



# M 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 2019 Issue —

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

1 Thessalonians 5:24



### NURSERY SCHEDULE

#### June

- 02 Troy and Jessica Moseley
- 09 Linda Olive and Janet Marsh
- 16 Jenny and Peter Lovassey
- 23 Lori Hewlett and Melanie Myatt
- 30 Angie Williams and Susan Gay

#### July

- 07 Troy and Jessica Moseley
- 14 Amber Solon and Angie Williams
- 21 Susan Gay and Janet Marsh
- 28 Melanie Myatt and Vicki Johnson

### CHURCH CLEANING

- June - Lovassy
- July - Volunteer needed

### LAWN CARE

- June - Dean & Linda Olive
- July - Troy "Mower" Moseley

### Psalm 103:13

**As a father shows  
compassion to his  
children, so the LORD  
shows compassion to  
those who fear him.  
(ESV)**

## Fatherhood

Fatherhood in America is in trouble. More and more children are now being brought up in homes where the father is absent. Many people today even wonder if fathers are really necessary.

But fathers are necessary. Christian fathers should look to God is the archetypal Father. Paul prefaced his prayer for the Ephesian believers by saying, "For this reason, I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name" (Eph. 3:14-15).

God is the Father of all fatherhood. The very idea of fatherhood is found in the divine nature. Every human father is an imperfect reflection of our perfect heavenly Father. If we want to know what it means to be a good father, it is essential that we look at "our Father who is in heaven."

May God give us men in our day who step forward and respond to their high calling as fathers.

### SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

#### NORMAL SUNDAY SERVICES

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

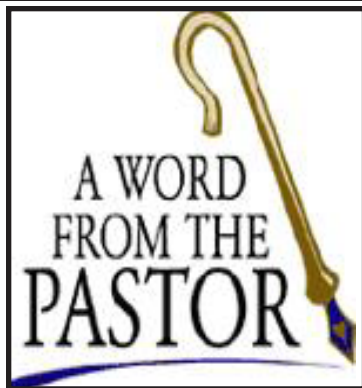
#### WEDNESDAY EVENING

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*



## God is My Salvation

Isaiah 12:2 contains a description of people who have been saved by God. Sandwiched in between the opening and concluding truth that God is our salvation, there are four characteristics of the saved enumerated. “Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid; for the LORD GOD is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation.”

The first description is trust. Isaiah writes, “I will trust.” God saves us by bringing us to trust in him and all who have been saved continue to trust him. If the Lord has undertaken to save us from eternal wrath and destruction, then he will surely preserve us until we enter his presence. He will keep us safe until the day he calls us home. But he would have us live in this world by faith.

Life in Christ is a life of faith and trust. We must say as Isaiah did, “I will trust.” We must heed the decree of the wise man in Proverbs, “Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct your paths” (3:5-6).

The second description naturally follows – not being afraid. Isaiah writes, “I will trust and will not be afraid.” The one who does not know the Lord has every reason to fear, but for the one who knows God, there is nothing to fear.

The 32nd president of the United States, Franklin D. Roosevelt, said in his inaugural address, “The only thing we have to fear is fear itself.” That famous phrase can well be written over Isaiah 12:2. He who trusts in the Lord need not be afraid. Those who trust in the Lord should rid themselves of fear. We should fear God in the sense of reverence and respect but we don’t need to fear God in the sense of judgment and condemnation. He is for us. He will keep us. He loves us with an everlasting love.

The person without God as his salvation is without hope. Eternal misery awaits him, not eternal bliss. He has everything to fear because God isn’t his salvation. For that reason we plead with sinners to repent and believe, to turn from their sins to Christ who is ready to save. But if you are a Christian, then don’t be afraid. You don’t need to be afraid. Nothing can snatch us out of God’s hand. Nothing can separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus. There need be no fear whatsoever.

The third description is strength. Isaiah writes, “The Lord God is my strength.” As God is our salvation, so he also is our strength. What is the source of our strength? What do we lean on with confidence? Is it drink? Is it drugs? Is it money? Is it our own will-power? Is it empty, man-made religion? No, the Christian finds his or her strength in the Lord! All other sources of strength are temporal and frail.

