



M G Grace Messenger

GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH

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GBC HOMEPAGES

<http://www.gbcmadison-al.com>
<http://sermonaudio.com/gbcmadisonal>
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"Preaching the free grace of God which brings a change of lifestyles, masters and destinies."

DEAN OLIVE, Pastor

— January 2018 Issue —

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



NURSERY SCHEDULE

January

- 07 Troy and Jessica Moseley
- 14 Melanie Myatt and Lori Hewlett
- 21 Amber Solan and Vicki Johnson
- 28 Kristin Scarborough and Susan Gay

February

- 04 Troy and Jessica Moseley
- 11 Peter and Jenny Lovassey
- 18 Kristin Scarborough and Linda Olive
- 25 Vicki Johnson and Amber Solan

CHURCH CLEANING

- January - Tuckers
- February - Moseleys

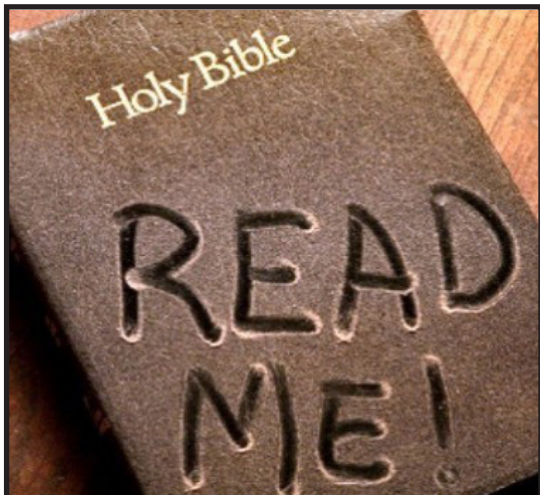
There is One Must Read This Year: Your Bible!



Many Christians take the beginning of a new year to evaluate their Bible reading habits, and then change or begin a Bible reading plan. More than anything else, our souls need to encounter the living word of God this year.

If you think regular Bible reading is legalism, you've missed why you were made. This is how we confirm that we are truly his disciples, *"If you abide in my Word, you are truly my disciples"* (John 8:31). We read our Bible to see glory, to savor glory, to be shaped into the image of the glory of God, to show the glory so that God is magnified as we are satisfied in him.

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. Psalm 119:105



SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

NORMAL SUNDAY SERVICES

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

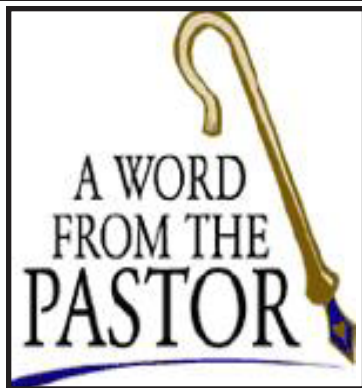
WEDNESDAY EVENING

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*



He is So Precious to Me

I fondly remember singing a wonderful hymn in my youth with the title, *He is So Precious to Me*.

*So precious is Jesus,
my Savior, my King,*

*His praise all the day long with rapture I sing.
To Him in my weakness for strength I can cling,
For He is so precious to me.*

*For He is so precious to me,
For He is so precious to me.
'Tis heaven below, my Redeemer to know,
For He is so precious to me.*

That hymn is based on 1 Peter 2:7, "Unto you therefore which believe he is precious" (KJV). Christ is precious to all who know him. The word *precious* means highly valued or esteemed. It is an apt term to describe how believers esteem their Savior and Lord.

Peter loved to use the word *precious* in his epistles. J. Vernon McGee comments: "I think it is so interesting that Simon Peter, the big, rugged fisherman, uses the word *precious*. We think of it as a word used in the vocabulary of women, but whenever Peter speaks of Christ or of His blood or any part about Him, he uses the word *precious*." Peter uses this word in the following ways. He speaks of:

Precious Trials. "*That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perishes*" (1 Peter 1:7).

Precious Blood. "*Redeemed with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot*" (1 Peter 1:18, 19).

Precious Corner Stone. "*To whom coming, as unto a living stone, chosen of God, and precious... a chief corner stone, elect, precious*" (1 Peter 2:4, 6).

Precious Faith. "*To them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Savior Jesus Christ*" (2 Peter 1:1).

Precious Promises. "*Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these you might be partakers of the divine nature,*

having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust" (2 Peter 1:4).

God the Father regards his Son as precious (1 Peter 2:4) and so do believers (1 Peter 2:7). The world may not rightly value the Lord Jesus Christ, but the Father and those who have been saved by him do! Our estimation of Christ is the same as that of the Father's. He is precious beyond calculation. One writer says, "Our estimation of other objects is often governed by public opinion, but we must appreciate Christ, not by what men think of him, but by what he is in the account of God... and if we are of God, we shall be of God's mind; he that is precious to God will be so to us" (Fuller). People and things are said to be precious to us; yet, how much more precious to us should things of a spiritual nature be.

