



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

— March 2019 Issue —

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

1 Thessalonians 5:24



NURSERY SCHEDULE

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

April

- 07 Troy and Jessica Moseley
- 14 Peter and Jenny Lovassy
- 21 Lori Hewlett and Melanie Myatt
- 28 Susan Gay and Janet Marsh

CHURCH CLEANING

- March** - Campbells
- April** - Marsh / Steve Page
- May** - Johnsons

SPRING BIBLE CONFERENCE

with Mark Webb

March 8-10

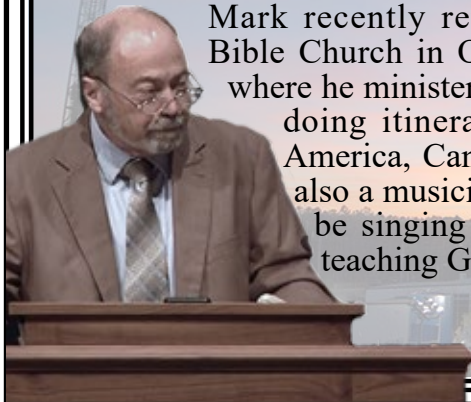
- Friday – 7:00 PM
- Saturday – 9:30 and 10:45 AM
- Sunday – 9:30 and 11:00 AM and 5:00 PM

Topic:

Justification and Sanctification

Scriptures: I & II Peter

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.



SANCTIFICATION



JUSTIFICATION

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

NORMAL SUNDAY SERVICES

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

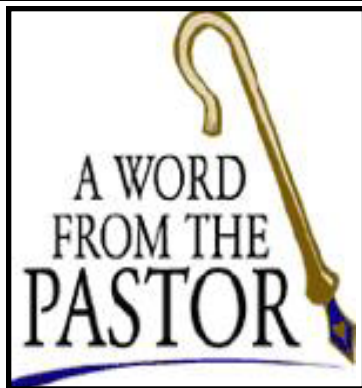
WEDNESDAY EVENING

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*



More Than Enough

The Gospel of John concludes with the words, “Now there are also many other things that Jesus did. Were every one of them to be written, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written” (John 21:25). The apostle John declared that his Gospel barely scratched the surface of what could be said about Jesus Christ.

The reason why the world itself could not contain the books that could be written of Jesus is due to his greatness. No man ever spoke like this man. No man ever did the things Jesus did. No one ever accomplished what he did. No one ever had a ministry like that of the Lord Jesus Christ. He is the incarnate Word, the obedient Son, the risen Lord! The ministry of Jesus was truly remarkable, so remarkable in fact, that one of his closest disciples said that the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written of him if everything he did was written down.

Obviously, John is using a figure of speech, what we call hyperbole (intentional exaggeration for the sake of effect). There would be room in the world to contain all the books that could be written of everything Jesus did, in the literal sense. However, there would not be enough room for the books if all that he did and said were expounded upon. Language would be exhausted in seeking to describe his worth. Words would fail to tell about all his mighty deeds. It is not possible “to fully tell out the infinite glories of that One who is the central figure of his Gospel” (A. W. Pink).

James Montgomery Boice said, “My studies of [the Gospel of] John began during my years of graduate study in Switzerland, at which time I read nearly every major commentary on the Gospel and delved into hundreds of other studies of particular subjects or problems related to my study. I preached on this book on Sunday mornings at Tenth Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia for more than eight years. The result is 270 separate sermons occupying nearly 2,000 pages of printed text. There are 2,700 pages of typescript. Yet I have not covered it all; and I suspect that I could do it all over again from the beginning and learn even more than I did the first time—so infinite is God’s Word.”

Marvelous and wonderful indeed is the Savior of the world! Much more could have been said of his life and ministry. There is so much more to Jesus’ life than what is recorded in the four Gospels. But what Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John wrote is enough. They didn’t intend to write a complete biography of Jesus. These four portraits of Christ do not tell us everything

that could be said of him, only what the Holy Spirit deemed sufficient.

Along with the inspiration of Scripture, the authority of Scripture, and the necessity of Scripture, we believe in the sufficiency of Scripture. Nothing is missing from the Bible that we need. God has given us all that we need for life and godliness. There is no need for additions and there is no need for subtractions. The Bible is sufficient.

