



# 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**

— September 2015 Issue —

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

Matthew 10:24

### NURSERY SCHEDULE

#### September

06 Linda Olive and Andrea Page  
13 Jenny and Peter Lovassy  
20 Troy and Jessica Moseley  
27 Melanie Myatt and Lori Hewlett

#### October

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

### CHURCH CLEANING

September - Moseleys  
October - Parkers  
November - Moseleys

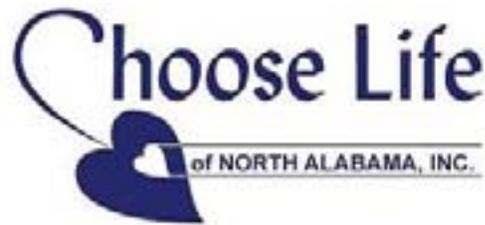
### LAWN CARE

September - Jon Amis

*Thank you to all who volunteered for  
Lawn Care this year.*

### FINANCIAL SUMMARY AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2015

Budgeted expenditures (ytd)	\$100,474.14
Actual on-budget expenditures (ytd)	\$ 99,314.90
Actual off-budget expenditures (ytd)	\$ 4,341.24
General Fund offerings (ytd)	\$124,238.19
Designated Missions (ytd)	\$ 5,566.24
Love offerings (ytd)	\$ 3,940.00
Benevolence (ytd)	\$ 0.00
Total offerings (ytd)	\$133,744.43
August Love offerings	\$ 60.00
August General Fund offerings	\$ 14,435.57
August Designated Missions	\$ 1,220.00
Building Fund balance	\$158,040.39
Missions Fund balance	\$ 5,015.23
General Fund balance	\$ 47,303.39



Offers the Following Services:

- **Pregnancy Test Center** – free pregnancy tests and confidential counseling
- **Client Testimonies** – hear what our clients have to say
- **Pure Connection** – sharing the benefits of abstinence
- **Infant Adoption Awareness** – helping to place a baby for adoption (if needed)
- **Life Choices** – a mentoring program
- **Healing Hands** – hope and healing for those who have terminated a pregnancy
- **A Father's Hand** – men ministering to men
- **Limited Ultrasound Services** – OB/GYN'S give free ultrasound services
- **Chosen For Excellence** – a Bible study to encourage and disciple new believers

### SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

#### NORMAL SUNDAY SERVICES

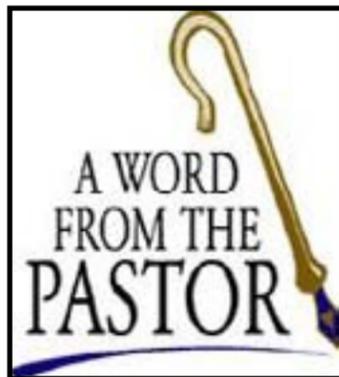
Morning Worship 9:30 AM  
Sunday School 11:00 AM  
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

#### 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)



## God's Phone Number

Modern phone numbers are quite different from phone numbers when I was a boy. These days, telephone numbers are just that – numbers. But back then, a telephone number started with a few letters (which stood for a word) and then

came the numbers.

Glenn Miller recorded a song in 1940 with a phone number like that which became famous. The number was PE 6-5000, two letters and five numbers. In some other areas of the country a phone number might be two letters and three numbers or three letters and four numbers.

In the number made famous by the Glenn Miller Band, PE stood for the Pennsylvania exchange (an exchange for the Penn Station area of NY City). A caller would ring the operator and have her connect them to PE 6-5000.

E. L. Smothers, an interim pastor at my home church when I was a teenager, once referred to Jeremiah 33:3 as God's phone number. That stuck with me – JER 333. "Call to me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known."

This text is God's challenge to us to pray for great things. The text divides itself into two parts. It is our part to ask, to call unto the Lord; and it is God's part to answer. The Lord exclaims, "Call unto me," and he promises, "and I will answer you."

**We are to ask.** We are to call upon the Lord. The Lord summons us to pray and to pray for great things. Prayer is the means that God has ordained for us to receive blessing from his hand. "You have not because you ask not," says James 4:2. We must ask.

Jesus said, "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you" (Mt 7:7). Prayer is an integral element in the achievement of God's purposes. And God bids us to ask. He says in Ps 50:15, "Call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me." In Ps 91:15, God says, "When he calls to me, I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will rescue him and honor him."

God challenged Jeremiah to pray! Of course, his prayer was to be directed to God. The Lord said, "Call unto **ME**." And the God we are to pray to is described in v. 2. He is "the LORD who made the

earth, the LORD who formed it to establish it—the LORD is his name." He is the one that created the earth and he is the one whose reputation is on the line by virtue of his name.

**He will answer.** The challenge from the Lord is, "Call unto me." The promise is, "And I will answer you." God told Jeremiah that he would tell him (or show him) "great and hidden things that you have not known."

