



M Grace Messenger

GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH

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GBC HOMEPAGES

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

DEAN OLIVE, Pastor

— February 2019 Issue —

"He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it."

1 Thessalonians 5:24



NURSERY SCHEDULE

February

- 03 Troy and Jessica Moseley
- 10 Lori Hewlett and Linda Olive
- 17 Vicki Johnson and Susan Gay
- 24 Janet Marsh and Melanie Myatt

March

- 03 Troy and Jessica Moseley
- 10 Peter and Jenny Lovassy
- 17 Linda Olive and Susan Gay
- 24 Vicki Johnson and Melanie Myatt
- 31 Amber Solan and Angie Williams

CHURCH CLEANING

- February - Williams
- March - Campbell
- April - Marsh / S. Page

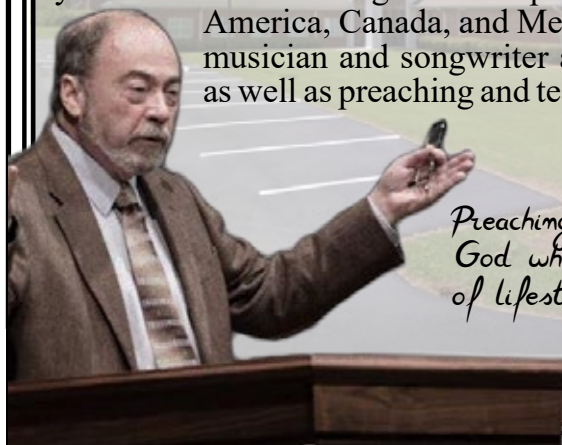
SPRING BIBLE CONFERENCE

with Mark Webb

March 8-10

- Friday – 7 PM
- Saturday – 9:30 and 10:45 AM
- Sunday – 9:30 and 11:00 AM and 5:00 PM

Mark recently retired as pastor of Grace Bible Church in Olive Branch, Mississippi, where he ministered for 30 years. He is now doing itinerant preaching throughout America, Canada, and Mexico. Mark is also a musician and songwriter and will be singing as well as preaching and teaching God's Word.



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



For 20+ years Mark Webb has worked with the Mexican Indian Training Center in Cordoba, Mexico. For more information on this mission please see:

<http://www.mitcenter.org/>



SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

NORMAL SUNDAY SERVICES

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

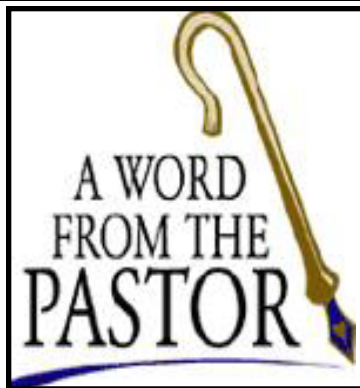
WEDNESDAY EVENING

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*



A Promise of Victory and a Prayer of Benediction

At the end of his letter to the Romans, Paul gave a word of prophecy and a prayer. It is found in 16:20. "The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you." This verse contains a promise of victory and a prayer of benediction.

The promise is, "The God of Peace will soon crush Satan under your feet." M. Henry calls this "a very sweet promise." Satan's evil kingdom has already suffered defeat when Christ died on the cross, but the final realization of the Messianic victory over the chief adversary is a future event. His ultimate defeat is certain.

What a blessed promise of victory this is. Though the followers of Christ are presently engaged in a tremendous spiritual conflict, ultimate victory over Satan and his servants is assured. Though men under the influence of the devil will deceive and be deceived, there will be an end to their destructive ways.

Ultimate victory is assured because Christ has already bound the strong man. In the context of casting out demons, Jesus said, "... how can one enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man? And then he will plunder his house?" (Mt 12:29). The idea of binding is a symbolic way of describing the limiting of his power and activity until the final day when he shall be cast into the abyss to deceive the nations no longer.

Satan is a defeated foe. Christ Jesus engaged in a Holy War against the enemy of our souls and has defeated him, though he is still active in the present age. While the ultimate defeat of Satan is yet to come, the death blow has already been rendered. That death blow was delivered by our Lord's death on the cross (Col 2:13-15). Jesus triumphed over Satan and disarmed him by dying. The victory is won because of Christ's death on the cross!

Ironically, it is stated that "the God of peace" will "crush Satan." We don't generally associate crushing with peace, but God made the peace by destroying the enmity caused by Satan. This promise of victory undergirds our fight of faith. There are times when it seems that Satan has prevailed but complete victory over him is assured. Until then we are to put on the whole armor of God so we can stand against the

schemes of the devil (Eph 6:10-20).