Wayne Grudem defines the sufficiency of Scripture as, “The idea that Scripture contained all the words of God he intended his people to have at each stage of redemptive history and that it now contains all the words of God we need for salvation, for trusting him perfectly, and for obeying him perfectly.”

The Bible is primarily a book about redemption. It tells the great story of the triune God at work in redeeming the lost. The purpose of the Bible, therefore, is not to give a history of everything that God has done but to bring into focus his grand redemptive scheme.

How would you answer someone who asked you, “What is the Bible about?” Martin Lloyd-Jones said, “The Bible, in its essence, is the grand story of redemption. It is the history of what God has done about men and women as the result of their sin, and everything else that we find in the Bible is, in reality, incidental to that. The Bible is concerned with presenting to us the message of redemption by God and from God, in a way that we can understand and see and believe.”

It has not pleased the Lord to supply us with a record of every word spoken by Jesus and every deed performed by Jesus. But what we have is sufficient. We sing, *More about Jesus would I know/More of His grace to others show/More of His saving fullness see/More of His love – who died for me*, but we mean more of what there is to learn about him that is found in the Scriptures; we mean more of what we can know about him by trusting him day by day for grace to help in our time of need. We don’t mean more about him that hasn’t been revealed! The revelation of God is complete. We have more than enough to satisfy the inquiring mind; we have more than enough to reveal the glory of Jesus the Christ.

So instead of speculating on what the many things might be which Jesus did that are not recorded, which the world would not be able to contain if all were written down, we are to focus on the things the apostles wrote about Jesus. What is written of Christ by faithful witnesses like John, is enough. And what was written about him was written “so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name” (John 20:31).

BOOK REVIEW

In the Year of Our Lord: Reflections on Twenty Centuries of Church

History, by Sinclair Ferguson, Reformation Trust, 2018, pp. 229.



Everything Sinclair Ferguson writes is worth reading. This book is no exception. It takes the reader on a brief but adequate tour of Christian history. It features stories and songs to give believers a sense of their place in God's kingdom and to encourage them in their walk.

Joel Beeke says of this book, "Whether you are being introduced to a new restaurant or returning to your favorite cuisine, few things are as delightful as a sampler plate prepared by a master chef to give a taste of various delicacies. Such is this book. Sinclair Ferguson, a wise teacher of Christian theology and history, has given us a chef's tour of the Lord's sweet mercies across the last two thousand years. This is no bland synopsis. Ferguson's clear summaries of each century are festooned with juicy morsels taken from classic Christian writings and savory biographical stories. This little book will be a blessing to earnest Christians and a boon to those who would provide future generations with deeper roots in our rich Christian heritage."

"J. Ligon Duncan says, "In the Year of Our Lord: Reflections on Twenty Centuries of Church History, walks us through our Christian family history, in twenty short, easy-to-read chapters, always ultimately emphasizing the great work of Christ in preserving His church. There are tremendous lessons to increase our discernment and aid our encouragement stored up in this little book. Read, savor, and be edified."



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 10 – Daylight Saving Time begins so be sure to set your clocks forward one hour Saturday evening.

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 51: Which is the fifth commandment?

Answer: The fifth commandment is "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you" (Exodus 20:12).

Commentary: The Ten Commandments are divided into two tables. The first table deals with man's relationship to God (Ex 20:1-11); the second table deals with his relationship to other men (Ex 20:12-17). This double division is recognized in the New Testament as a summary of the Law. Jesus said, "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets" (Mt 22:37-40).

The fifth commandment marks the dividing place between the two tables. It is a good transition commandment, because it links up duties to God and duties to man by speaking of the parental relationship. Duties to parents involve our relations with man, but in many ways, it is a reflection of our relation to God. Honor is due to God, but also to parents, for parents are representatives of God.

The fifth commandment shares with the fourth the distinction of being a positive commandment. It comes to us in the form of an injunction rather than a prohibition. But all the commandments are double-sided and are to be applied both positively and negatively.

A promise is attached to the fifth commandment. The commandment is "Honor your father and your mother." The promise is "that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you." Paul quotes this command and promise in Ephesians 6:2-3, "Honor your father and mother" (this is the first commandment with a promise), "that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land." (ESV).



John Bunyan Puritan Quotes

WE WILL DO WHAT HE WANTS

If people really see that Christ has removed the fear of punishment from them by taking it into Himself, they won't do whatever they want, they'll do whatever He wants.

No Fear!

