



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>
<https://www.facebook.com/GraceBaptistMadisonAL>

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

DEAN OLIVE, Pastor

— July 2015 Issue —

*"A disciple is not above his teacher,
nor a servant above his master."*

Matthew 10:24

NURSERY SCHEDULE

July

05 Melanie Myatt and Lori Hewlett
12 Vicki Johnson and Nellie McFadden
19 Amber Solan and Wilma Pinch
26 Linda Olive and Andrea Page

August

02 Jenny and Peter Lovassy
09 Troy and Jessica Moseley
16 Melanie Myatt and Lori Hewlett
23 Vicki Johnson and Nellie McFadden
30 Amber Solan and Wilma Pinch

CHURCH CLEANING

July - Dean & Linda Olive
August - Volunteer needed

LAWN CARE

July - Pages
August - Volunteer needed

FINANCIAL SUMMARY AS OF JULY 1, 2015

Budgeted expenditures (ytd)	\$ 75,355.50
Actual on-budget expenditures (ytd)	\$ 76,509.33
Actual off-budget expenditures (ytd)	\$ 3,731.24
General Fund offerings (ytd)	\$ 82,486.02
Designated Missions (ytd)	\$ 4,030.00
Love offerings (ytd)	\$ 3,880.00
Benevolence (ytd)	\$ 0.00
Total offerings (ytd)	\$ 90,396.02
June Love offerings	\$ 700.00
June General Fund offerings	\$ 13,366.42
June Designated Missions	\$ 415.00
Building Fund balance	\$153,638.15
Missions Fund balance	\$ 3,100.41
General Fund balance	\$ 52,714.14

Thou Incomprehensible But Prayer-Hearing God

Known, but beyond knowledge,
revealed, but unrevealed,
my wants and welfare draw me to thee,
for thou hast never said, 'Seek ye me in vain.'

To thee I come in my difficulties, necessities,
distresses...

I bless thee that thou hast made me capable
of knowing thee, the author of all being,
of resembling thee, the perfection of all excellency,
of enjoying thee, the source of all happiness...

Continue the gentleness of thy goodness
towards me,

And whether I wake or sleep, let thy presence
go with me,
thy blessing attend me.

Thou hast led me on and I have found thy
promises true,

I have been sorrowful, but thou hast been my help,
fearful, but thou hast delivered me,
despairing, but thou hast lifted me up.

(The Valley of Vision)

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

NORMAL SUNDAY SERVICES

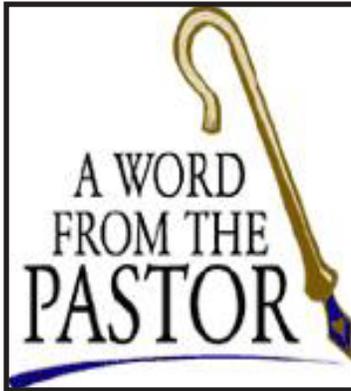
Morning Worship 9:30 AM
Sunday School 11:00 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

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)



For The Bible Tells Me So

What words are missing in this line from the well-known children's hymn, "Jesus love me this I know, _____?"

That's easy isn't it? The missing words are, for the Bible tells me so! We all know this children's song written by Anna B. Warner. It is the most popular children's hymn ever composed! It was written in 1860. But what a great truth it declares.

The focus of the hymn, of course, is on the beginning words, *Jesus loves me*. But the underlying rock on which this truth is built are the words, *for the Bible tells me so*. The reason we know that Jesus loves little children, or for that matter, loves anyone, is because the Bible tells us so.

Envision that day when Jesus took a little child in his lap in the presence of his disciples (Mark 10:13-16). He did this in order to teach them not to despise children. He said to them, "Let the little children come unto me." Jesus loved the little children.

Consider too that if "God so loved the world," as John 3:16 so clearly states, then it is true to say that Jesus loves children. He loves all. Think of how the Gospel of Mark says that Jesus looked at the rich young ruler and loved him (10:21). Think of Paul saying, "He loved me and gave himself for me" (Gal. 2:20).

We know that Jesus loves us because the Bible tells us so! But everything that we affirm in the spiritual world must be based on this same fact. If the Bible says it, then it is true; if the Bible doesn't say it, we can't be 100% sure.

We believe that Jesus is fully God and fully man. Why do we believe that? Because the Bible tells us so. We believe that salvation is by grace through faith in Christ. Why do we believe that? We believe it because the Bible tells us so. We believe that the saved will spend eternity in heaven and that the lost will spend eternity in hell. Why do we believe that? Because the Bible tells us so.

My point is that everything we know of a spiritual nature is based firmly on the words of this children's hymn, *for the Bible tells me so*. In my younger days, there were two men who always challenged me to make sure I had good reasons for affirming things

that I said were true. I will always be grateful to God for J. B. Gibson and Harold Cathey.

It seemed that their favorite word was *why*. I had to give substantial and sensible reasons to both of them for the things I spouted off! I would say so-and-so is true and they would ask, "Why do you believe that?"

