



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>
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"Preaching the free grace of God which brings a change of lifestyles, masters and destinies."

DEAN OLIVE, Pastor

— March 2018 Issue —

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



NURSERY SCHEDULE

March

04 Troy & Jessica Moseley
11 Lori Hewlett & Susan Gay
18 Melanie Myatt & Linda Olive
25 Peter & Jenny Lovassy

April

01 Troy and Jessica Moseley
08 Vicki Johnson and Amber Solan
15 Melanie Myatt and Lori Hewlett
22 Susan Gay and Linda Olive
29 Peter and Jenny Lovassy

CHURCH CLEANING

March - Williams
April - Marsh

SPRING BIBLE CONFERENCE

"The Grace of God in the Gospel"

April 6-8



Geoff Thomas

Former Pastor
of Alfred Place Baptist
Church
Aberystwyth, Wales

Schedule:

- Friday Night – 7:00 PM
- Saturday Morning – 9:00 and 10:15 AM
- Sunday – 9:30 AM and 12:30 PM

Light breakfast at 8:30 AM Saturday

Dinner on the grounds at 11:00 AM Sunday



He is Risen!

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

NORMAL SUNDAY SERVICES

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

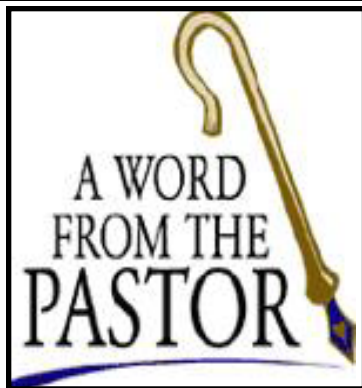
WEDNESDAY EVENING

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*



When God Speaks

Years ago, there was a commercial on television I well remember. It involved a young professional telling someone at a social event that E. F. Hutton was his broker. When he said

this, all the background chatter ceased. Everyone stopped their conversations to listen to him. The narrator of the commercial then said, "When E. F. Hutton speaks, people listen."

S. Lewis Johnson, one-time professor at Dallas Theological Seminary, said, "We measure the worth of words by our opinion and regard for the speaker of them. I know this from my own experience in teaching and writing. When Calvin speaks, I listen. When Owen speaks, I listen. When Hodge speaks, I listen. When Warfield speaks, I carefully listen."

If we listen to others and value what they say, how much more should we listen to God and value what he says? God speaks. He communicates. He makes himself known to us. And when God speaks, every ear should be attentive to what he says. When God talks, all the world should become silent. Every ear should strain to hear all that God says. For what God says is of more value and worth than all other communications combined.

The introduction to the book of Hebrews contrasts most eloquently the revelation of the past, in which God spoke to his old covenant people through the prophets, to the revelation of the last days (the Messianic age), in which he spoke to his new covenant people in his Son. "God spoke to our fathers by the prophets" and "he has spoken to us by his Son" (1:1-2).

The contrast is one that shows how God spoke in times past with how he speaks in these last days. There is an older communication which took place "long ago, at many times and in many ways." And there is a newer communication "in these last days... by his Son."

The author of Hebrews doesn't speak despairingly of the revelation of the old era, but he indicates that the greater revelation is in the Son of God. We do not despise or devalue the Old Testament Scriptures, for they are God's revelation, but they point to God's greater revelation in his Son.

The apex of revelation is the Christ, the Son of God. There is no greater revelation than him. He is God's climatic revelation to man. The Son of God is the Word of God (Jn 1:1); he is the Word of God incarnate (Jn

1:14). Nothing else can be added to this revelation. Nothing more is needed. His coming has fulfilled the prophetic word. He has appeared one time at the end of the ages (Heb 9:26). He has made one sacrifice for sin that needs not to be repeated.

Jesus is God's final Word. God has spoken in his Son. What else is there to say? The significance of what he has said and has accomplished means that we need no other word from God.

One of the greatest errors of the modern Charismatic movement is the failure to believe that Jesus is God's final Word. Charismatics are looking for further revelation. They look beyond the NT revelation to dreams, prophecies, and visions. They believe God is still speaking outside the Scriptural revelation. Clear biblical teaching is sometimes dismissed because of so-called "new revelations." But we should not be looking for God to speak in new and special ways. He has spoken clearly and finally in his Son.

Tom Schreiner says, "Believers await the return of the Son (9:28), but they don't expect a further word from God." God has spoken his "last and best word. No further word is to be expected, for the last word focuses on the life, death, and resurrection of the Son."