Mark Webb

“No Fear!” It’s a popular slogan seen bandied about on a line of tee shirts and athletic paraphernalia. It’s apparently intended to impress us with the bravado of the wearer. However, as is the case so much of the time with the slogans of this world, it speaks far more truth than what either the manufacturer or wearer intends!

The apostle Paul, in Romans 3:19, like a prosecuting attorney giving his closing argument in a court of law, summarizes the indictment hanging over the head of all lost men: “There is no fear of God before their eyes!”

Listen to the words of the repentant thief, rebuking his fellow thief, as they’re being crucified on each side of the Savior: “Dost thou not fear God?” The answer is, “No, he doesn’t!” What an amazing thing! Here is a man, only a few hours from death, struggling for breath, using that breath, not to do business with God, but to cast insult and scorn into the teeth of Jesus! While the salvation of the repentant thief is a wonderful reminder of the possibility of a “death-bed conversion,” the other thief illustrates the well-known fact that most men die as they live. They live a life of bravado, mocking death, sneering at judgment, joking about hell, and they usually die with the same attitude.

The man with no fear of God loves to boast himself as a “self-made” man. He views himself as self-sufficient, needing nothing, the “master of his fate,” the “Captain of his soul.” He doesn’t see himself as needing God’s instruction or assistance. All he needs, so he thinks, is for God to get out of his life and just leave him alone. And, amazingly, all the while he’s making this boast he’s using the very air that God has put into his nostrils!

Consider the fragility of man. He

needs an environment tailor-made to his necessities or he cannot survive. He needs a certain temperature range in which to function; a certain composition of the atmosphere if he’s to breathe; an ecosystem designed to provide a food and water supply; a climate conducive to the growing of crops, etc.

My favorite of these necessities is atmospheric pressure. Do you realize that if we didn’t have the weight of the equivalent of about thirty inches of mercury pressing down on us constantly that our blood would evaporate and boil away in our veins? So much for man’s vaunted self-sufficiency! What delicate creatures we are! What foolishness to imagine myself as having the ability to withstand my Maker!

A man with no fear of God thinks himself impervious to God’s judgment and punishment. He imagines that, if there is such a thing as judgment, his wit and might that have served him so well in life will enable him to stand in that day. He imagines that his sin will never be discovered, or, if so, that sin will not be that serious a matter to his Sovereign. Scripture—the testimony of God—tells a quite different story!

Many examples could be cited of those who seem to have gotten away with sin having their sins find them out in the final analysis. But what of those whose sins never seem to catch up with them in this life? In a few places Scripture pulls back the curtain to let us view the scene beyond the grave—i.e. the rich man of Luke 16:19, or the awful scenes of judgment in Revelation. God’s Word assures us that those who seem to ‘get away with it’ here will one day be called into account.

The man with no fear of God lives as though life lasts forever, as if God’s power and vengeance are but small things, and as if God’s judgment will be a snap to overcome. O the sheer idiocy! What a fool I would be to think that my limited arm of flesh can prevail against the infinite Power of

God, or that my wisdom can outwit Divine Omniscience!

Only a hundred years ago or so, a “Christian” was commonly identified and described by the society around him as “a God-fearing man.” Such verbiage is seldom heard today. Nevertheless, it remains a true description of all who have put their faith in Christ.

A Christian is a man who realizes his sins cannot possibly be hidden from the scrutiny of an All-Knowing God. He is a man who realizes his need of a refuge from the coming storm of judgment and a shelter from the righteous wrath of his God. He is a man who realizes he is not able to save himself and desperately needs and seeks a Savior. He is a man whose eyes have been opened to take seriously the testimony of God found in His Word. He is a man who, being taught of God, realizes that power, all omnipotence, that could have justly been arrayed against him, destroying him forever in hell, has been exercised on his behalf to provide a remedy for his sinful soul. The “arm of the Lord” has been bared for him. A great work, an amazing work, an infinite work of redemption has been executed, providing an infinite remedy for his infinite need. And so, drawn by the Spirit, he comes to Christ, believes on Christ, and receives Christ—embracing and appropriating for himself this great salvation by faith. And it all begins with the “fear of God, the beginning of wisdom.”

What about you, dear friend? Is your motto, when it comes to the things of God, “No Fear?” My prayer is that God would be pleased this very day to begin a good work within you—a work that replaces your attitude of “No Fear” with “Know Fear!”

(from Sovereign Grace Messenger, Issue 22, edited)