He will declare "great things." Judgment was coming on the nation because of her sin but God would reverse their fortunes. He would bring them back to the land after a period of captivity. This great thing that God would do is specified in v. 6ff. God would transform them and bless them.

He will declare "hidden things." The word "hidden," translated "mighty" in the KJV, means unsearchable (NIV) or mysterious (NET). These are the things beyond man's mind to know. The Lord can reveal what is beyond the scope of man to know.

Whoever prays in accordance with God's will know hidden things. Jesus said, "When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come" (Jn 16:13). Those who would obtain knowledge from him must seek it by prayer.

God has wonders in store for those who call upon him. He can do what we can't even dream of! He can do great and mighty things! John Newton said in a hymn on prayer (CH #405):

COME, my soul, thy plea prepare,  
Jesus loves to answer prayer;  
He Himself has bid thee pray,  
therefore will not say thee nay.

Thou art coming to a King,  
large petitions with thee bring;  
for His grace and power are such,  
none can ever ask too much.

What God asks of us is to call upon him. God stands ready to hear our prayers and will answer if we call on him, but we must first request assistance! Spurgeon said, "Let us cheerfully render Him our prayers at once." Let us not delay in seeking his assistance. God reveals great and wonderful things to those who pray. We must call upon him and then he will answer us.

## BOOK REVIEW



**Conflict and Triumph: The Argument of the Book of Job Unfolded**, by William Henry Green, republished by The Banner of Truth, 2015, pp. 187.



*Conflict and Triumph* is written by a master of Old Testament interpretation with a pastor's heart. This work sheds a great deal of light on the meaning of the Book of Job. The author explains the structure of the book, the role played by each of the participants, the significance of their speeches and the bearing of each part on the overall theme. But his deeper pastoral concern is to help the "afflicted child of God" to draw "the waters of consolation from this inspired and copious source."

William Henry Green held the chair of Biblical and Oriental Literature at Princeton Theological Seminary from 1851 to 1900. As one of America's foremost linguists and an outstanding Old Testament scholar, he opposed the conclusions of the higher-critical movement and "did more than any one man of his time to rally and steady... the Church under the shock of a sudden and mighty assault on the trustworthiness of the Scriptures" (John D. Davis).

This reprint is a slightly updated version of Green's classic treatise on the book of Job. Hywel Jones, former Editorial Director of The Banner of Truth says, "We took the opportunity to remove the archaic language to make it more understandable to a modern audience. It is not a detailed commentary but gives an insight into the main themes of Job and provides a doorway into the meaning of Job that is often missed by a superficial reading of the book."

Have you had trouble understanding the book of Job? This book will help you to comprehend more fully this important Old Testament book.



**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. Preachers are Gary Hendrix, Eddie Expositio, and David Selvey.

**NOVEMBER 1** – Daylight Saving Time ends, so be sure to roll your clocks and watches back and hour.

**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 where he ministers.

## Spurgeon's Catechism with Scripture Proofs



**Question 15:** Did all mankind fall in Adam's first transgression?

**Answer:** The covenant being made with Adam, not only for himself but for his posterity, all mankind descending from him by ordinary generation, sinned in him, and fell with him in his first transgression.

**Scriptural Proof:** 1 Corinthians 15:22; Romans 5:12, 18-19

**Commentary:** God made Adam, the first man, the representative for all his posterity. Theologians sometimes refer to him as the federal head of the human race. In other words, when he acted, he acted for us all. When he sinned, we sinned. Sin is imputed to us because of Adam's disobedience as righteousness. In the same way, Christ's righteousness is imputed to those who believe because of Christ's act of obedience. "As we are condemned on account of what Adam did, we are justified on account of what Christ did" (Hodge).

If anyone denies the imputation of Adam's guilt to his descendants, he must also deny the imputation of Christ's righteousness by faith, for both the imputed guilt and the imputed righteousness are set forth side by side in Romans 5:12-21.

"God considered all mankind as being in Adam so that when Adam went bad we all went bad in him. The nature that we have by virtue of belonging to Adam's race is morally corrupt. We are under the wrath of God 'by nature' (Ephesians 2:3) from the time we were conceived in the womb. This is why conversion and salvation must be much more than a 'decision' for Christ. It must be a new creation, a rebirth, an exchange of hearts" (A Baptist Catechism, adapted by John Piper).

The Fall of Adam is sometimes spoken of as original sin. That is the expression we use to describe the effect of Adam's sin on his descendants. It is the result of the first sin, which is the corruption of the human race. "Original sin refers to the fallen condition in which we are born" (Sproul).

There is no question that we all were born in Adam. We are sinners. But are we in Christ? That's the main thing. In Adam all die, but in Christ, all are made alive! In Adam we are under the sentence of death because of sin; in Christ we are assured of eternal life because of his righteous act.



