



# 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**

— February 2016 Issue —

*"You have dealt well with your servant, O LORD, according to your word."*  
Psalm 119:65



### NURSERY SCHEDULE

#### February 2016

07 Melanie Myatt and Wilma Pinch  
14 Troy and Jessica Moseley  
21 Andrea Page and Lori Hewlett  
28 Amber Solan and Nellie McFadden

#### March 2016

06 Troy and Jessica Moseley  
13 Jenny and Peter Lovassy  
20 Amber Solan and Vicki Johnson  
27 Nellie McFadden and Lori Hewlett

### CHURCH CLEANING

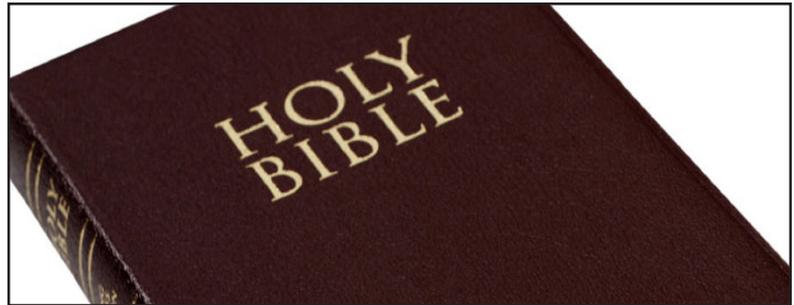
**February** - Moseleys & K. Hines  
**March** - Pages  
**April** - Dean & Linda Olive

### FINANCIAL SUMMARY AS OF FEBRUARY 1, 2016

Budgeted expenditures (ytd)	\$ 15,424.58
Actual on-budget expenditures (ytd)	\$ 13,120.75
Actual off-budget expenditures (ytd)	\$ 0.00
General Fund offerings (ytd)	\$ 16,485.00
Designated Missions (ytd)	\$ 515.44
Love offerings (ytd)	\$ 200.00
Benevolence (ytd)	\$ 0.00
Total offerings (ytd)	\$ 17,200.44
January Love offerings	\$ 200.00
January General Fund offerings	\$ 16,485.00
January Designated Missions	\$ 515.44
Building Fund balance	\$169,932.20
Missions Fund balance	\$ 9,287.75
Adoption Fund balance	\$ 2,055.00
General Fund balance	\$ 58,980.72

## One Day Bible Conference

February 21



*Our pastor friend from Jonesville, Louisiana. He has been with us on numerous occasions before. We look forward to his ministry among us again. He will be preaching at both the morning and evening services.*

*Please invite your friends.*

### SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

#### NORMAL SUNDAY SERVICES

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

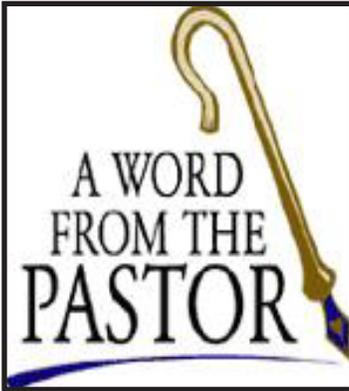
#### WEDNESDAY EVENING

Bible Study and Prayer Meeting  
7:00 PM

#### FIRST SUNDAY SERVICES

Morning Worship 9:30 AM  
Meal at the Church 11:00 AM  
Afternoon Service 12:30 PM

*No Sunday School  
or Evening Service*



## Daniel - The Man of Prayer

What comes to your mind when you think of the biblical character, Daniel? Most people probably think of him as a prophet. Daniel, along with Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel, is categorized as a major prophet. The book that

bears his name contains many significant prophecies.

But Daniel was more than a prophet. He was also a great man of prayer. Even though he was uprooted from his home in Judah as a young man and carried into exile in Babylon, he faithfully and loyally served God. God sent Judah into captivity because of her sins but in a strange and foreign land, Daniel communed with God and interceded for Judah.

