



# 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**

— June 2018 Issue —

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



### NURSERY SCHEDULE

#### June

- 03 Troy and Jessica Moseley
- 10 Peter and Jenny Lovassy
- 17 Vicki Johnson and Lori Hewlett
- 24 Linda Olive and K. Scarborough

#### July

- 01 Troy and Jessica Moseley
- 08 Peter and Jenny Lovassey
- 15 Susan Gay and Amber Solan
- 22 Melanie Myatt and Vicki Johnson
- 29 Lori Hewlett and K. Scarborough

### CHURCH CLEANING

- June - Lee and Susan Gay
- July - Volunteer needed

### LAWN CARE

- June - Troy Moseley
- July - Dean Olive

Welcome to

# MARTIN RIZLEY



## MISSIONARY TO SPAIN



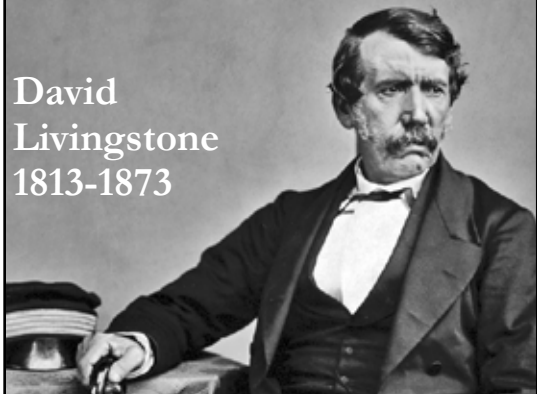
Sunday, June 24

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

*"The best remedy for a sick church is to put it on a missionary diet." (David Livingstone).*

**"God had an Only Son  
And He was a Missionary"**

David  
Livingstone  
1813-1873



## SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

### NORMAL SUNDAY SERVICES

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

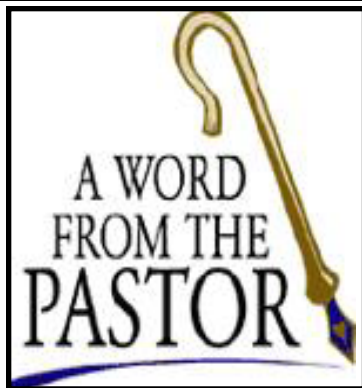
### WEDNESDAY EVENING

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*



## The Assurance of Salvation

A precious teaching that ministers to our souls most deeply is the doctrine of assurance. This truth, taught throughout Scripture, declares that true believers can really know that they are

Christians. God wants us to possess here and now a present certainty that we are the heirs of Christ, saved from sin, judgment and hell, now and for eternity.

At the end of a letter that says much about assurance, the apostle John writes a brief word about the assurance of salvation. He says in 1 John 5:13, "I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life."

This same apostle wrote a Gospel account that bears his name. The Gospel of John is basically an evangelistic tract, designed to show lost sinners who Jesus is, and it urges them to believe and be saved (Jn 20:30-31). But 1 John is different. It was written to those who already believe in Christ and was written to give them assurance, to confirm their faith.

Having come to faith in Christ, they needed to know with full assurance that they were the Lord's. Satan can get into the mind of a believer and create doubt. The weakness of the conscience can cause uncertainty. One of the primary reasons John wrote this epistle was to help believers have assurance. It was the Lord, not just John, who wanted them to know that they possessed eternal life.

God's revealed purpose for his children is to know they have eternal life. Two very important words are found in the verse – *believe* and *know*. We become Christians by believing in Christ and those who believe in him have the divine right to assurance, to know that they are truly saved.

John is fond of this word *know*. He uses a form of it 40 times in 1 John. Clearly then we can know that we know Christ! The word John used means to know with certainty. Believers can have and ought to have assurance, that they are the children of God, and that they have eternal life. God doesn't want us to doubt; he wants us to have full assurance. As the book of Hebrews says, he wants us to "draw near [to him] with a true heart in full assurance of faith" (10:22).

Assurance rests upon the promise that God makes to a believer. God promises to save all who believe on his Son (cf. Acts 16:31; Romans 10:13). Either he does save them, as he says, or he violates his word of promise. So assurance isn't presumption; the lack of assurance is.

Granted, carnal presumption or counterfeit assurance, is a possibility, for not everyone who thinks he is a Christian is saved.

That's why we need to know what a real Christian is and then we can examine ourselves in order to see if we are real Christians. John does that in this letter. He gives several tests that help us determine whether we are Christians or not (doctrinal, moral, and love tests). He thoroughly explains what a true Christian is in order that we may know whether we are Christians or not.

