



# 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**

— October 2015 Issue —

*"A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master."*  
Matthew 10:24

### NURSERY SCHEDULE

#### October

04 Wilma Pinch and Nellie McFadden  
11 Amber Solan and Vicki Johnson  
18 Linda Olive and Andrea Page  
25 Jenny and Peter Lovassy

#### November

01 Troy and Jessica Moseley  
08 Melanie Myatt and Lori Hewlett  
15 Vicki Johnson and Nellie McFadden  
22 Amber Solan and Wilma Pinch  
29 Linda Olive and Andrea Page

### CHURCH CLEANING

**October** - Parkers  
**November** - Dean and Linda Olive  
**December** - Moseleys

### FINANCIAL SUMMARY AS OF OCTOBER 1, 2015

Budgeted expenditures (ytd)	\$113,033.41
Actual on-budget expenditures (ytd)	\$ 110,255.74
Actual off-budget expenditures (ytd)	\$ 4,341.24
General Fund offerings (ytd)	\$128,334.02
Designated Missions (ytd)	\$ 6,381.24
Love offerings (ytd)	\$ 4,040.00
Benevolence (ytd)	\$ 0.00
Total offerings (ytd)	\$138,755.26
September Love offerings	\$ 100.00
September General Fund offerings	\$ 17,579.28
September Designated Missions	\$ 815.00
Building Fund balance	\$160,687.43
Missions Fund balance	\$ 7,194.07
General Fund balance	\$ 49,852.16

## God Made Four Seasons

"And God said, 'Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night. And let them be for signs and for seasons, and for days and years'" (Genesis 1:14).

God made four seasons—spring, summer, fall, winter—by causing the sun, moon, and stars to mark time according to the order that God established in the heavens. The order God made defines the seasons, days, and years that give us pattern and rhythm in our lives. Praise the Lord for times and seasons. The goodness of God is evident in every season.

"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven" (Ecclesiastes 3:1).

### SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

#### NORMAL SUNDAY SERVICES

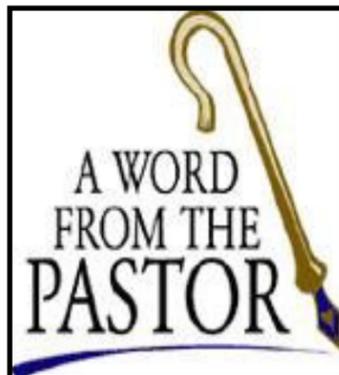
Morning Worship 9:30 AM  
Sunday School 11:00 AM  
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

#### 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)



## Each Piece Put On With Prayer

After charging the Ephesian saints to put on the whole armor of God, the apostle Paul exhorted them to pray. He wrote, "Praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, and also for me..." (Eph 6:18-19a).

The hymn writer said it well: *Put on the gospel armor/ Each piece put on with prayer/Where duty calls or danger/Be never wanting there.* Christian soldiers must go forth to battle in prayer. We are not fully equipped to do battle against unnumbered foes apart from prayer. There will be no victory without prayer.

What do we learn in this great text on prayer? We learn five important helps.

1. We learn that we are to always pray. Paul speaks of "praying at all times." In other words, prayer is proper for every occasion. Prayer is always appropriate. It is never a bad time to pray.

Most people pray only when calamity falls. They cry out to God then and only then. But Paul charges us to pray "at all times." We need to cultivate the habit of praying when things are good and when things are bad; in times of good health as well as in sickness; etc.

Yes, we should cry out to God in time of need, but we ought also to cry out with prayers of praise and thanks too. "Prayers should not be reserved only for certain occasions but should be a constant activity of the believer and therefore as varied in their subject matter as the circumstances of life itself" (Thielman).

2. We also learn that we are to pray in the Spirit. "Praying at all times in the Spirit" means that we are to pray under the influence of the Holy Spirit. We cannot pray effectively without the aid of the Holy Spirit.

Paul says that God's word is the sword of the Spirit (v. 17) and he says that prayer is to be made "in the Spirit." Jude lends confirmation, "But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit" (v. 20).

Every part of our lives should be under the control of the Holy Spirit, and that includes our prayers! Praying in the Spirit means we pray according to God's will. And if we pray according to his will, he will hear and answer us (1 John 5:14-15).

3. We next learn that we are to pray "with all prayer

and supplication." The words, "all prayer," means "all kinds of prayer" (NIV), which includes prayers of confession, adoration, thanksgiving, petition, and intercession. "Supplication" indicates the intensification of prayer.

Too many Christians think that prayer involves only asking; and that is all they do when they pray. They ask God for this and they ask God for that. But he who only utters petitions and personal requests is not praying as he ought. "Genuine praying covers all the bases. A good soldier [of Jesus Christ] employs all the various types of prayer that are at his disposal" (Hodge). What a grand and wonderful privilege we have of communicating with God in prayer.

