



M Grace Messenger

GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH

122 Walnut Street
Madison, AL 35758
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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

— November 2018 Issue —

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



NURSERY SCHEDULE

November 2018

- 04 Troy and Jessica Moseley
- 11 Amber Solan and Jan Fursdon
- 18 Linda Olive and Susan Gay
- 25 Melanie Myatt and Vicki Johnson

December 2018

- 02 Troy and Jessica Moseley
- 09 Peter and Jenny Lovassy
- 16 Lori Hewlett and Nellie McFadden
- 23 Amber Solan and Vicki Johnson
- 30 Susan Gay and Linda Olive

CHURCH CLEANING

- November** - Moseleys
- December** - Olives

Thankful Bible Verses

Being thankful isn't just for the Thanksgiving holiday. We should be thankful at all times and for all things. Scripture tells us to "give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you" (1 Thessalonians 5:18). When you find yourself overwhelmed with burdens and worried about tomorrow, give praise and thanks to God for his mercy and grace.

Read through these Bible verses to reflect some things for which we should be thankful. Find some quiet time to pray and thank God, read Scripture out-loud, and find a renewed heart that is filled with peace and joy.

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|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Chronicles 16:34 | Colossians 3:17 |
| Psalm 20:4 | James 1:17 |
| Psalm 28:7 | John 14:1 |
| Psalm 34:1 | Philippians 4:6 |
| Psalm 95:2-3 | Romans 5:1 |
| Psalm 100:4 | Hebrews 12:28-29 |
| Psalm 106:1 | 1 Timothy 4:4-5 |
| Psalm 107:1 | 2 Corinthians 9:11-12 |



SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

NORMAL SUNDAY SERVICES

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

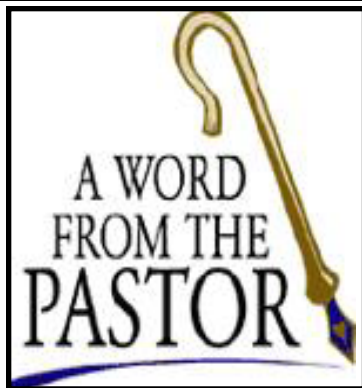
WEDNESDAY EVENING

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------|
| Bible Study and Prayer Meeting | 7:00 PM |
|--------------------------------|---------|

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*



Presenting Everyone Mature in Christ

One of the goals of Christian ministry, according to Paul in Colossians 1:28, is to “present everyone mature in Christ.” It is our business to preach Christ to all and then bring to maturity those who repent and believe.

It will help us to understand what Paul is saying here if we get a mental picture in our mind of a priest in the Old Testament presenting a sacrifice to the Lord. On the Day of Atonement, Aaron was instructed to “present” an animal for a sin offering (Lev 16:11).

That is the picture here. Paul sees himself, and others, presenting to the Lord those who have been converted as “mature in Christ.” This is the goal of ministry. We want to present everyone perfect (KJV, NIV) or complete (NAS) in Christ. The ESV translates this Greek word (*teleios*) mature.

The goal is maturity, not perfection in the sense of sinless perfection. We are perfect in Christ; that is our standing. But we are not perfect in practice. And that is what sanctification and spiritual growth is about. The goal is maturity and to be mature is to be like Christ.

God sometimes bring trials into our lives in order to fashion us into the image of Christ. James wrote in his letter, “And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect [*teleioi*] and complete, lacking in nothing” (1:4). In context, James is saying that when a child of God endures trials with joy, it leads to maturity. He grows and develops into a strong, steadfast Christian.

Thus the goal of Christian ministry is for converts to fully mature. Converts who get grounded in the Word of God are no longer babes in Christ but mature saints. That is how Paul wanted to present everyone whom he had evangelized and disciplined in the Lord. He envisions Christ returning and our being presented to him mature and complete. According to v. 22 in this chapter, Christ himself will present us to the Father “holy and blameless and above reproach.” And this was Paul’s goal and it should be ours. No Christian should remain a spiritual baby but should “mature in Christ.”

Too many Christians are like those Paul spoke of in Corinth. “But I, brothers, could not address you as spiritual people, but as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you

were not ready for it. And even now you are not yet ready” (1 Cor 3:1-2).

