



# M G 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 2017 Issue —

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



### NURSERY SCHEDULE

#### July

- 02 Doug and Andrea Page
- 09 Jan Fursdon and Lori Hewlett
- 16 Troy and Jessica Moseley
- 23 Kristin Scarborough and Susan Kay
- 30 Jenny and Peter Lovassy

#### August

- 06 Troy and Jessica Moseley
- 13 Vicki Johnson and Nellie McFadden
- 20 Melanie Myatt and Jan Furdson
- 27 Linda Olive and Amber Solan

### CHURCH CLEANING

- July - Pages
- August - Volunteer needed

### LAWN CARE

- July - Solans
- August - Steve Page

### FINANCIAL SUMMARY AS OF JULY 1, 2017

Budgeted expenditures (ytd)	\$ 93,983.50
Actual on-budget expenditures (ytd)	\$ 79,735.20
Actual off-budget expenditures (ytd)	\$ 5,210.00
General Fund offerings (ytd)	\$ 86,961.44
Designated Missions (ytd)	\$ 6,457.30
Love offerings (ytd)	\$ 4,480.00
Benevolence (ytd)	\$ 179.00
Total offerings (ytd)	\$ 97,898.74
June Love offerings	\$ 200.00
June General Fund offerings	\$ 11,507.85
June Designated Missions	\$ 750.30
Building Fund balance	\$203,673.59
Missions Fund balance	\$ 16,113.35
Adoption Fund balance	\$ 3,375.00
General Fund balance	\$ 48,668.51

## CHURCH WIDE PICNIC AT CAMP HELEN

**AUGUST 6  
9:30AM - 5:00PM**

### Schedule for the Day

- 9:30 – 10:45 Worship
- 10:45 – 12:45 Lunch
- 1:00 – 4:00 Fun and Games
- 4:00 – 5:00 Singing/Devotion/Ice Cream

Camp Helen is located at  
14477 Baptist Camp Road, Harvest, AL

*There will be no services at our church location.*

### SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

#### NORMAL SUNDAY SERVICES

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

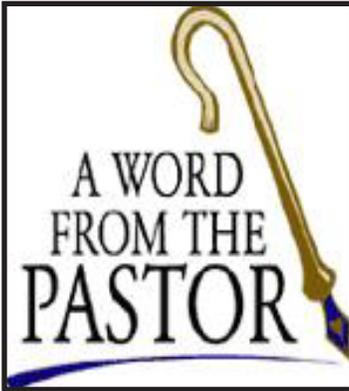
#### WEDNESDAY EVENING

Bible Study and Prayer Meeting	7:00 PM
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#### 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*



## Freedom From Sin/Freedom to Serve

There are lots of words that we use without understanding their real meaning. You probably recall the now famous line from the popular movie, *The Princess Bride*, “You keep using that word. I do not think

it means what you think it means.”

It is likely that everyone of us frequently use a word without knowing its true meaning. One such word is freedom. Many people in America think that freedom means there are no constraints of law. That is not true. Freedom has limitation. We are not free to do as we please. Our freedom isn't absolute. We have freedom within law. Freedom is misunderstood by many Americans. “I don't think it means what you think it means.”

Freedom isn't only a misused word by Americans. It is also a misused word by Christians. Many who say they are Christians think that they are free in Christ to do as they please. That is a misuse of the word. Christ liberates his people from sin, Satan, the law, and death. He does not liberate us to do what we please.

A friend gave this testimony of witnessing to a man recently. He said, “I was able to tell him about the freedom that is found in the good news of Christ, properly understood.” Why add the caveat, “properly understood?” He added it because of the danger of misunderstanding the freedom that Christ gives.

Paul takes up the subject of liberty and freedom in several of his epistles, most notably Romans and Galatians. He shows how Christ liberates those who believe in him from the things that enslaved them. But he also shows that Christ does not sanction or license us to do as we please, nor does he abolish the responsibility to do as we ought. He especially brings this out in Romans 6 where he declares that we are no longer slaves to sin but we have become slaves to the Lord Jesus Christ.

None of us have never been slaves in the societal or domestic sense. But suppose we had been slaves under a hard and severe master and someone came to our rescue and loosed us from our shackles and set us free. What regard would we have toward the person who set us free, especially if he gave his own life in order to secure our freedom? We would deeply love him and render our allegiance to his cause.

That is exactly what Jesus did for us! He gave himself for us in order to set us free. Christ has broken sin's grip on us. Our bondage necessitated a Redeemer, a

Deliverer. We couldn't liberate ourselves because we were enslaved in sin. The Lord Jesus Christ set us free when he died for us. He removed the penalty of sin and delivered us from the power of sin! Sin is no longer our master.