4. We learn that we are to pray with watchfulness and perseverance. Paul says, "To that end keep alert with all perseverance." To "keep alert" means to be watchful. We must concentrate when we pray and stay awake. Have you ever noticed how drowsy we become when we pray, how our minds wander, how we begin to think about other things? I am amazed at the distractions that come into my mind when I pray!

That is why we must be watchful! When Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane, he said to the disciples who were with him, "Watch and pray, that you enter not into temptation..." (Mt 26:41). Watching goes with prayer! The watchful person is on the lookout for things that hinder prayer.

But there must also be perseverance in prayer. Perseverance in prayer means that we are determined not to quit or give up. We keep on asking, keep on seeking, and keep on knocking (Lk 11:9). We must continue in prayer because we do not always immediately have our prayers answered. We are to be like the widow who prayed and did not give up (Luke 18). Rom 12:12 exhorts us to "be constant in prayer."

5. We learn that we are to pray for all the saints. This verse ends with the words, "making supplication for all the saints," and then in v. 19, Paul asked them to pray for him. And make supplication "also for me."

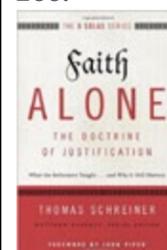
Prayer is to be made for all believers. This is intercessory prayer. We are to pray for others, but especially for the saints! All around us are other Christians who are struggling and fighting the devil. Our duty is to be in prayer one for another. We ought to pray for the lost to be converted, but we also need to remember that church folk need prayer too. We never know when our prayers may be exactly what another Christian needs at that very moment.

Here is good instruction for praying. Let's put on the whole armor of God and go forth in prayer.

## BOOK REVIEW



**Faith Alone: The Doctrine of Justification**, by Thomas R. Schreiner, Zondervan, 2015, pp. 288.



This book is the second to be published in The 5 Solas Series. Already available is *God's Glory Alone: The Majestic Heart of Christian Faith and Life* by David M. VanDrunen. To follow are *God's Word Alone: The Authority of Scripture* by Matthew M. Barrett; *Christ Alone: The Uniqueness of Jesus as Savior* by Stephen J. Wellum; and *Grace Alone: Salvation as a Gift of God* by Carl R. Trueman.

Historians and theologians have long recognized that at the heart of the sixteenth-century Protestant Reformation were five declarations, often referred to as the 'solas': sola scriptura, solus Christus, sola gratia, sola fide, and soli Deo gloria. These five statements summarize much of what the Reformation was about, and they distinguish Protestantism from other expressions of the Christian faith. Protestants place ultimate and final authority in the Scriptures, acknowledge the work of Christ alone as sufficient for redemption, recognize that salvation is by grace alone through faith alone, and seek to do all things for God's glory.

In *Faith Alone: The Doctrine of Justification*, renowned biblical scholar Thomas Schreiner looks at the historical and biblical roots of the doctrine of justification. He summarizes the history of the doctrine, looking at the early church and the writings of several of the Reformers. Then, he turns his attention to the Scriptures and walks readers through an examination of the key texts in the Old and New Testament. He discusses whether justification is transformative or forensic and introduces readers to some of the contemporary challenges to the Reformation teaching of *sola fide*, with particular attention to the new perspective on Paul.

Five hundred years after the Reformation, the doctrine of justification by faith alone still needs to be understood and proclaimed. In *Faith Alone* you will learn how the rallying cry of "sola fide" is rooted in the Scriptures and how to apply this sola in a fresh way in light of many contemporary challenges.



**NOVEMBER 1** – Daylight Saving Time ends, so be sure to roll your clocks and watches back and hour. We will be participating in the Lord's Supper in the afternoon service.

**NOVEMBER 22** – Reagan King, pastor of one of the Grace Baptist Partnership church plants, will be preaching in the morning worship hour. He will also take the SS hour to tell us about the Grace Baptist Church in Angel (London area) where he ministers.

**NOVEMBER 25** – A special service of thanks and praise at the Mid-week Prayer Meeting.

**DECEMBER 20** – Joint Christmas service on Sunday evening with our friends from Providence Presbyterian Church. A Christmas meal will be served at 5 PM and a service of worship follows at 6 PM. We are hosting this year and pastor Thole will be preaching God's Word.

## Spurgeon's Catechism with Scripture Proofs



**Question 16:** Into what state did the Fall bring mankind?

**Answer:** The Fall brought mankind into a state of sin and misery.

**Scriptural Proof:** Romans 5:18 [Psalm 51:5; Romans 7:18; Isaiah 53:6; 64:6; John 3:6-7; Ephesians 2:1-3; Galatians 3:10; 1 Corinthians 2:14]

**Commentary:** Mankind is in a state of sin. This is true of all people, Jew and Gentile, male and female, young and old, rich and poor, black and white. The Fall of Adam brought the human race into a state of sin. We are sinners by our relation to Adam and we are sinners by nature. We were born in a state of sin and we continue in that state by choice.

Because mankind is in a state of sin, the human race is also in a state of misery. Sin is the cause of that misery. Misery is the consequence of sin. We all share in the sad effects of sin. Because we do not have spiritual life in our natural state, there is misery. A curse for transgressing God's law rests upon us. All that is bad and evil is the result of sin.