## Richard Sibbes Puritan Quotes IN A DARK CONDITION

"A Christian may for many days together see neither sun nor star, neither light in God's countenance, nor light in his own heart, though even at that time God darts some beams through those clouds upon the soul; the soul again by a spirit of faith sees some light through those thickest clouds, enough to keep it from utter despair, though not to settle it in peace. In this dark condition, if they do as Paul and his company did, cast an anchor even in the dark night of temptation, and pray still for day, God will appear, and all shall clear up, we shall see light without and light within; the day-star will arise in their hearts."

# The Practical Implications of the Covenant of Redemption

*Al Baker*

We all know we ought to be lifting up Jesus every time the Holy Spirit opens up a door to speak to someone of his glorious person and work. If you are like me, however, perhaps you are prone toward ambivalence in this great calling. You know Jesus is your magnificent Lord and Savior. You know he has delivered you from the domain of darkness and transferred you into his eternal kingdom. You know the wrath of God you so justly deserve has been taken from you and placed on Christ, but you still find yourself, from time to time, cold hearted, perhaps fearful of speaking his blessed name to others...

I have often said, however, that I feel utterly inadequate in giving Jesus his due. My lack of theological depth in Christ's person and work, my limited mind power, and my paltry vocabulary prevent me from proclaiming to people the glory, majesty, dominion, and authority of the Lord Jesus. I often feel like someone who is learning a second language in which he is not yet proficient, searching for the right word to convey what is on his heart. So, I am purposing to spend a great deal more time studying and meditating on the person and work of Christ so that I may become far more proficient in lifting up our great Savior to sinners everywhere...

I want to make this very simple and practical so that you can use this in your own evangelistic efforts. I want you to be moved in your heart as you consider the amazing, eternal love the Triune God has for sinners.

For now, consider what we mean by the covenant of redemption. There has always been a perfect love between the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The Trinitarian God is utterly complete and does not need us. Yet God's plan, from before

the creation of anything, was the salvation of his people to the praise and glory of his marvelous grace (Eph. 1:3-14).

In the context of his divine decree God allowed Adam and Eve to go their own way into rebellion, bringing the sentence of death and condemnation upon all people (Rom. 5:12-14). In the covenant of redemption, theologians are saying that the Father and the Son entered into a covenant (a contract) before anything was created. The Father promised to provide Jesus with the three-fold office of prophet, priest, and king. He promised to be with Jesus, to sustain him when he came to earth in his incarnation and humiliation. The Father promised to crown Jesus' work with success. His death would bring the salvation of his people. He promised to accept the Son's work on the cross as the propitiating or atoning death for his people. The Father promised to make Jesus' work effectual, that it really would work to accomplish our redemption. And he promised to exalt and honor his Son above everyone and everything.

For his part, God the Son willingly agreed to become man, to live, to suffer, to die, and experience hell, for the salvation of his people. Paul puts it this way, 'He saved us according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity' (2 Tim. 1:9)...

My dear friends in Christ Jesus, the glorious, magnificent truth is that the Triune God has always loved you. In spite of your sinful rebellion against him, in spite of the judgment you deserve, in spite of the fact that you were enemies of God, actively waging war against him in your unbelief; God the Father's eternal plan was your salvation. In order to accomplish it, he knew there must be a Redeemer and that Redeemer had to be perfect, sinless, without guile.

But from where would such a Savior come? Could we manufacture our own redemption? Could we look to Buddha, Confucius, or Mohammed for relief? Jesus freely and willingly

agreed to take on human flesh, to live perfectly, to die a sinner's death, to take the wrath you and I deserve, to take hell itself to fulfill God's righteous requirements. Jesus knew what he was doing. He knew that the utter anguish of separation from his Father was coming. But Isaiah prophesied, 'As a result of the anguish of His soul, He will see it and be satisfied. By His knowledge, the Righteous One My servant, will justify the many, as He will bear their iniquities' (Isa. 53:11).

If you have ever lost a child, perhaps standing by as your child died a slow death from some horrible disease, then you know the anguish of having part of your flesh, as it were, ripped from your body. The pain seems unbearable. Will it ever subside? In an infinitely greater way, the Father stood by and watched his only begotten Son (the One with whom he and the Spirit had been united for all eternity) suffer a criminal's arrest, trial, and crucifixion for you. And the Son willingly took the horrendous death because of his love for you.

My friends in Christ, see how great a love the Father has for us that we shall be called children of God! Ask the Father to apply his love to your heart, soul, mind, and will. Allow his love to spill over into the lives of those around you. You are his and he promises never to leave you nor forsake you. He promises to stick to you closer than a brother. He promises to save you to the uttermost because he always lives to make intercession for you. Your salvation is utterly and completely secure because of the covenant made in eternity between the Father and the Son.

(Edited for space. The full article can be found at The Banner of Truth web site. Al Baker is an evangelist with Presbyterian Evangelistic Fellowship and Director of the Alabama Church Planting Network).