Too many Christians are like those the writer of Hebrews spoke of. “About this we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing. For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food, for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child. But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil” (Heb 5:11-14).

The Hebrews should have been able to teach others but were not mature enough to do so. “Their knowledge of the faith was minimal when it ought to have been advanced” (Leon Morris). This is true of many people in churches today. They are not growing and developing because they have not continued to learn. Kent Hughes says, “The great scandal of today’s church is *Christians without Christian minds*—those who ought to be teachers, but need someone to teach them the elementary truths of God’s Word all over again.”

The Hebrews were like infants. They were like baby-bottle Christians when they should be solid food-eating Christians. “You need milk, not solid food, for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child” (13). God means for us to get off milk and eat solid food. Drinking milk is where we start but there is more food to ingest that will bring growth and development.

Paul used the language of complete sanctification in 1 Thess 5:23. “Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.” This is a prospect for everyone. Maturity is possible in Christ. By virtue of our union with Christ, we are able to grow in grace and knowledge of him who would have us mature in the faith.

Discipleship is a missing ingredient in many churches. Let it not be in our church. Conversion of sinners is the primary goal but there is often little to no follow-up. John MacArthur says, “Our aim is not merely to win people to Christ, but to bring them to spiritual maturity.” Let’s never be satisfied just to see converts; let’s labor to help them grow in grace and in the knowledge of the Lord.

THE BOOK THAT

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



This interview is with **Steve Martin**, the dean of students of the Reformed Baptist Seminary in Texas.

The Book that I am currently reading... I am reading David Wells, *The Courage to be Protestant* (2nd edition).

The Book that changed my life... Martyn Lloyd-Jones' *Authority, and The Plight of Man and the Power of God* and Iain Murray's biography of Dr. Lloyd-Jones, *The Fight of Faith* (Vol 1 of the biography).

The Book that helped me in my preaching... Martyn Lloyd Jones, *Preachers and Preaching*. MLJ's high view of preaching became mine, pitiful though my preaching may be.

The Book that made me say Amen... ... Jerry Bridges, *The Pursuit of Holiness...* Jerry Bridges filled in the blanks (regarding sanctification) and introduced me to some of the greats of Reformed Christendom.

The Book that made me weep... Dale Ralph Davis, *The Stump Kingdom* (Isaiah 6-12).

The Book that I most often give to new church members and young Christians... *Believers Need the Gospel* and *Christian Handbook*, by Peter Jeffery. Also *The Gospel for Real Life* and *Trusting God*, by Jerry Bridges.

The best Book that I give to people thinking of becoming Christians... Peter Jeffery, *From Religion to Christ*, and John Blanchard's *Right With God*.

The best Book for children... Marian Schoolland, *Leading Little Ones to God*.



NOVEMBER 11 – We have a guest preacher for the 5 PM evening service, Adam Cutshaw, pastor of Encounter Church, Manchester, TN.

DECEMBER 16 – We will be hosting our annual Christmas meal and worship service with our friends from Providence Presbyterian Church this year. The meal will be at 5 PM followed by a worship service. Pastor Thole will be preaching.

MARCH 15-16, APRIL 12-13, MAY 10-11 – Grace Community Church, Huntsville, AL, will once again be hosting an extended conference for the Association of Certified Biblical Counselors. Be sure to register early if you wish to attend.

Spurgeon's Catechism with Scripture Proofs



Question 47: Which is the third commandment? (Exodus 20:4-6)?

Answer: The third commandment is, "You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain" (Exodus 20:7).

Commentary: The third commandment concerns the sanctity of God's name. It speaks of the use of the tongue in addressing God. It tells us that we are to reverence God and that we are never to speak of him in a profane way.

The third commandment is closely connected with the first two. There is no god besides the LORD/Yahweh. His essence cannot be captured by carved images. He thus makes known the glory of his nature in his name, and this is not to be abused.

By God's name is meant his Person. God's name is his reputation and character. Person and name are inseparable. God is holy and he has the name Holy. "For thus says the High and Lofty One who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy" (Isa. 57:13). God is jealous and he has the name that sets forth this attribute. "For you shall worship no other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God" (Exo. 34:14).