The apostle John doesn't teach assurance apart from self-examination. The tests that he gives either confirms or exposes us. Self-examination will not shake genuine believers; rather, it confirms them in the faith. If we are what the Word declares a Christian to be, then we can have assurance. But self-examination ought to alarm those who have a false sense of assurance.

What the true believer possesses is eternal life. Eternal life is a present possession but it is also a life that is endless. Earlier John declared, "God gave us eternal life and this life is in his Son" (5:11). And then in v. 13 he says, "I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life." It is important that we give attention to this subject for we cannot have a healthy Christian life apart from assurance.

We don't have to guess or hope that we have eternal life; we can know. Those who believe in the name of the Son of God "may know that they have eternal life." Thank God for the language of knowledge and confidence. We can know that we have passed from death unto life. This isn't the language of wishing and guessing! J.C. Ryle said, "It cannot be wrong to feel confidently in a matter where God speaks unconditionally, to believe decidedly when God promises decidedly, to have a sure persuasion of pardon and peace when we rest on the word and oath of Him that never changes."

Let us take God at his Word! It is an utter mistake not to. Lloyd-Jones said, "All Christian people are meant to have assurance of salvation. God has not only provided a way whereby we can be saved, and not only saved us, but He lets us know that He has done so. This is a glorious aspect of the Christian life. The Christian is not meant to remain in doubt and uncertainty."

Are you a believer? Have you called on the name of the Lord? Has he saved you? Does his Spirit live within you? Do you love him? Has he changed your life? If you can answer these questions in the affirmative, then you have every reason to have assurance. If not, then realize your desperate condition and turn from your sin and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and be saved.

## THE BOOK THAT

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



This interview is with **Murungi Igweta**, the pastor of Trinity Baptist Church, Nairobi, Kenya.

**The Book that I am currently reading...** *Worshipping with Calvin* by Terry L. Johnson. I have been blessed by the depth of the book and I hope to be a more vocal proponent of the Regulative Principle of Worship than I have been, in light of the present battle where contemporary worship seems to be winning the day.

**The Book that changed my life...** J. I. Packer's *Knowing God* and A. W. Pink's *Sovereignty of God* blew my mind away as unsuccessfully sought to wrap my finite mind around an infinitely sovereign God.

**The Book that I wish I could have written...** *Disciplines of a Godly Man*, by Kent Hughes. It is a very practical book.

**The Book that helped me in my preaching...** Stuart Olyott's *Preaching, Pure and Simple*, along with hundreds of his sermons that I have listened to over and over again have been of tremendous help.

**The Book that made me say Amen...** *Desiring God* by John Piper. When I read it, I was amazed by the glory of God that I wondered why sometimes I fail to desire and love him with all my heart, soul, might, and mind. May the Spirit of the living God give the strength.

**The Book that I most often give to new church members and young Christians...** *Sovereignty of God* by A. W. Pink or *How Can I be Sure?* by Frank Allred.

**The Book that I give to people thinking of becoming Christians...** *The Cross of Jesus* by Leon Morris, because it explains how the cross can address many contemporary issues.

**The best Book for children...** It depends on the subject but Joel Beeke's *Religious Stories* are very good for telling good Christian stories.



**JUNE 24** – Martin Rizley, missionary to Spain, will be preaching in the morning worship hour and will be reporting on the work he is doing in the Sunday School hour.

**JULY 18** – We will join our friends at Prosperity ARP Church in Taft, TN, for their summer conference with Dr. Robert Cara. The service is at 7 PM.

**AUGUST 5** – Sunday services at Camp Helen.

**OCTOBER 19-21** – Creation Conference with Dr. Jason Lisle.

## Spurgeon's Catechism with Scripture Proofs



**Question 42:** What is required in the first commandment?

**Answer:** The first commandment requires us to know and acknowledge God to be the only true God, and our God, and to worship and glorify Him accordingly.

**Scripture:** 1 Chronicles 28:9; Deuteronomy 26:17; Matthew 4:10

**Commentary:** God says, “*You shall have no other gods before me.*” This commandment makes a direct assault against two false doctrines – atheism and polytheism.

**Atheism** says there is no God. But God exists and he has revealed himself to man. He has revealed himself in creation (Ps. 19:1; Rom. 1:19-20). God has revealed himself in Christ (Heb. 1:1-2). God has reveal himself in Scripture (Ps 19:7-11). A man is a fool who says that there is no God (Ps. 14:1). God has placed within man an innate knowledge of himself.