The prayer is, "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you." The prayer is a benediction similar to many with which Paul concludes his letters. Paul actually begins and ends his epistle to the Romans with the blessing of grace. Grace acts as bookends to this letter. Romans begins with grace, for Paul prayed that grace and peace from God the Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ would be theirs (1:7). And now he ends with the mention of grace.

It is most appropriate that Paul should mention grace both at the beginning and at the end of Romans since it is about salvation by grace through faith in Christ, apart from works of law (3:21-31).

Paul wrote five benedictions or doxologies in the last two chapters of Romans, all of which are warm and tender – 15:5-6, 13; 16:20, 16:25-26, 27. Various attributes of the triune God highlight them. They are infused with the character of God. God's patience, comfort, hope, peace, grace, and power are set forth in them.

In the one before us, the grace of the Lord Jesus is magnified. God's people are always in need of grace. We needed grace to save us; we need grace to sustain us; and we need grace to secure us. There are many different categories of divine grace – there is saving grace, refreshing grace, pardoning grace, sustaining grace, and sanctifying grace

We desperately need the grace of Christ to be with us! So we love to sing about the grace God has shown to us in his Son. I suppose John Newton's hymn, *Amazing Grace*, is the one we love the most. *Amazing grace—how sweet the sound/That saved a wretch like me/I once was lost but now am found/Was blind, but now I see.*

If the grace of that comes to us through Christ is with us, who can prevail against us? The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ is sufficient. It is by his grace that we now live and it is by that same grace that we shall live throughout eternity.

May God give us a continuing supply of grace that we might do the will of God until Christ comes again and Satan is crushed beneath our feet. What a wonderful promise of victory and a prayer of benediction. "The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you."

THE BOOK THAT

A series of questions we are putting to our church leaders. This interview is with our pastor, **Dean Olive**.



The Book that I am currently reading... *God Against the Revolution: The Loyalist Clergy's Case Against the American Revolution*, by Gregg L. Frazer. The author is a professor of history and politics at The Masters University. The book helps me in a personal struggle I have had in discerning whether Christians should have supported the American Revolution.

The Book that changed my life... Without question, the book that has influenced me the most is J. I. Packer's *Knowing God*. It helped me in my seminary days to see what was most important. I realized how little knowledge I had about God.

The Book that I wish I could have written... I wish I could write like J. C. Ryle and Jerry Bridges. I would have to answer here with Bridges's book, *Trusting God: Even When Life Hurts*. I have given this book to many people. It has helped many people in dealing with the struggles of life.

The Book that I think is the most underrated... I am going to say *Pilgrim's Progress*, by John Bunyan. Modern day Christians do not value this book as our forefathers did, so few have read it today (Spurgeon read it over 100 times). I recommend reading the edition edited by C. J. Lovik

The Book that made me say Amen as I read... One book I remember in particular is *The Thought of God*, by Maurice Roberts. All of his books get a rise of Amen out of me but this one in particular.

The last book that made me weep... This may seem strange, but I have to say, *Susie: The Life and Legacy of Susannah Spurgeon*, by Ray Rhodes, Jr. It made me laugh, rejoice, and shout at times, but there were sections that made me weep. Mrs. Spurgeon suffered much but endured with patience and sweetness.

The Book that I am ashamed not to have read... *Calvin's Institutes*. I have read sections but not the entire work. Maybe one of these days...

The best book for Children... There are many good books for children these days by authors like R. C. Sproul, Alison Brown, Rebecca VanDoodenaar, and Sinclair Ferguson. My grandchildren have profited from them.



FEBRUARY 24 - Grace Baptist will get an update from the Gideons. An offering for that organization will be received.

MARCH 8-10 - Mark Webb, recently retired from pastoral ministry at Grace Bible Church, Olive Branch, MS, will be preaching our Spring Bible Conference.

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 50: What is required in the fourth commandment?

Answer: The fourth commandment requires the keeping holy to God such set times as He has appointed in His Word, expressly one whole day in seven, to be a holy Sabbath to Himself.

Scripture: Deuteronomy 5:12; Acts 20:7; Hebrews 4:1-11; Revelation 1:10.

Commentary: The weekly Sabbath commandment is mostly ceremonial law that no longer applies in the new covenant. Worship is no longer on the seventh day of the week, but on the first day, sometimes referred to as the Lord's Day (Rev 1:10). The moral part about the fourth commandment is that God has a right to our time.