We boast not, therefore, in our attainments but in God! We revel in what God has done, in what he is doing, and in what he will do! We have no strength in ourselves. We say with the Psalmist, “O Lord, my strength and my redeemer” (Ps 19:14). And we joyfully sing, *A mighty fortress is our God/a bulwark never failing/our helper he amid the flood/of mortal ills prevailing.*

The fourth and last description is song. “The LORD GOD is my strength and my song.” The people of God respond to the Lord’s salvation and strength by singing. Singing praises for God’s deliverance and power has always been high on the agenda of God’s people. M. Henry says that “many good Christians have God for their strength who have him not for their song... [but] those that have God for their strength ought to make him their song.” It is so. God deserves to be magnified and praised for his salvation and strength!

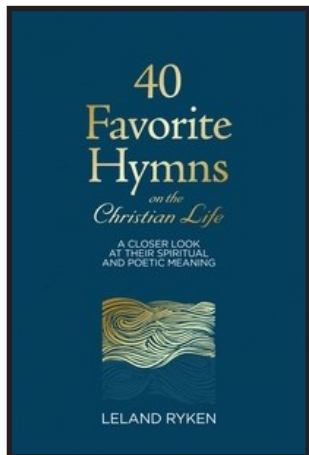
Isaiah appears to have borrowed language from Exodus 15. After the great deliverance at the Red Sea, Moses and the redeemed people of Israel sang, “The LORD is my strength and song, and he has become my salvation” (Ex 15:2). The salvation that God wrought for them at the Red Sea led to a song! Deserving no mercy yet having it shown to us in sovereign salvation is reason to sing! There are other responses we ought to have – obedience, service, gratitude, witness – but joy in the salvation of God puts a song of praise in our mouths.

Can you say, as Isaiah did, “God is my salvation?” All who are saved echo these words. We also know that we did not save ourselves. “Salvation is of the Lord” (Jonah 2:9). It belongs to or comes from the Lord. E. J. Young said, “... God is the author, the cause, the agent, the accomplisher of that salvation. Salvation apart from God is unthinkable.”

There is no greater blessing than to be saved by God! We who know God as our salvation ought to trust him and not be afraid, rest in him as our strength and rejoice in him as our song.

## BOOK REVIEW

*40 Favorite Hymns on the Christian Life: A Closer Look at Their Spiritual and Poetic Meaning*, by Leland Ryken, P & R Publishing, pp. 160, 2019.



We treasure hymns for their messages of comfort or conviction or for their associations with beloved believers and meaningful events. But many hymns are also powerful works of devotional poetry—displaying levels of artistry that we easily miss when we are simply singing through them.

This anthology of great hymns invites us to experience these works as poems—to slow down and savor their well-turned phrases, their surprising metaphors, and their evocative language. English professor Leland Ryken provides historical background and literary analysis for each hymn, finishing each with a Scripture reading to accompany it. The result is a wonderfully devotional and poetic study of the Christian life, drawing on hymns such as “Holy, Holy, Holy,” “Be Thou My Vision,” “In Christ Alone,” and many more.

### “Teach us to Pray”

Beginning with the first Wednesday in June, Lori Hewlett will be conducting a nine-week children’s class concurrent with the Wednesday night prayer meeting. The purpose of the class is to give age appropriate instruction about why we pray and how to pray. In addition to having a short lesson, children will endeavor to memorize the Lord’s Prayer, a hymn, and several catechism questions and answers about prayer.



**JUNE 19** – Missionary Daniel Noren and family will be reporting on their labors in Sweden in the SS hour. Daniel will be preaching in the evening service.

**AUGUST 11** – Missionary David Vaughn will be preaching in the morning service and giving a report in the SS hour about his work in France.

**AUGUST 18** – Chris and Liz Adams will be reporting on their mission work in Africa in the evening service.

**OCTOBER 20-22** – Fall Bible Conference in conjunction with the southeast regional FIRE conference. Dr. Tom Nettles will be the featured speaker.

## Spurgeon’s Catechism with Scripture Proofs



**Question 54:** What is the reason annexed to the fifth commandment?

**Answer:** “The reason annexed to the fifth commandment is, a promise of long live and prosperity—as far as it shall serve for God’s glory, and their own good—to all such as keep this commandment.”

**Scripture:** Exodus 20:12; Ephesians 6:2-3

**Commentary:** God promises a blessing to those who keep this commandment. We need to keep in mind, however, that keeping this command or any other, does not create a merit system whereby we can gain eternal life.

What is the promise? The promise is, “That your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you.” This part of the commandment is covenantal. There is a national note that applies specifically to the Jews. Longevity of life in the land God was going to give them was the promise.