I learned from them the importance of the words *for the Bible tells me so*. Our "this I know's" regarding doctrine are meaningless if not based on Scripture. It really isn't "this I know" if it isn't grounded in the word of God. It's only our ideas, our thoughts, our opinions.

The strongest statement in the Bible about the Bible is probably 2 Timothy 3:16. Paul told Timothy, "All Scripture is breathed out by God." One of the reasons why we believe Scripture is infallible and authoritative is because it comes from the mouth of God. If Scripture has its origin in God, how could it be otherwise?

And because God's word is breathed out by God, then it is "profitable for teaching [doctrine], for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness" (1 Timothy 3:17). The basis of the Bible's usefulness lies in its being breathed-out from the mouth of God. The Bible gives us all that we need to know about God and our duty as his children. We know the will of God by his Word. He has not left us to figure out things for ourselves.

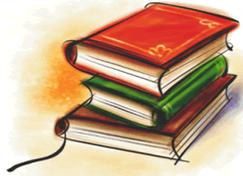
The bedrock of Christian teaching is Scripture. Scripture contains the credenda – the things we are to believe; and it contains the agenda – the things we are to do. Or in the words of Charles Simeon, the Scripture is "for the establishment of sound doctrine," and it is "for the securing of a holy practice." Scripture provides us with all that we need to believe and do. It is comprehensive and complete.

Nothing is deficient. Nothing is missing. All that we need for life and godliness is found within its pages. *The Baptist Faith and Message* of the SBC speaks well on this point: "The Holy Bible... is God's revelation of Himself to man. It is a perfect treasure of divine instruction... [it is] the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and religious opinions should be tried..." (1.1).

May God help us to ground our belief's in God's Word! When we affirm a thing as true for the church and even the world, let's be sure to say, *for the Bible tells me so*.

BOOK REVIEW

Theological Fitness: Why We Need a Fighting Faith, by Aimee Byrd, P & R Publishing, 2015, pp. 192, forward by Carl Trueman.



Our spiritual life should be a battle! The writer of Hebrews exhorts us to “hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering” (10:23). Aimee Byrd invites us to join her in some “theological fitness” training as she unpacks our call to perseverance and explores the great metaphor that physical fitness lends to theology.

Thomas Schreiner says, “What a gem this book is—so full of encouragement and so honest and genuine. We see from Aimee what perseverance looks like on the ground, and at the same time her wonderfully practical and readable book is grounded in good theology.”

Nancy Guthrie says, “In this Scripture-saturated book we are rightly warned of the rigors as well as promised the rewards of holding fast to Christ when we feel the burn and want to give up.”

Rachel Miller says, “What I loved about this book is that it’s an encouragement, even an exhortation, to be serious about our sanctification, but it’s not a burdensome checklist kind of book. It strikes the right balance between struggling against our sin and resting in the finished work of Christ. Our efforts cannot save us, but we are called to ‘hold fast’ *because* ‘He is faithful.’”

This book teaches us about the “fighting grace” God has given us, and helps us discover how we are equipped to live lives of obedience even amidst the suffering and irritations of ordinary life.



JULY 15 – No prayer meeting. We are going to join our friends at Prosperity Presbyterian Church in Yukon, TN, for their annual summer Bible conference. Richard Owen Roberts is the preacher.

JULY 26 – Baruch Maoz, retired Reformed Baptist pastor from Tel Aviv, Israel, will be preaching in the morning worship hour and taking the SS class to tell us about what it is like to be a Christian in Israel.

AUGUST 2 – David Vaughn, missionary to France, will be preaching in the morning worship hour and giving a report on his work in the afternoon.

AUGUST 20 – The Sovereign Grace Pastor’s Conference will be hosted by Providence Baptist Church, Pulaski, TN. Services begin at 10 AM. All are invited to attend. Lunch is provided by the church. Preachers are Chad Beck, James Bell, and Johnny Truelove.

AUGUST 30 – John Divito, currently administrator of Covenant Baptist Theological Seminary, who is going to Africa to take charge of the administrative responsibilities for the African Pastor’s Conferences, will be preaching in the morning service and telling us about his recent visit to Africa and the work he will soon take up.

SEPTEMBER 14-15 – The Southeast regional FIRE conference will be held at Grace Baptist Church, Hartsville, TN. The theme of the conference is, Loving Your Neighbor: Local Evangelism and Outreach.

NOVEMBER 22 – Reagan King, son of Barry King, will be preaching in the morning service and sharing in SS about his ministry in London as a church planter and pastor.

Spurgeon’s Catechism with Scripture Proofs



Question 13: Did our first parents continue in the state wherein they were created?

Answer: Our first parents being left to the freedom of their own will, fell from the state wherein they were created, by sinning against God, by eating the forbidden fruit.

Scriptural Proof: Ecclesiastes 7:29; Genesis 3:6-8 [Genesis 3:15; Romans 5:12-21; 2 Corinthians 11:3; 15:22; 1 Timothy 2:4]

Commentary: Mankind is not now in the same state when God first created Adam and Eve. God made them upright but they sinned. God made them perfect but they transgressed his law. In disobeying, they fell. And when they fell, they took their posterity with them.