Daniel 6:10 reveals the pattern of Daniel's prayer life. It is most instructive! "When Daniel knew that the document had been signed, he went to his house where he had windows in his upper chamber open toward Jerusalem. He got down on his knees three times a day and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as he had done previously" (Dan 6:10).

The document was one that king Darius signed that forbid people to pray. Some of the king's advisors convinced him to not allow anyone to pray to any god except him for 30 days. They did this to strike at Daniel. They were jealous of his high position and favor. They knew that Daniel was a praying man and this was the thing that could get him in trouble with the king.

The punishment for violating this law was consignment to a den of lions. So the king signed the law. The law of the Medes and the Persians, once signed, could not be reversed. It was permanent.

What did Daniel do when the king's decree disallowed prayer? He prayed as he always did. He didn't pray in order to defy the king's law but in order to uphold God's law. Daniel could not bow his knee in worship to any man. He would worship the Lord his God even if it meant the loss of life.

So Daniel prayed as he had always done. His "circumstances had certainly changed, but they did not change the man of God" (Olyott). Daniel 6:10 shows us what Daniel's prayer life was like.

**It was regular.** He prayed "three times a day." That probably means that he prayed in the morning, at noon, and in the evening. The Bible nowhere directs us to pray on a schedule like this, but it was his plan.

It is good to set aside regular times for prayer but this will vary with each person. Consistency in prayer, however, is to be highly valued! It is good to have disciplined times of intercession. David was like Daniel in this. "Evening and morning and at noon I will pray,

and cry aloud, and he shall hear my voice" (Ps 55:17).

**It was reverent.** When Daniel prayed at these special times, "he got down on his knees." Again, there is nothing that requires a Christian to pray on his knees but we have the example of several people in the Bible praying on their knees. Jesus sometimes prayed on his knees (Lk 22:41). There is mention in the book of Acts of Peter and Paul praying on bent knee (9:40; 20:36).

No particular posture is required in prayer but the person who bows his knee to God when praying (this may be done privately or publically) reveals a spirit of reverence. James Rosscup says, "[Daniel] knelt as was natural as a supplicant respectful and submissive before a sovereign, a minister before the Majesty he served."

**It was reflective.** Being in captivity, Daniel prayed in his upper chamber with the window open towards Jerusalem. Daniel knew the prophecy of Jeremiah that Judah would be in captivity for 70 years (9:2). Since he prayed for the restoration of Jerusalem, he prayed facing the holy city.

In 1 Kings 8:46-51, Solomon instructed the people to pray looking toward Jerusalem if they were ever in exile. They were to look to Jerusalem and seek God in repentance. And this Daniel did. "He had been in exile a long time, but had not forgotten the city and country from which he had been stolen. Nor had he forgotten God's promise to restore Israel and to rebuild Jerusalem" (Olyott).

Christians are not commanded to pray with geology in mind. We are not required to pray facing any particular direction. There are no holy places in Christianity. Our concern is that our prayers ascend on high, not whether we are facing in a particular direction.

**It was responsive.** Daniel "gave thanks before his God." Daniel wasn't downcast. He didn't bemoan the fact that he and his people were in a strange land and that he would now be out of favor with the king and perhaps lose his life. Rather, he is filled with gratitude!

What an example Daniel is to us. He didn't alter his prayer life when the law changed. He prayed "as he had done previously." Daniel's jealous subordinates watched and saw him praying. They spied on him. They saw him through his open window. And they reported his disobedience to the king (vv. 11-15).

The man of steadfast prayer was thrown into the den of lions. The king told him, "May your God, whom you serve continually, deliver you" (16). And we know the rest of the story. Daniel was delivered from the lion's den. He might not have been, though. God doesn't always deliver his people from death. But he is able and believers are to trust in God at all times and obey him without fear of man.