We have a new master and that master is Christ. Our new owner gives us a new way of life. We are now, in the words of Romans 6:18, “slaves of righteousness.” We were “slaves of sin” (v. 17) but now we are “slaves of righteousness.” Before, we were controlled and ruled by sin. We were under bondage to a hard slave master. As unbelievers we were slaves of sin and free from righteousness, but now we are free from sin and slaves of God (v. 22). Having become emancipated from one master we have become enslaved to another.

There is a paradox here. We are free but not free. We are free from sin's condemnation and we are free from the bondage of the law, but we are entirely subject to God. Christian liberty consists in serving God. This is true freedom. Simon Peter wrote, “Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God” (1 Pet 2:16).

To know Christ is to be free. Jesus said, “And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (Jn 8:32). Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life, so to know him is to be free indeed—free from sin, free from death, free from condemnation. This Emancipation Proclamation awaits every sinner who comes to Christ! “By him everyone who believes is freed from everything from which you could not be freed by the law of Moses” (Acts 13:39).

One of the most cherished treasures we possess as Christians is freedom. But let's not misunderstand this freedom. Let it not be said of us, “I do not think freedom means what you think it means.” We have been freed from sin so we can be free to serve Christ. We are given a new nature in Christ and it moves us to please him in all things.

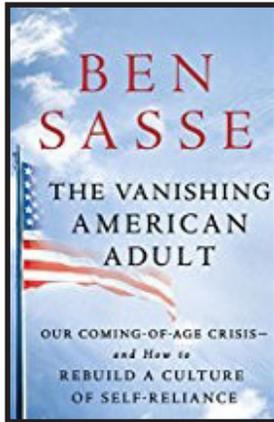
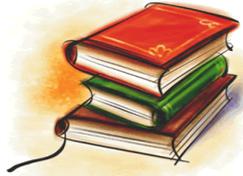
Jimmy Stewart was a pilot in WWII. He flew a B-24. The plane was nicknamed the Liberator. It was called that because everyone of the 18,000 B-24's that were put into service helped to liberate the millions who were under Hitler's yoke.

How blest we are to have a Liberator in Jesus Christ. He liberates us from sin and sets us free to serve him. All glory, honor, and power is due to him who set us free from sin's dark night. We join John the Revelator who said, “To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood” (Rev. 1:5).

## BOOK REVIEW

### The Vanishing American Adult: Our Coming-of-Age Crisis and How to Rebuild a Culture of Self-Reliance,

by Ben Sasse, St. Martin's Press, 2017, pp. 320.



Most of the book reviews that appear here are religious in nature. Books are recommended that help us grow in grace and in the knowledge of Jesus Christ. The book review this month isn't a religious book, though it is written by a Christian. It is written by Senator Ben Sasse of Nebraska.

As the title suggests, Sasse identifies a serious problem in America. We are living in a generation that can't grow up.

He offers a path for raising children to become mature adults, active and engaged citizens. He argues that our democracy depends on responsible, contributing adults in order to function properly.

His main thesis is that parents need to take control over their children's education. He argues that children need to learn to work hard, resist consumerism, read widely, and travel with their parents. Sasse describes Americans as "a drifting and aimless people—awash in material goods and yet spiritually aching for meaning." Every parent, Christian or not, would benefit from reading this book.

You can read or listen to an interview that Al Mohler had with Mr. Sasse here: <http://www.albertmohler.com/2017/05/23/vanishing-adulthood-ben-sasse>



**JULY 2** – We will be observing the ordinance of the Lord's Supper in the afternoon service.

**AUGUST 6** – We will be spending the day at Camp Helen. Our morning service will begin at the Camp at 9:30 AM. There will be no services at our church location. We will eat lunch together and then enjoy various activities. We will end the day with some singing, listening to God's Word, and eating homemade ice cream. If you would like to help out, contact Kristy Hines about activities and Amber Solan about food.

**APRIL 6-8, 2018** – Geoff Thomas of Aberystwyth, Wales, is scheduled to preach our Spring Bible Conference.

## Spurgeon's Catechism with Scripture Proofs



**Question 35:** What are the benefits which in this life do accompany or flow from justification, adoption, and sanctification?

**Answer:** The benefits which in this life do accompany or flow from justification, adoption and sanctification, are assurance of God's love, peace of conscience, joy in the Holy Spirit, increase of grace, and perseverance therein to the end.

**Scriptural Proof:** Romans 5:1-2, 5; 14:17; Proverbs 4:18; 1 John 5:13; 1 Peter 1:5.

**Commentary:** There are several benefits that flow out of justification, sanctification, and adoption. Five are mentioned here. (1) Assurance of God's love. Sometimes we lack assurance. It is usually caused by sin. But where there is a confessing and forsaking of the sin, God assures us of his love. (2) Peace of conscience. Our consciences are at peace because we have put our trust in Christ who paid the penalty of our sin. We have peace with God objectively on the basis of the cross and peace subjectively because we experience the peace of God. (3) Joy in the Holy Spirit. Joy is a fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22). Inward joy comes from the assurance of God's love and the peace of conscience. (4) Increase of grace. Grace does not cease at conversion. Grace increases. We are bid to grow in grace. (5) Perseverance to the end. One of the Christian's greatest comforts is that the Lord keeps us. Salvation is everlasting. And those who are saved will continue in the faith.