The early chapters of Genesis confirm the creation of man by divine fiat and the fall of man by human sinfulness. The account of the fall is tied in with the account of creation. The man God created was perfect and sinless but through temptation fell. The Fall is predicated on the historicity of Adam and Eve. Eve was deceived by the serpent and she gave the forbidden fruit to the man to eat. That one sin brought condemnation on all who follow in their train.

It is by an act of mercy that God redeems fallen man. God did not immediately destroy them after they disobeyed. Instead he showed them mercy. He promised them that the seed of the woman would come and destroy the tempter. Adam and Eve began to offer sacrifices to the Lord. God’s grace was at work in providing a substitute for their sins. This was ultimately fulfilled in the offering Jesus Christ made of himself on the cross.

“Scripture... draws a close parallel between Adam and Christ. As Adam’s free act brought sin and its consequences upon the human race, so the free act of Jesus Christ brings forgiveness of sin and reconstituted righteousness among human beings” (Frame).

A Note of Sympathy

Romans 12: 15
*Rejoice with those who rejoice,
and weep with those who weep.*



The GBC family extends deepest love and Christian sympathy to the Marshes on the July 9 homegoing of their dear and precious Kay.

We weep with you in your sorrow yet rejoice with you in knowing Kay is now with our Lord and Savior.

You are in our prayers. May God comfort you and keep you and fill your hearts with peace.

Blessed Are Those Who Are Persecuted for Righteousness' Sake...

Kevin Tucker

In this article we come to the eighth and final Beatitude. Jesus says in Matthew 5:10, *'Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.'* Here our Lord completes His description and portrayal of the essential characteristics of those people who are citizens of His kingdom.

This last Beatitude is different from the others in at least two ways. The first seven Beatitudes describe the Christian more directly. Jesus has said blessed are the poor in spirit, those who mourn over their sins, the meek, those who hunger and thirst after righteousness, the merciful, the pure in heart, and the peacemakers. In this final Beatitude, He says because these things are true of the believer, persecution will be the result.

Also, this is the only beatitude on which Jesus elaborates directly. In verses 11 and 12, He goes on to say, *'Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.'*

We increasingly hear of terrible persecution of believers in our world today. In some countries, our brothers and sisters in Christ face loss of jobs and homes and even their lives because of their Christian testimony. In our own country, in the midst of a steep and rapid moral decline, we are beginning to see more bitterness and a more active persecution of those who seek to honor Christ in their lives.

So, as Christians, we must clearly understand what our Lord means in these verses. But we must proceed with care, as this Beatitude, like many of the others, has often been misunderstood and

misapplied. We must understand the difference in causing offence because of a truly righteous life style and being offensive because of a sinful self-centeredness. Jesus is not speaking of any trouble or persecution we bring upon ourselves for being difficult or objectionable.

Jesus pronounces blessing on those who are persecuted *'for righteousness' sake;* in verse 11 He says *'on my account.'* The central theme of the Beatitudes is righteousness. The first two Beatitudes have to do with recognizing our unrighteousness; the next five with our seeking and reflecting the righteousness only Christ can provide. This last Beatitude has to do with our suffering for righteousness' sake.

Holy living is what provokes the persecution of God's people. Practical godliness expressed in Christ-like character and conduct condemns the way of the worldly. The persecution often comes from those who are in the church, those nominal Christians with only a formal religion. It was the superficial religionists of Jesus' day that preferred a man who was a thief and murderer to a Savior.

A humble and lively righteousness cannot be tolerated by those who lack righteousness. The wicked hate God's holy image and those who bear it. For those who are reviled and persecuted and slandered on His account, Jesus says, *'Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven.'*

Peter elaborates on the joy of such persecution. *'Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put*

to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.' (1 Peter 3:13-18)

It is not hard to avoid persecution. To 'live and let live' costs us nothing. To mimic the world's standards, or to at least avoid confronting them, costs us nothing. To remain silent about the gospel, especially the truth that apart from its saving power men remain in their sins and are destined for hell, costs us nothing. Martyn Lloyd-Jones said, "If you try to imitate Christ, the world will praise you; if you become Christlike it will hate you."

On the night before he was crucified, Jesus told His disciples, *'If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you: 'A servant is not greater than his master...'* (John 15:18-20)

So this Beatitude provides us with a test. Do we know what it is to be persecuted for righteousness' sake? Jesus tells us to expect persecution for His name's sake. To become like Christ, we have to be light. Light always exposes the darkness and the darkness always hates the light. If we are like Christ, persecution becomes inevitable.

The blessing Jesus promised here in this last Beatitude is the same one He promised in the first one, *'for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.'* The major promise of the Beatitudes is that in Christ we become citizens of His eternal kingdom—now and forever. The harshest persecution the world can mete out can never effect our possession of Christ's kingdom.