



# 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**

— August 2018 Issue —

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



### NURSERY SCHEDULE

#### August

05 Troy and Jessica Moseley  
09 Melanie Myatt and Amber Solan  
12 Peter and Jenny Lovassy  
26 Susan Gay and Linda Olive

#### September

02 Troy and Jessica Moseley  
09 Amber Solan and Jan Fursdon  
16 Linda Olive and Susan Gay  
23 Melanie Myatt and Vicki Johnson  
30 Peter and Jenny Lovassy

### CHURCH CLEANING

August - Williamses

September - Johnsons

### LAWN CARE

August - Steve Page

September - Williamses

### WELCOME TO

## DAVE STEVENSON



*Director of Grace to Russia and Pastor of Grace Truth Church, Canton, GA*

**Sunday, August 19**

- Preaching in the 9:30 Worship Service
- Mission Report in Sunday School at 11:00

Grace to Russia translates and distributes doctrinally sound, reformed books, for Russian speaking people around the world.



[www.gracetorussia.com](http://www.gracetorussia.com)

### SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

#### NORMAL SUNDAY SERVICES

Morning Worship	9:30 AM
Sunday School	11:00 AM
Evening Worship	5:00 PM

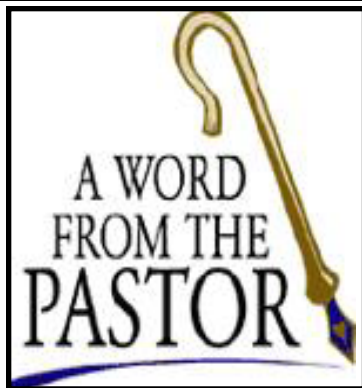
#### WEDNESDAY EVENING

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*



## Amazing Grace

The most well-known hymn ever written is Amazing Grace. It was penned by an Anglican clergyman by the name of John Newton. It is beloved the world over.

It captures the feeling of everyone saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ.

Newton wrote the hymn with a specific passage of Scripture in mind. You might think he had been pondering Ephesians 2:8-9 when he wrote it. "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast." Or you might think he was meditating on 2 Corinthians 8:9, "For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich." But not so.

Amazing Grace is based on a somewhat obscure passage in the Old Testament that doesn't even contain the word grace, but which certainly illustrates it. That portion of Scripture is 1 Chronicles 17:16-17. These verses are part of a prayer uttered by David to the Lord. He cried out, "Who am I, O LORD God, and what is mine house, that thou hast brought me hitherto? And yet this was a small thing in thine eyes, O God; for thou hast also spoken of thy servant's house for a great while to come, and hast regarded me according to the estate of a man of high degree, O LORD God." Based on this passage Newton wrote:

*Amazing grace! (how sweet the sound),  
That sav'd a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found,  
Was blind, but now I see.*

*'Twas grace that taught my heart to  
fear, And grace my fears reliev'd;  
How precious did that grace appear,  
The hour I first believ'd!*

*Through many dangers, toils, and  
snares, I have already come;  
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,  
And grace will lead me home.*

*The Lord has promis'd good to me,  
His word my hope secures:  
He will my shield and portion be,  
As long as life endures.*

*Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail,  
And mortal life shall cease,  
I shall possess, within the veil,  
A life of joy and peace.*

*The earth shall soon dissolve like snow,  
The sun forbear to shine;  
But God, who call'd me here below,  
Will be for ever mine.*

What made John Newton write this hymn from this passage of Scripture? What prompted the preacher to write so eloquently about grace as he mediated on 1 Chronicles 17:16-17? It was what David acknowledged in his prayer about his own unworthiness and about God's gracious favor that moved him. It was nothing less than marvelous grace, wonderful grace, amazing grace!