**Polytheism** says there are many gods. In ancient days, it was popular to worship many gods, the imaginations of men's minds. Everybody did it – the Mesopotamians, the Egyptians, the Canaanites, etc. In NT times, there was even a monument in Athens to the Unknown God, in case they left one out (Acts 17). Monotheism is established by the first commandment.

There is only one God and he will have no rivals. Jesus said, “No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one and love the other; or else he will hold to the one and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and money/wealth” (Matt. 6:24). God tells his people, “I am to be your only God. Have nothing to do with the gods of pagan men.”



## Thomas Brooks Puritan Quotes THE CONSCIENCE

“No flattery can heal a bad conscience, so no slander can hurt a good one.”



# He Gave His Life That Another Might Live

*Geoff Thomas*

We must not forget the self-sacrifice of one man who on March 23, 2018, gave his own life so that one particular person might live. It happened in the old French town of Carcassonne, and many have prayed for the gospel church in that town for decades. Then on Friday 23rd March an Islamic terrorist in Carcassonne entered a supermarket and killed two shoppers and took the forty-year-old check out lady, Julie, the mother of a little girl, hostage as a human shield. A gun was pushed to her head. The police and armed men rushed to the scene. There was a brief stand off and then one of the policemen named Arnaud Beltrane, unarmed, hands down, walked to the supermarket door and spoke to the killer. "Let me take her place," he said.

Arnaud seems to have undergone a conversion to following Christ over a decade before. The murderer swiftly agreed with the exchange and Julie walked out just as Arnaud walked in. Very soon he cut Arnaud's throat and shot him dead. The soldiers quickly broke in and killed the man as he shot at them.

What bravery and self-denial Arnaud showed! And what was the reaction of the check-out lady Julie? These simple words, "He gave his life for me. He had himself killed so that I could live" (The Times, Thursday 29, March 2018). She was saved by a substitute who humbled himself, laying aside his weapons, in order that she might be freed.

This is a vivid picture of the

gospel message of Christianity. God is light and condemns all that is mean and tawdry and cruel. He focuses his wrath on everything that contradicts his beautiful nature as perfect love and holiness. What hope then can there be for any of us? Of course we are not assassins and merciless killers, but the sins of self, lust, deceit, anger, jealousy, and greed — with many others — are influential in our hearts. We are children of the wrath of the living God, the One who speaks of his power and glory night and day in creation all around us, who speaks of right and wrong in our consciences, and who speaks of his Son, the Christ, in the Scriptures, the Word of God.

That Son, Jesus Christ, has come into the world, not only to show us the nature of God and what men and women should be like, but he came to become the Lamb of God, to bear the condemnation of a righteous God, to display the divine anathema against sin. The Lord Jesus set his face to go to the cross of Golgotha and the darkness of the anger of a sin-hating God when God imputed our guilt and shame to his sinless Son, Jesus.

He died in that lonely condemnation in order that we might be forgiven while God remains holy and just, never condoning sin, never indifferent to a man who cuts the throat of a good man, rather hating and condemning it, but not in us repentant sinners, whose trust is in the Lord, but there on that cross in his beloved holy child Jesus God makes him sin for us who confess him as our Savior.

So why the cross? What right did God have to put to death his Son? The Christian knows the

answer. We take the words of a French check-out lady in all their simplicity, truth and profound reality, "He gave his life for me. He had himself killed so that I could live." But we say that of the Lord Jesus, the Son of God. How do we know it? Because of the resurrection and enthronement to the right hand of God of our Lord Christ.

On March 28th the funeral of Colonel Arnaud took place in Paris. His coffin, with a Republican Guard escort, was driven slowly through the streets of the city, boulevards crowded with thousands of silent sympathizing men and women. Former presidents of the Republic were there while the present President Macron knelt before the coffin. Arnaud was awarded a posthumous Legion of Honor. France honored this brave man.

How much greater was the vindication of the Lord Jesus. Men said of him, "Liar! Blasphemer! Voice of the devil!" But God said, "You are my Son. I love you. Your body will not stay in the grave to rot." God raised him from the dead and numbered him the chief of the legions he honors in heaven. Jesus has been given the power and authority of the heaven of heavens, he sits at the right hand of God and builds his church on earth. His head was once crowned with thorns, it is now crowned with glory.

That is why Jesus came, not to spoil our lives, and take all the fun away. He came that we might have life, full rich abundant life. It can only be found in a living relationship with him.