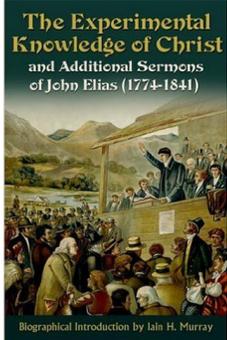
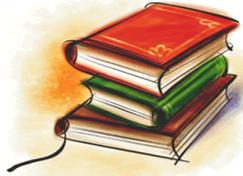
May nothing interfere with our having a consistent prayer life like Daniel did. May we regard, as he did, communion with God more valuable than life itself.

## BOOK REVIEW

### The Experimental Knowledge of Christ and Additional Sermons of John Elias

(1774-1841),

Reformation Heritage Books, pp. 164.



“This book contains eleven great sermons by the great Welsh itinerant preacher, John Elias (1774-1841), all newly and ably translated from the Welsh by Owen Milton. Here you will find a feast of biblical, doctrinal, experiential, and practical food that shows how great preachers in ages past proclaimed the whole counsel of God over a period of time while remaining faithful in expounding individual texts in accord with their major themes. These sermons, which

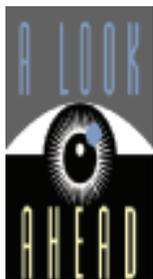
richly expound nearly every major doctrine of grace, are as relevant and helpful as when they were first written. Here you will find the sovereignty of God and the responsibility of man persuasively expounded. Elias’s sermons exhibit all the strengths of a godly preacher-pastor-writer. Read them slowly and prayerfully, and, with the Spirit’s blessing, you will grow in the grace and knowledge of Christ” (Joel R. Beeke).

Elias was known for his commanding presence and compelling sermons. Geoff Thomas says, “These sermons hint at his power as a preacher.” These sermons are a treasury of practical, doctrinal, and experiential insights that are just as relevant today as when they were spoken.

*Keep Calm,  
It's a Girl*



The Moseleys are having their first girl. The Ladies of Grace are throwing Jessica a baby shower on February 13, a Saturday, from 2:00pm to 4:00pm at Bob and Faye Williams’s home. For more information please see Faye Williams or Kristy Hines.



**FEBRUARY 7** – Instead of an afternoon worship service, we will be holding our annual church business meeting. Members are strongly encouraged to be present.

**FEBRUARY 28** – A representative from the Gideons will be giving a 10 minute presentation about their work in the morning service. An offering will be received for the publication of Bibles by the Gideons.

**MARCH 6** – We will observe the ordinance of the Lord’s Supper in the afternoon service. Prepare your hearts as we come together to remember our Lord’s death.

## Spurgeon’s Catechism with Scripture Proofs



**Question 20:** Who is the Redeemer of God’s elect?

**Answer:** The only Redeemer of God’s elect is the Lord Jesus Christ, who being the eternal Son of God, became man and so was and continues to be God and man, in two distinct natures and one person for ever.

**Scriptural Proof:** 1 Timothy 2:5; John 1:1, 14; 1 Timothy 3:16; Colossians 2:6, 9

**Commentary:** Jesus Christ is not simply referred to as a Redeemer but as the only Redeemer. No one can come to the Father and be saved from sin and hell apart from Jesus Christ. There is no redemption outside the atoning blood of the Lamb of God. He alone saves us from wrath; he alone washes our sins away.

Jesus is the only Redeemer of God’s elect because he alone is qualified. He is qualified because he alone is the eternal Son of God and because he alone became a human being. Jesus Christ is fully God and fully man. His eternal deity and true humanity makes him the only one eligible to save sinners.

Being the eternal Son of God means that Jesus is God. He is one with the Father. From the beginning he was with God and was God. The Son is of the same essence as the Father and the Holy Spirit. The Son did not become divine; he always has been. The Son of God is equal with the Father and the Spirit. He is of the same substance with them. He is a divine person. In him dwells the fullness of the Godhead bodily.

The eternal Son of God became a man. He did not cease being God when he became a man. The divine nature was united to the human nature. This is the mystery of godliness. God became a man. The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. Jesus is one person with two natures. He is the God-Man and will forever be.