Every true believer will know these blessings in some measure. God works in us to produce them.



## Richard Baxter Puritan Quotes

### PUT SIN TO DEATH

"Let no man think to kill sin with few, easy, or gentle strokes. He who hath once smitten a serpent, if he follow not on his blow until it be slain, may repent that ever he began the quarrel. And so he who undertakes to deal with sin, and pursues it not constantly to the death."

# I Am the Way, the Truth, and the Life

Kevin Tucker

We come now to the sixth of Jesus' great "I am" statements as recorded in John's Gospel. On the night before His crucifixion, as Jesus taught and comforted His disciples, He told Thomas, "*I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me*" (John 14:6).

The scene of Jesus' great declaration is the familiar the Upper Room on the night before His death. On this fateful evening Jesus was filled with love and compassion for His disciples knowing He was leaving those men who had given up everything to follow Him. He would be betrayed and arrested that very night. The next day He would be tried, wrongly convicted, and die the horrible death of a criminal on a cross at Calvary.

In the Upper Room, Jesus washed His disciples' feet in a striking example of the servant's attitude that was to govern their lives. He identified the one who would soon betray Him. Jesus told the disciples His time with them was very short. He commanded them to love one another just as He had loved them. He also instituted the ordinance of remembrance we know as the Lord's Supper.

Then, "*Simon Peter said to him, 'Lord, where are you going?' Jesus answered him, 'Where I am going you cannot follow me now, but you will follow afterward.'* Peter said to him, '*Lord, why can I not follow you now?*'" (John 13:36-37).

Peter and the others were troubled, confused, and cast down. Despite knowing His time of suffering and death was imminent, Jesus lovingly comforted them by telling them He was going to prepare a place for them and that He would return for them and take them with Him.

Still confused, "*Thomas said to*

*him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?' Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me'"* (John 14:5-6).

As previously noted in these articles, the Greek text translated "I am" is emphatic and emphasizes the subject which, here, is Jesus. This construction is similar to that used in the Old Testament as translators rendered words spoken by God. God referred to Himself as I AM in His conversation with Moses at the burning bush. So, Jesus taught and comforted His disciples as One who not only had been with God, but as One who was God.

Jesus makes three unforgettable statements in answer to Thomas's question. First, He said, "*I am the way.*" Since Jesus goes on to say, "*No one comes to the Father except through me,*" He is talking about the way to God. Sinful man by his own efforts has no way to approach a holy God. But men have been trying ever since Cain. Proverbs 14:12 tells us, "*There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death.*" But Jesus opened the way by His finished work on Calvary's cross. He is the door through whom all must draw near to God. Jesus is the way to heaven, peace with God, and eternal blessedness.

Second, Jesus told His disciples, "*I am the truth,*" thus reminding them of His utter reliability. He is the full and final revelation of God. Adam believed Satan's lies and man has been groping in ignorance and error ever since. Just hours later Pilate would voice the perplexity of many through the ages when he asked Jesus "... *What is truth?*" (John 18:38) Truth, *the truth*, is found in none of man's countless philosophies. *The truth* is to be found only in the person of Christ. In Him "... *are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge*" (Colossians 2:3).

Third, Jesus said, "*I am the life.*" His life

is unique; self-existent like that of His Father. The entire Bible bears solemn witness of the natural man's spiritual lifelessness. He walks according to the course of this world and has no love for the things of God. He has no fear of God because he is the center of his existence. Paul says in Ephesians 2:1 that the natural man is dead in trespasses and sins. But Christ is the deliverer from this death. Jesus Himself said those who believe in Him have "... *passed from death to life*" (John 5:24) and "*I came that they may have life and have it abundantly*" (John 10:10). J. C. Ryle says Christ is "the sinners' title to eternal life and pardon, the believer's root of spiritual life and holiness, the surety of the Christian's resurrection life."

Then Jesus went on to tell Thomas, "*No one comes to the Father except through me.*" Jesus makes an exclusive claim here. He explicitly closes the door to all other means of salvation but Himself. Paul wrote to Timothy, "*There is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus*" (1 Timothy 2:5). Ryle notes "God is so holy that all men are guilty and debtors in His sight. Sin is so sinful that no mortal man can make satisfaction for it. There must be a mediator, a ransom-payer, a redeemer between ourselves and God, or else we can never be saved."

Let us all praise God for His unspeakable gift of *the way, and the truth, and the life* in Christ. "*Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith...*" (Hebrews 10:19-22).