The grace shown to David was experienced by Newton. He had been an ungodly slave-trader, but God showed him mercy. It pleased God to save him and even make him a preacher of the gospel. His tombstone has this inscription:

*JOHN NEWTON,  
Clerk, Once an Infidel and Libertine,  
A Servant of Slaves in Africa,  
Was, by the rich mercy of our Lord and Savior  
JESUS CHRIST, Preserved, restored, pardoned,  
And appointed to preach the Faith  
He had long laboured to destroy.*

Until the time of his death at the age of 82, John Newton never ceased to marvel at the grace of God that transformed him so completely. Shortly before his death, he proclaimed with a loud voice during a sermon, "My memory is nearly gone, but I remember two things: That I am a great sinner and that Christ is a great Savior!" What amazing grace. It is no wonder that when John Newton pondered David's prayer he was overwhelmed by the theme of grace and wrote this lovely hymn.

## THE BOOK THAT

A series of questions Geoff Thomas asked pastors and other church leaders.



This interview is with **Roger Hitchings**, pastor of East Leake Evangelical Church, Loughborough, England.

**The Book that I am currently reading...** *The Gospel Focus of Charles Spurgeon* by Stephen Lawson. This is part of a series of books that are all quite excellent. The volumes on John Owen and Martyn Lloyd-Jones are also really helpful.

**The Book that changed my life...** I was warned not to read books by men like John Murray or else I would become a Calvinist. I read his *Redemption Accomplished and Applied* and my whole life was changed.

**The Book that I wish I could have written...** I would never have been capable of writing this book, but *The Person of Christ* by John Owen is to me so delightful, and not that difficult to read. He proclaims Christ in every sentence and I love it.

**The Book that made me say Amen...** *Be Still My Soul* by Nancy Guthrie is a collection of essays by a host of different writers on the theme of suffering. The overwhelming biblical emphasis of most articles stirred in my heart.

**The Book that made me weep...** I have worked a great deal with people with Dementia and saw that cruel disease affect my own mother. *Walking Through Twilight* by Donald Groothuis is one of the most honest and therefore most helpful books of the subject. I identify with every groan and tear, with every expression of frustration and anger, and every proof of the love of God it expresses.

**The Book that I think is the most underrated...** *The Abiding Presence* by Hugh Martin. Anything written by Hugh Martin is worthwhile reading but this book that traces out the life and ministry of the Lord is tragically little known.

**The Book that I most often give to new church members and young Christians...** *Knowing God* by J. I. Packer is a book that deals with the very basics of what it is to be a Christian. Understanding that is basic and essential.

**The best Book for children...** When my sons were young, we read through Bunyan's *The Holy War*, adapted for children by Thelma Jenkins. It was so stimulating and helpful. That and *Pilgrim's Progress* are still of great value to children — and adults.



**OCTOBER 19-21** – Creation Conference with Dr. Jason Lisle, founder of Biblical Science Institute. Dr. Lisle is a Christian astrophysicist who researches issues pertaining to science and the Christian Faith. He has authored a number of best-selling books on the topic of creation, including: *Taking Back Astronomy*, *Stargazer's Guide to the Night Sky*, *The Ultimate Proof of Creation*, *Discerning Truth*, and *Understanding Genesis*.

## Spurgeon's Catechism with Scripture Proofs



**Question 45:** What is required in the second commandment (Exodus 20:4-6)?

**Answer:** The second commandment requires the receiving, observing, and keeping pure and entire all such religious worship and ordinances as God has appointed in His Word.

**Scripture:** Deuteronomy 12:32; 32:46; Matthew 28:20

**Commentary:** Innovations by man in worship are forbidden. Our worship is not to be "according to human precepts and teachings" (Col. 2:22). Paul calls that "self-made religion" (2:23). Whatever man institutes is not allowed.

We do not use drama in our worship for this reason. God did not ordain passion plays and dramatic productions. He has ordained the lively preaching of his Word. That is how Christ is to be made known. We are to preach Christ, not act out the ministry of Christ. We are to preach the cross, not hold up an image of the cross.

The Scriptures set the bounds for our worship. God's Word should regulate what we do or don't do. We are not to add to our worship what may seem right to us, nor are we to subtract any requirement imposed by God. What he commands is sufficient; what he does not command is forbidden.



## Thomas Brooks Puritan Quotes

### AMBITION

Ambition is a gilded misery, a secret poison, a hidden plague, the engineer of deceit, the mother of hypocrisy, the parent of envy, the original of vices, the moth of holiness, the blinder of hearts, turning medicines into maladies, and remedies into diseases.