Jesus is God's final Word to man. Let us therefore hear him! When Jesus was engulfed in radiant glory on the Mount of Transfiguration, God the Father said to the three disciples that were on the mount with Jesus, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear him" (Mt 17:5).

Christ has come. The saving promises of God are fulfilled in him. He is coming again, but all things have been accomplished for the saving of his people. He has won the battle and the victory cry has been sounded. The revelation of God in the Son is full and definitive. Stuart Olyott says:

"This revelation is not fragmentary, but complete. It is not temporary, but permanent. It is not preparatory, but final... God's revelation in the Lord Jesus Christ is superior in character, because it is complete. It is superior in time, because no revelation will follow it. It is superior in destination, because it is to us. It is superior in agent because, unlike the Old Testament, which came through feeble human prophets, it has come through God's Son."

To whom are we going to listen? That is the question! Let us listen to the Son. Revelation has its consummation in him. The progress of revelation has its ultimate peak in the person of Jesus Christ, the One who reveals God in both deeds and words.

THE BOOK THAT

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



This interview is with **Derek Thomas**, the minister of First Presbyterian Church, Columbia, South Carolina.

The Book that changed my life... That's easy. December 1971, a friend put into my hands a copy of John Stott's *Basic Christianity*. I was a pagan, totally convinced that science had all the answers to life and clueless as to the basics of Christianity. Within three days of reading this book, I became a Christian. I have never doubted the gospel, or its power to save, since that time.

The Book that helped me in my preaching... Dr. Lloyd-Jones' *Preaching and Preachers*. It's not a 'how to' book, but it spelled out something of the romance and dignity of preaching.

The Book that I think is most underrated... Calvin's *Institutes*. For all the talk about it, we probably underrate its comprehensive importance and what influence it had had on theology for the last five hundred years.

The Book that made me say Amen... The most recent one would be Sinclair Ferguson's, *The Whole Christ*. Dr. Ferguson is, well, simply the best theologian on the planet on the issue of law and grace. There's no more to be said.

The Book that I most often give to new church members and young Christians... J.I. Packer's *Knowing God*.

The Book that I wish I were able to write and would like someone to write... A book that explains how effortful compliance to all that God demands of Christians is not legalistic. Kevin de Young's, *A Hole in Our Holiness*, goes some way upwards a solution but we need more.

The best Book for children... Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress* (and for adults too).

Sun Rise Service

Easter Sunrise services will be held at Prosperity ARP Church, Yukon, TN, at 6:15 AM.



MARCH 11 – Time Change Sunday and a change of time for Sunday evening service. Set your clocks forward and hour on Saturday evening. And remember, Sunday evening worship time moves from 6 PM to 5 PM.

APRIL 1 – Easter Sunday services will be at 9:30 AM and 5:00 PM and no Sunday School or first Sunday meal. The evening service at 5:00 PM will be a "hymn sing." We will be singing hymns from our new hymnal, Hymns of Grace, and pastor will bring a brief message on the importance of singing for Christians.

APRIL 6-8 – Spring Bible Conference with Geoff Thomas of Aberystwyth, Wales. We will be treating the Sunday services like a first-Sunday. There will be no Sunday School and we will have a meal between the services.

Spurgeon's Catechism with Scripture Proofs



Question 41: What is the sum of the Ten Commandments?

Answer: The sum of the Ten Commandments is, to love the Lord our God with all our heart, with all our soul, with all our strength, and with all our mind; and our neighbor as ourselves.

Scriptural Proof: Matthew 22:37-40; Mark 12:28-33

Commentary: Jesus summarized the Law in two statements – love to God and love to man. His answer was derived from Deuteronomy 6:5-6 and Leviticus 19:18.

Total commitment of love to the one and only God is the sum of the first and greatest commandment. He who loves God with all his being (heart, soul, mind, strength, i.e. emotions, spirit, intelligence and volition) will seek to obey all that God commands. Every part of us is to be devoted to loving God.

The second greatest commandment is love for our neighbor. In the parable of the Good Samaritan (Lk 10:25-29), Jesus taught that our neighbor was anyone in need that we can help. A neighbor includes people of all races, culture, and religion that may be regarded as loathsome and despicable.

For Jesus, love fulfills the law. There is no greater commandment than to love God and love our neighbor. Reformed theologians point to our Lord's summary of the Law as a reflection of the Ten Commandments. The first part of Jesus' answer summarizes the first four commandments, and the second part of Jesus' answer summarizes the final six (Ex 20:2-17).