Since Christ Jesus is both God and man in one person, then we must look to him alone for salvation. We give thanks that the Son of God would humble himself in becoming a man in order to redeem those given to him by the Father in the counsels of eternity.



## Thomas Manton Puritan Quotes

### FINITE COMPREHENDING THE INFINITE

“We know God but as men born blind know the fire. They know that there is such a thing as fire, for they feel it warm them, but what it really is they know not. So, that there is a God we know, but what He is we know little, and indeed we can never search Him out to perfection. A finite creature can never fully comprehend that which is infinite.”

## **“In A Love That Cannot Cease, I Am His...”**

*David Campbell*

“I am His.” Every believer in Jesus may say it. And with full assurance. “I am the Lord’s.” Humbly and astonishingly we may also say that he is ours. To the Christian, God is not just the Lord but my Lord. But it is of the bond by which we have become his of which I want to speak.

### **His by Creative Right**

We touch here on something that is true of all people. When David writes in Psalm 24 of the earth being “the LORD’s, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it” (verse 1), his reference is to an ownership that is the LORD’s by creation. It was he who made the dust from which he afterwards made the first man. It was he who from this man then made the woman who became his wife. And it is he who has given life to all their innumerable offspring.

David praises God because he is fearfully and wonderfully made (Ps. 139:14). Balk at it and deny it as people may, we are all the possession of another. God owns us (and all we have as well), and it is in the sin of our hearts that we refuse to acknowledge that and live as if we belonged to no-one but ourselves.

### **His by Costly Purchase**

“You are not your own,” says Paul to the believers in Corinth; “you were bought at a price” (1 Cor. 6:19-20). And what a price! Christ gave his very life that we who were already God’s by creation

might become his in a new and special way. We are in the realm of redemption here. By virtue of our fall in Adam we put ourselves into the hands of other and very wicked powers. We became slaves both to sin and to Satan. But Christ shed his blood in order to free us from that slavery.

We are now God’s by costly purchase – his ransomed people.

*Loved with everlasting love,  
Led by grace that love to know;  
Gracious Spirit from above,  
Thou hast taught me it is so!  
Oh, this full and perfect peace!  
Oh, this transport all divine!  
In a love which cannot cease,  
I am His, and He is mine.  
In a love which cannot cease,  
I am His, and He is mine.*

And Paul lays it on the line as far as what that’s to mean for us: “Therefore honor God with your body” (1 Cor. 6:20) – a call to sexual purity.

### **His by Covenant Bond**

Ever, in entering into covenant with people, God pledges himself to be their God. The bond by which they may call him their own is forged by covenant. So it was under the Old Covenant. So still under the New. “I will be their God,” he says (Jer. 31:33).

But that is only one part of the promise. The other is that “they will be my people” (Jer. 31:33).

The bond is gloriously mutual. He is ours. We are his. And what priceless blessings are ours by virtue of that bond! All of us know him, from the least of us to the greatest. We now love and keep His law because he has written it on our hearts. Through Christ he has wholly forgiven our sins. And he has placed in us his fear so that we will not turn away from him.

### **His by Accepted Commitment**

Think what it means to come to Christ; to believe in him. There is so much more to it than the empty hand stretched out for salvation. To truly come to Christ is to commit ourselves unreservedly to him. Yes for eternal life. But also to be his loyal servants and subjects. He who is Lord is going to be our Lord – from this day forward and forever. But will he accept us? Always! It is his own promise. No-one who comes to him will ever be driven away (John 6:37). We become his when we put our trust in him. His by an accepted commitment.

By a four-fold cord then we are the Lord’s. Nor is he ashamed of his possession. Anything but! Prizes every one of us. Wouldn’t part with us for anything. Regards us as his inheritance. Counts himself rich in having us. Looks forward to us being with him. And will delight in us forever.

Isn’t grace amazing?

David Campbell is pastor of Grace Baptist Church, Carlisle, Pennsylvania