We need to ask ourselves, is the Lord Jesus precious to me? What is my estimation of him? Do I view Jesus like the men of the world who reject him? Or do I view Jesus like God does, who regards him as precious?

We have every reason to regard him as precious! He is good and gracious; his blood atones for our sins; he gives us eternal life; he cares for us and bids us to cast our cares upon him! Matthew Henry said, "Jesus Christ is exceedingly precious to all the faithful. The majesty and grandeur of his person, the dignity of his office, his near relation, his wonderful works, his immense love—everything engages the faithful to the highest esteem and respect for Jesus Christ."

The Lord of the Rings trilogy has popularized an expression that is relevant to 1 Peter 2:7. It comes from the lips of Gollum, formerly known as Smeagol. He was desperate to have the ring which was once in his possession. He continually refers to it as, "my precious." The ring consumed him. It was the most valuable thing to him but it led to his destruction.

There are many people like Gollum today. Their eye is fixed on some material thing and they are ever thinking, "My precious; my precious." But there is no one dearer and more precious than the Lord Jesus Christ. He who acknowledges that Christ is precious and turns to him will be saved. The greatest treasure of all is Christ. He is the pearl of great price (Mt 13:46). Get rid of everything else in your affections and esteem him as precious.

THE BOOK THAT

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



This interview is with Mack Tomlinson, pastor in Denton, Texas.

The Book that Changed my Life – I have two to mention! *The Pursuit of God* by A.W. Tozer, and *Studies in the Sermon on the Mount* by Martyn Lloyd-Jones. Tozer's book directed me toward a God-centered life of desiring to know God personally, and the Lloyd-Jones book demolished my dispensational interpretation of our Lord's Sermon and made me see that Jesus was revealing what a true Christian is and how they are to live.

The Book that Made Me Say 'Amen' – For me, it is *Revival and Revivalism*, by Iain Murray, simply because I was raised in a 'revivalism' culture and was trained in that setting. This book opened my eyes fully to understand that what I was already seeing was a faulty system, and what revival was historically and theologically.

The Book I Most Often Give to Young Christians – This is an easy one, *The Christian Life: A Doctrinal Introduction*, by Sinclair Ferguson. I think it can be the most helpful book a new or untaught believer can read.

The Book I Wish I'd Written – Either *Redemption Accomplished and Applied* by John Murray (one of my top favorites of all time), or *The Gospel According to Jesus* by John MacArthur, which shook the American evangelical world by exposing the falseness of non-Lordship salvation and has had lasting reformatory effect on so many churches and Christians.

The Book I Think is Most Underrated – *Thoughts on Religious Experience*, by Archibald Alexander; simply profound and deeply helpful in understanding the nature of true Christian experience



FEBRUARY 4 – Annual Church Business Meeting in the afternoon at 12:30.

APRIL 11 – Missionary Andrew Ward will be preaching in the morning worship hour and will be giving an update about his mission work in West Africa in Sunday School.

FEBRUARY 14 – Missionary Barry King will be at our mid-week service to share what is happening with Grace Baptist Partnership.

FEBRUARY 15-17 – True Church Conference at Grace Life Church of the Shoals.

APRIL 6-8 – Spring Bible Conference with Geoff Thomas of Aberystwyth, Wales.

Spurgeon's Catechism with Scripture Proofs



Question 39: What shall be done to the wicked at the day of judgment?

Answer: At the day of judgment the bodies of the wicked being raised out of their graves, shall be sentenced, together with their souls, to unspeakable torments with the devil and his angels forever.

Scriptural Proof: Daniel 12:2; John 5:28-29; 2 Thessalonians 1:9; Matthew 25:41, 46; Revelation 20:14-15.

Commentary: Scripture clearly affirms the fact that there will be a great final judgment of unbelievers. They will stand before God in resurrected bodies and hear his proclamation of their eternal destiny.

All unbelievers will be present at this judgment, none are excluded. This judgment includes the "great and small" (Rev. 20:12). Paul says that "on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed, he will render to each one according to his works" (Rom. 2:5-6). Every sin, every wrong deed, every word spoken, every evil thought, will be remembered and taken account of. On the day of judgment, the secrets of people's hearts will be revealed and made public.

God will then sentence the wicked to eternal hell. Hell is a place of eternal conscious punishment for the wicked. Sin against God is far beyond what we can imagine in its seriousness. Those who defy the eternal God will for eternity be punished for their sins.