The names by which we know God are not the inventions of man. He chose and revealed his names to men (God/Elohim, LORD/Yahweh, Most High God, Almighty, etc.). Therefore, the name(s) of God show us the way in which he wishes to be recognized. The names God is known by are not mere words. A divine name is more than just identification – it is descriptive of God's character.

LORD/Yahweh is his primary name in the Old Testament. This is the name by which he revealed himself to Israel. It signifies that he is the covenant keeping God. It is his name par excellence (see Ex 3:13-14). It is this name that the third commandment has particular reference to.



Thomas Brooks Puritan Quotes

SET YOUR WATCH

"Christ is the sun, and all the watches of our lives should be set by the dial of his motion."

Six Arguments in Favor of Physical Bibles

Andrew Roycroft

I'm neither a diehard physical book fan nor a committed Kindle devotee. I read a hybrid of traditionally published texts and ebooks, depending on their content, price, their purpose, and the timescale that I have to read them. Often I will have a physical copy of a book and its ebook counterpart in the interests of tangibility and portability respectively. I say all of this to clear the ground for the plea outlined in my title above, and through the rest of this article. Most of what is shared here is subjective and is not intended to bind the consciences of others, but simply to invite good thinking.

I want to contend that of all the books we need to be using a physical copy of, the Bible stands in first place. Here are six arguments in favor of a physical Bible:

1. It embodies the power of good example. Research has proven that when it comes to reading, the example of parents and adults is unspeakably formative in the life of a child. This is allegedly multiplied when children (especially boys) see that their Dad has an interest in books. There can be little doubt that this carries over into the example that parents can set their children in terms of reading their Bible. If our main way of encountering Scripture is via an app on our tablet or via our Kindle, then we may be robbing our children, or the children of family members and friends, of understanding the place that the Bible has in our lives.
2. It advertises the main reason

why we are entering a church building. In some ways this is simply an echo of the point above, but with an important inflection. Many people bring their devices to church or simply use their smartphone to read the Scriptures. This has many advantages, but one major drawback is that outsiders observing us enter a church building are missing out on one very clear visual clue as to what we are doing inside the building. If people see a large number of individuals carry their Bible into a church building they will unconsciously absorb something central about what we are doing – we are meeting to read, study and apply the Scriptures together.

3. It highlights the preacher's source of authority. As a Pastor I am absolutely against any Luddite views on where technology fits in regard to ministry... I use the iPad in the pulpit to preach from, but I always have a Bible with me to read from and reference. For me, this is demonstrating to those who listen that this Book is central and authoritative to the task of preaching and is separate from whatever notes I may be using.
4. It encourages a working geography of where Biblical books and passages are. One of the dangers of Bible apps is that they homogenize what every passage of Scripture looks like and where it appears on the screen. The associative learning of visually capturing how a chapter or paragraph looks on the printed page is lost in a sea of uniformly presented pages...
5. It leaves a legacy of interaction with God's Word. Some of the most valuable books I have are the Bibles of loved ones that have

been passed on to me. Something about their wear and tear, their affecting little marginal notes, their interleaved notepaper where a sermon or a section of Scripture has captured their attention, gives them the feeling of gold dust. These Bibles are not mere heirlooms but a linkage back to a legacy of grace. If we don't enjoy such a legacy we can certainly leave one for those who follow us by investing in a Bible and sticking with it, showing to later generations that we lived with and by this living Word of God.

6. It liberates us from alerts and allows us to listen. I love reading my physical Bible away from my e-reader and iPad because it gives me headspace from the mounting and incessant demands that technology makes of me day and daily. I can tremblingly leave my phone and the tweets and twitches of the online world in another room, and just listen to God. I also am not tempted to 'flick' to something else when my attention wanes. I am naturally distracted enough without having that mental tic automated.

I could easily (and very well may!) write an article in appreciation of Bible apps, but the foregoing is a simple plea not to ditch the physical in favor of the virtual, but to see the very real benefit of keeping traditionally published Bibles as part of our libraries, our lives, and our congregational worship of God.

(edited; for complete article see <https://banneroftruth.org/us/resources/articles/2018/six-arguments-in-favour-of-physical-bibles/>)