This part of the verse became a generalization for Christians. Paul says, “That you may live long upon the earth” (Eph. 6:2). The command is the same in both ages but the promise is somewhat different. Paul makes a change from “land” to “earth.” New Covenant believers still have the promise of longevity of life but not in the Land of Canaan.

God promises long life to those who keep this commandment (see also Proverbs 4:10; 10:27), though God often makes exception to this promise and takes his beloved children home to himself early.



### John Bunyan Puritan Quotes

#### FIRST THINGS FIRST

He who runs from God  
in the morning will scarcely find Him  
the rest of the day.



## Triumph Out of Trouble - Part 3

Kevin Tucker

This is the last article in a three-part series on the trials and sufferings we face in the Christian life. In the first article, we saw that God's Word tells us of at least eight purposes for His allowing these times of trouble into our lives.

In the second article, we recognized that for our trials to achieve God's purposes in our lives, it is essential that we respond rightly by persevering through them. James, in the first chapter of his letter, gives five key means God has provided to enable our perseverance. We examined the first two of those, a joyful attitude and an understanding mind, in the second article.

Here, we will consider what James teaches about a submissive will, a believing heart, and a humble spirit. We will conclude by looking at the reward God promises for those who persevere through times of trouble and suffering.

The third means to perseverance in trials is a submissive will (v. 4). *'And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.'* It is only as we willingly submit to our trials that God does His *perfect and complete* work in us.

*'Perfect'* does not connote moral or sinless perfection. The Greek word is better rendered *'mature,'* referring to spiritual maturity. Paul says, *'Let those of us who are mature think this way,'* referring to our commitment to *'press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.'* (Philippians 3:15, 14)

The Greek word translated *'complete'* carries the idea of being whole or entire. The end result of trials is maturity, completeness, lacking nothing of spiritual importance. Peter assures us, *'After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm,*

*strengthen and establish you.'* (1 Peter 5:10)

The fourth means James says is essential to perseverance in trials is a believing heart (vv. 5-8) *'But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him. <sup>6</sup>But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind. <sup>7</sup>For that man ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord, <sup>8</sup>being a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.'*

The first requirement for such belief is godly understanding. Sound, strong faith is not based on feelings, but on knowledge and understanding of the promises of God's Word—this is spiritual wisdom.

James instructs us to ask God for this wisdom (v. 5). *'Let him ask'* translates an imperative verb in the Greek, so James is issuing a divine command rather than giving personal advice. James assures us that He *'gives to all generously and without reproach.'*

Then, James turns from the willing Father to the waiting child in verse 6. *'But he must ask in faith without any doubting...'* We must ask for this wisdom with real trust in God's promises and His character and His purposes.

The fifth means to perseverance in trials is a humble spirit (vv. 9-11). *'But the brother of humble circumstances is to glory in his high position; and the rich man is to glory in his humiliation, because like flowering grass he will pass away. For the sun rises with a scorching wind and withers the grass; and its flower falls off and the beauty of its appearance is destroyed; so too the rich man in the midst of his pursuits will fade away.'*

James first addresses *'the brother of humble circumstances.'* Even in his poverty, the believer is *'to glory in his high position.'* Even the most destitute Christian can rejoice in his *'high position'* as a child of God because, though he may be temporally poor, he

has eternal riches of infinite value.

Just as the materially poor believer should rejoice in his spiritual riches, the materially *'rich man is to glory in his humiliation.'* The idea is that the wealthy believer should rejoice when trials come because they teach him that all his material possessions are like the *'like flowering grass'* and *'will pass away.'*

At this point, the rich and poor are in the same position. Neither material possessions nor lack of them is of any eternal consequence. By faith in Christ, the two have equal standing in the kingdom of heaven—now and for eternity.

Finally, we see the reward for perseverance in trials in James 1:12. *'Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.'*

*Blessed* here means carries the idea of a profound inner joy and satisfaction. This is a joy and contentment only the Lord Himself is able to bestow on those who, for His glory and in His power, faithfully endure trials by patient endurance. Peter speaks of this in 1 Peter 1:6-7. *'In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, so that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.'*

The man who perseveres under trial is the one who continues in his confident trust in God and becomes the one who *has been approved* (by passing the test with his faith intact). The principle is clear and simple and marvelously gracious—perseverance brings God's approval and His approval brings *the crown of life.*