May our hearts be moved in sorrow for the lost. And may their lostness spur us to evangelism. When Paul thought of his countrymen he exclaimed, "I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart" (Rom. 9:2). "As long as we are in this life, and as long as we see and think about others who need to hear the gospel and trust in Christ for salvation, it should cause us great distress and agony of spirit to think about eternal punishment" (Grudem). No one is beyond redemption so let us pray for the lost and proclaim the gospel to them that they might escape eternal condemnation.



Thomas Brooks Puritan Quotes

UNDONE WITHOUT HIM

"Those years, months, weeks, days, and hours, that are not filled up with God, with Christ, with grace, and with duty, will certainly be filled up with vanity and folly. The neglect of one day, of one duty, of one hour, would undo us, if we had not an Advocate with the Father."

A Bright and Burning Light: Robert Charles Sproul

Feb 13, 1939 - Dec 14, 2017

by Albert Mohler

For me, the story begins as a teenager stuck in a desperate struggle with huge theological questions in the 1970s. Of course, R.C. Sproul, with firm conviction and a friendly smile, would rightly insist that the story begins in the gracious will of our sovereign, eternal, and omnipotent God...

I had been confronted by teachers in high school who had declared their own atheism and ridiculed theism. I was surrounded by a culture of increasing moral relativism and the first wave of what would later be called post-modernism. I knew Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord and I wanted to be faithful to him. But how?

My struggle was spiritual and moral, but it was also irreducibly intellectual. How could I know and defend the Christian faith? I did not even know where to begin. At home and at church, I was surrounded by sweet Christians who loved me and invested their lives in me. But I had big questions they could not answer. Questions that gnawed at me and kept me awake at night. Questions that I feared could not be answered. Questions that I had no idea Christians had grappled with for centuries.

Thankfully, I found help. I found other Christians who were struggling with the same questions, and some of them passed to me cassette tapes. At that time, the cassette was a recent invention. For me, these tapes were a lifeline – bringing me expository preaching from Dr. John MacArthur and lectures from this strangely infectious and compelling teacher at an oddly named center in Western Pennsylvania. The teacher was R.C. Sproul.

Those tapes from R.C. Sproul

were not my own. They had been passed to me after several others had listened to them. They squeaked. Nevertheless, I pounced on them like a hungry tiger. I received the tapes out of sequence. No matter – I just gained confidence and understanding with every tape.

R.C.'s voice was captivating. Honestly, I probably would have listened to him read the *Farmer's Almanac*. But the power of his teaching was the vitality and virility of biblical Christianity, presented logically, forcefully, biblically, and passionately.

My own pilgrimage as a theologian cannot be traced without the indelible influence of R.C. Sproul. Had I never met him in the flesh, I would have been in his debt and gifted with his influence. By God's grace, I came to know R.C. Sproul as a teacher, colleague, encourager, and friend.

He was, as the British would say, a man in full. He never made a half-argument, presented a half-correction, preached a half-sermon, or laughed a half-laugh. He was all in, all the time. His voice would fill the room, his preaching would shake the timbers, and his passion would spread like a virus. He showed up as everything he was and with everything he believed – every time.

He was one of the great defenders of historic Christianity of our times. It is fair to say that R.C. was the greatest and most influential proponent of the recovery of Reformed theology in the last century. He was a stalwart defender of the Word of God, and one of the primary architects of the Chicago Statement on Biblical Inerrancy in 1978. His tapes were soon accompanied by his books and the vastly expanding influence of Ligonier Ministries.

When he taught about the holiness of God, a generation of evangelicals was rescued from the emaciated and desiccated theology of cultural Christianity. When he defended

Reformed theology, he taught us all how to understand the gospel in terms of God's eternal purpose to save, consistent with his sovereignty. He was rigorously biblical and ruthlessly logical... with a smile.

He loved to introduce Christians to both the splendors and the humbling lessons of church history. He wanted evangelical Christians to stand in a line of faithfulness that began with the apostles and continued to the present. He had the heart and courage of Martin Luther and the theological precision and passion of John Calvin. He was a proud son of the Reformation, and the *solas* of the Reformation were the architecture of his mind. He urged and taught Christians toward the development of the Christian mind, and ideas were his battleground.

He was a preacher of the Word of God, a faithful steward of God's mysteries. In the later years of his life, he told friends that his greatest joy in ministry had come as a pastor. That comes as no surprise.

R.C. Sproul was an evangelist. "Evangelism is our duty. God commanded it," he taught: "But there is more. Evangelism is not only a duty; it is also a privilege. God allows us to participate in the greatest work in human history, the work of redemption." There will be many saints in heaven who came to hear the gospel through R.C.'s talks, sermons, videos, conferences, books, and personal witnessing...

Our prayers are with the Sproul family, and our hope is in Christ. Listening to one of R.C.'s messages in the last few hours, I realized that R.C. had been preaching – decades ago – as a man ready to die, trusting in Christ...