus' great achievements. It is that grace that justifies freely evil and hypocritical men and women like ourselves. Then there is hope for you today! Justification is free and it is through God's grace.

(for the full, unedited article, see <http://banneroftruth.org/us/resources/articles/2014/justification-free-gods-grace-Christ's-redemption/>)