Christ fulfilled the Sabbath (Col 2:16-17). The Sabbath now pictures the rest we have in Christ (Heb 4:1-11). There are two rests for God's people, both of which are prefigured in the Sabbath. There is the rest of salvation, which comes by believing in him. "For we who have believed do enter that rest" (Heb 4:3). This is the rest of redemption. It also teaches that there is an eternal rest for the people of God. "There remains therefore a rest for the people of God" (Heb 4:9). Scholars refer to this as the eschatological rest.

The day that Jesus rose from the grave, the first day of the week, became the day when believer's assembled for worship. On this day we celebrate the finished work of Christ, realized in his resurrection. The Lord's Day is a "memorial of redemption completed by the resurrection of our Lord from the dead" (John Murray)



John Bunyan Puritan Quotes

DANGEROUS CONTENTMENT

The reason why the Christians in this day are at such a loss as to some things is that they are contented with what comes from man's mouth, without searching and kneeling before God to know of Him the truth of things.

Triumph Out of Trouble

Kevin Tucker

This is the first of three articles dealing with the subject of trials and suffering God allows into the lives of His children. The main text is James 1:2-12. James begins this portion of his letter by telling his readers to ‘*Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds.*’ He goes on to explain the means of grace God gives to believers who faithfully persevere through their times of tribulation. Then James concludes by telling us of the reward the Lord has promised to those who remain steadfast under trial.

Everyone in this world experiences some measure of trouble. Our troubles have their root in the Fall. They are the natural result of sinful human nature and a corrupted world. Job said, ‘*Man who is born of a woman is few of days and full of trouble.*’ God’s own children are not exempt from trouble in this fallen world. Jesus assured His disciples that ‘*In the world you will have tribulation.*’ (John 16:33)

Before going to our text, we should pause to understand why a loving God allows this suffering into our lives. John MacArthur notes that the Bible gives at least eight purposes for our trials.

1. One purpose brings trials into our lives is to test the strength of our faith. We read of King Hezekiah that ‘*...God left him to himself, in order to test him and to know all that was in his heart.*’ (2 Chronicles 32:31) God, in His omniscience, already knew what was in Hezekiah’s heart, but He wanted the king to see for himself.
2. Trials are given to humble us by reminding us not to let our trust in the Lord turn into presumption and pride. The greater our blessings, the more we are pridefully prone to see them as our own accomplishments rather than the Lord’s provision. After having

written about the magnificent visions the Lord gave him, Paul said, ‘*So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited.*’ (2 Corinthians 12:7)

3. Sometimes God allows us to suffer trials in order to wean us from reliance on worldly things. Regardless of our economic status, we often rely on what we have rather than on the Lord to provide. We see this in the story of Jesus feeding the 5000, ‘*Therefore Jesus, lifting up His eyes and seeing that a large crowd was coming to Him, said to Philip, “Where are we to buy bread, so that these may eat?” This He was saying to test him, for He Himself knew what He was intending to do.*’ (John 6:5-6) Philip failed the test, replying, ‘*“Two hundred denarii worth of bread would not be enough for each of them to get a little.”*’ (John 6:7) Instead of trusting the Lord to provide, Philip could see no further than the disciples’ meager material resources.
4. God also uses trials to call us to a heavenly hope. The harder our trials are the more we look forward to being with the Lord. In his letter to the church at Rome, Paul testified, ‘*For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us... we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body.*’ (Romans 8:18, 23)
5. Another of God’s purposes for our trials is to reveal to us what we really love. The Lord told his people, ‘*Now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require from you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways and love Him, and to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.*’ (Deuteronomy 10:12) In that vein,

Abraham’s willingness to sacrifice Isaac not only proved his faith, but also his supreme love for the Lord.

6. God also gives us trials to teach us to value His blessings. Reason tells us to value the things of the world. But through trials, God increases our faith and teaches us to value the His abundant spiritual blessings—His salvation, His Word, and His daily provision. All the heroes of the faith in Hebrews 11 rejected the world for the goodness of God’s gifts. So must we by ‘*fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*’ (Hebrews 12:2)
7. The Lord uses trials to strengthen us for greater usefulness. After praying to have the thorn in his flesh removed, Paul wrote, ‘*And He has said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.” Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ’s sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.*’ (2 Corinthians 12:9-10)
8. The Lord uses our trials to enable us to better help others in their trials. On the night He was arrested, Jesus, speaking to Peter, foretold Peter’s denial. ‘*“Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has demanded permission to sift you like wheat; but I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.”*’ (Luke 22:31-32) Peter’s trial was given to him not only to strengthen him for greater usefulness, but also to prepare him to strengthen others.