# Life as a Vapor

*Paul Washer*

It has been a little over one year since my heart attack (3-21-17). Without warning, I fell to the kitchen floor unconscious. I remember nothing that happened thereafter until five days later when I found myself in a hospital room. I asked what happened, and someone said, 'You died three times.' My heart had stopped and had been resuscitated on three separate occasions.

I would like to be able to say that, in that moment, I said something spiritual; instead, I responded 'I am just like Buck!' Everyone just stared blankly, until I explained myself: 'I am just like Buck. You know, the weasel on Ice Age who said, "I died, but then I lived!"' Then everyone laughed.

During my hospital stay, the pain in my ribs was intense due to the cardiac resuscitation. To add to that, the damaged neuroreceptors in my brain (from lack of oxygen) made me feel like my skin was on fire. The smallest movements resulted in intense pain. Due to a loss of my short-term memory, I nearly drove my wife crazy by asking the same questions over and over. She started occasionally calling me 'Dory' and 'Rain Man'.

As the days passed, I had plenty of time for reflection: 'If I had died (or 'stayed dead') what would have been my regrets? What would I have changed? What should I change now that God has extended my life?'

The first thing is love. I regretted that I had not loved more. I am not writing about mere sentimentality or a misguided love that hinders one from speaking the truth. I am referring to a Christ-like servant-love for my family, brothers and sisters in

Christ, and the unbelieving world — even my enemies. In this one thing, all the commandments of God are fulfilled; however, it is an impossible task apart from a mind renewed in the Word and filled with the Holy Spirit. Isn't it strange? I did not regret that I preached too little on the streets or that I spent too little time in my study. I regretted that I had played too few board games with my nine-year-old daughter (she loves board games).

The second thing is intercessory prayer. I have heard many an old preacher say that no minister on his deathbed regrets that he prayed too much — only that he prayed too little. Studying has never been a difficult task for me. The day after my return from the hospital, I studied and wrote for several hours; indeed, I have spent most of this last year alone in my study. In fact, it requires more discipline for me personally to deny myself the joy of studying than it does to force myself to study. God's excellencies provoke the regenerated heart to draw near to him and think much of him.

In contrast, intercessory prayer is work for me. More pointedly, it is war — war with my flesh, with the clock, with the devil. How my flesh hates intercessory prayer, fastings, and night watches! How many times my flesh has won out over my better understanding, drawing me back to bed or to the table or even to my study! Yes, my flesh will choose even Bible study over intercessory prayer! But it is in the prayer closet and in the night watches that darkness is beaten back, that Christ gains ground in the heart, that souls are redeemed, and that battles are won. The prayers of God's saints ascend from the earth like a faint and feeble cry. But when the incense of heaven is added to them, they return to earth with the power of thunder, lightning, and

earthquakes (Rev 8:3-5). Why then do I not rush to the closet, to the night vigil, to the times of separation? May God help me and you spend our days on the earth in believing, persevering, and prevailing intercessory prayer!

Third and last thing I will mention is focus. I started my ministry in the city, mountains, and jungles of my beloved Peru — traveling from town to town, preaching on the street, and training pastors and evangelists who never had the opportunity to study in a Bible institute. These were men far more worthy than me, who toiled and suffered, and accomplished so much with so little; men who labored in poverty, suffering, and anonymity. These men are the reason that HeartCry exists. They have always owned my heart above all other matters of ministry, and it is to them that I have purposed to return. How many times in a conference setting in North America have I sat on the platform with a multitude of teachers far more instructed than I will ever be? How many times have I asked myself, 'Why am I here surrounded by so many outstanding teachers instead of in some remote jungle or mountain range where there are so few, if any?' Please pray for me and the HeartCry staff that we might 'burn' and 'burn out' for the unreached and for those who labor with so little.

I still plan to preach in some conferences and churches in the United States, but (Lord willing) I will give the greater part of the rest of my life to directing HeartCry, preaching where Christ is not named, and training and writing material for the pastors and evangelists in those places.

Taken from HeartCry magazine, Issue 93