Thomas Brooks Puritan Quotes A HOLY PLACE

"To desire heaven, as it is a place of purity, a place of grace, a place of holiness, a place of enjoying God, etc., is above the reach of an unholy heart. The company of heaven are all holy, the employments of heaven are all holy, the enjoyments of heaven are all holy – therefore heaven would be a most undesirable thing to unholy hearts."

What I Have Learned from Charles Spurgeon

Alistair Begg

On Sunday morning, August 5, 1855, 21-year-old Charles Haddon Spurgeon stepped behind the pulpit of New Park Street Chapel, London, to challenge his congregation to follow the example of one of the saints who had inspired his ministry, the apostle Paul. “As a preacher of the word,” Spurgeon said of Paul, “he stands out pre-eminently as the prince of preachers and a preacher to kings.”

Young Spurgeon’s description of Paul was prophetic of his own future ministry. Within a few short years of that Sabbath morning, Spurgeon also earned the moniker ‘the prince of preachers’ as he proclaimed God’s word to congregants from every stratum of society...

I first heard the name “Spurgeon” as a young boy in Scotland. However, when I became a man, and began to read his sermons and writings, he endeared himself to me even more. Today, as a minister, I find in his work and life a wonderful example of what it means to be a preacher of the gospel. Here are three lessons I have learned from the prince of preachers.

1) Preach the Word. As Spurgeon stood before the congregation of New Park Street Chapel that same August Sunday to discuss what it means to preach the word, he pointed his listeners to the veracity and sufficiency of the Scriptures. “Am I to take God’s Bible and sever it and say, ‘This is husk and this is wheat?’” Spurgeon said, “Am I to cast away any one truth and say, ‘I dare not preach it?’ No — God forbid!”

Throughout his ministry, Charles Spurgeon maintained an unwavering commitment to

the word of God... His preaching was forever crystal clear and Jesus-centered — qualities that have chased me down through the corridors of time to make me an unabashed fan of Spurgeon.

2) Cultivate the Heart of a Shepherd. Following the example of his Good Shepherd, Spurgeon was filled with compassion for sinners and longed to see them safely returned to the fold of God. Spurgeon firmly believed God loved saving the lost. It was a conviction that fueled his ministry. His tremendous longing to see men and women respond to the offer of the gospel was only matched by his intolerance for those who tainted the gospel of grace with the fallacy of works. “I find a great many preachers are preaching that kind of doctrine,” Spurgeon said. “They tell a poor convicted sinner, ‘You must go home and pray and read the Scriptures; you must attend the ministry.’ Works, works, works — instead of, ‘By grace are you saved through faith’” (see Eph 2:8).

Spurgeon was also committed to tenderly feed his flock. Although he had very little formal education, there was something of genius about him. He read the primary sources of theological works, then took those incredibly complex concepts and distilled them down in a way that ensured the youngest person and the least educated person in the room could understand them. His clear and simple sermons are a shining example for all modern preachers to emulate.

3) Seek Godliness over Giftedness. Spurgeon was an absolute sensation in his time, preaching to over ten million people. During each service, stenographers recorded his message. At the end of evening, the sermon was sent to print to be sold in shops and rail stations the next morning. Yet, for all his gifts and influence, Spurgeon was a humble man.

There was nothing superficial or showy about him. He approached the Bible on his knees. He seemed to have a deep awareness that he had been called by the grace of God, and that it was that same grace which empowered and equipped him for the privilege of ministry...

Spurgeon was convinced that the dangerous sin of pride could find him anywhere, even in the pulpit. Perhaps today’s ministers are even more vulnerable to hubris than in Spurgeon’s day. With the advent of social media in which “likes” and “followers” are the baseline for success, it is all too easy for a pastor to lose sight of the life of sacrifice to which he has been called...

God has called us to be servants, not celebrities. It is important for us to be in the hospital visiting the sick, and at the bedsides of those facing death. When we allow “the weed of pride” to take root in our ministries, we soil the reputation of the gospel by embracing a double standard that allows us to proclaim certain truths without living in the light of the very messages we proclaim. Let’s not kid ourselves. It is not what people say about us or what we say about ourselves that matters, but what God says about us.

Jesus is the chief Shepherd: we are the under shepherds. It was this pattern of ministry that Spurgeon exemplified for me. May I, along with all of God’s servants who endeavor to preach the gospel, hold firmly to the pattern set before us, fulfilling our call to ministry with holy reverence. May we all say with the apostle Paul and with Spurgeon, “Woe unto us if we preach not the gospel!”