But amidst this bad news about our sinful state and the misery that follows, is the good news of salvation and deliverance in Christ. The curse is removed from the sinner that comes to Jesus Christ by faith. Jesus bore our sins in his own body on the tree. Jesus took our misery upon himself and gives us righteousness and peace.

The Bible never leaves fallen man without hope. As long as there is breath in the body of a person, he or she can cry out to God in humble repentance and faith and find forgiveness. The misery that results from sin will not be entirely removed as long as we are in the body, but we will have the peace of God that passes all understanding and find assurance that we are no longer under condemnation. We are brought into a state of sin and misery by the Fall but we are brought into a state of salvation and joy by the Gospel.



## Richard Sibbes Puritan Quotes

### WHAT SWEETNESS IN CHRIST

"The love of a wife to her husband may begin from the supply of her necessities, but afterwards she may love him also for the sweetness of his person; so the soul first loves Christ for salvation but when she is brought to Him and finds what sweetness there is in Him then she loves Him for Himself."

# Why Choose Life?

Kevin Tucker

Why choose life? Three simple words arranged into one important question. This article attempts to answer that multi-faceted question in the context of one of the most critical issues of our time—abortion.

Why choose life? Because, in the beginning, God, the author of all creation, chose life. After He created the heavens and earth, ‘... God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness... So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.” (Genesis 1:26, 27) We are created in God’s own image! Though certainly limited as compared to God, we humans have a personality—minds so we can think, emotions so we can feel, and wills for making decisions. We have a freedom and responsibility. God also gave humans the inner spiritual nature that enables us to know and worship Him.

Why choose life? God, though completely sovereign over His creation, sets many choices before His people. If we are to glorify Him, we must make choices consistent with His holiness and His commands for our holiness. Recall the story of the Israelites and their amazing exodus from slavery in Egypt through the parted waters of the Red Sea to the Promised Land; the land of milk and honey. God faithfully and miraculously brought them to within sight of the land, but they lacked the faith to go in. Their refusal, in the face of God’s daily provision for them, angered Him. He caused them to wander in the wilderness for forty years until all the disobedient generation had died.

Now, having brought a new generation back to the land, God spoke to them through Moses about their choices; about obediently entering the land or disobediently turning away as their fathers had. Moses said to them, ‘I call heaven and earth to witness against you

*today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live, loving the LORD your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days, that you may dwell in the land that the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.’ (Deuteronomy 30:19-20)* God makes it clear that our choices have important consequences; both for ourselves and for others.

Again, why choose life? Because, sadly, many people do not choose life. They make horribly wrong choices where the lives of their unborn babies are concerned. Often in desperation, and with little or no spiritual underpinning, they choose not life, but death, for their unborn babies. Unfortunately, there are many godless individuals and organizations around to help them accomplish this misguided and awful deed against the most helpless among us.

The abortion statistics are both staggering and heart breaking. Since the 1973 Supreme Court Roe vs. Wade decision, there have been approximately 56 million babies aborted in this country. That’s over 3500 babies killed a day. That’s something like ten babies whose lives have been ended in the time it will take you to read this! At the current rate, almost a third of all women of childbearing age (15-44) will have had an abortion.

Why choose life? Because not to choose life is to allow the culture of death for helpless babies to continue unabated in the United States. Not to choose to stand with those who stand against this unprecedented slaughter is to effectively embrace the status quo. Listen to God as he speaks to us in Proverbs 24:11. ‘Rescue those who are being taken away to death; hold back those who are stumbling to the slaughter.’ Far from the status quo, this is the choice we must make as Christians.

Now, finally, why Choose Life? There is a war going on. The staff

and volunteers at Choose Life are literally soldiers on the front lines of this struggle. They are waging the battle on two fronts. First, on the spiritual front. They realize the battle is primarily spiritual. The apostle Paul says, ‘...we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.’ (Ephesians 6:12) There are multiple ministries at Choose Life and all of them are biblically based and Christ-centered. At Choose Life, they see almost 5000 women a year who are in crisis pregnancies. They share the great good news that freedom from sin and slavery to Satan is available through Jesus Christ. Dozens of women a year profess Christ as their Savior through this ministry.

Choose Life also wages battle on the physical and temporal front. They offer free pregnancy tests and ultrasounds to show each mother images of her unborn baby. They have trained counselors to talk to each woman and to provide solid, factual information. They’re committed to serving with compassion and respect through assistance and education. Hundreds of women each year choose life for their unborn babies by their interactions with Choose Life.

Choose Life is a local mission effort for which we at Grace Baptist Church provide regular financial support. God has given us the marvelous privilege to, in the words of William Carey, hold the rope for Choose Life. In so doing, we become active individual participants in furthering God’s eternal kingdom. So, we ought to pray fervently and give generously. Since they are a local organization, we also have an opportunity to contribute our time and talents.

Will you help hold the rope? Choose Life!