



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

— January 2020 Issue —

*"He who calls you is faithful;
he will surely do it."
1 Thessalonians 5:24*



NURSERY SCHEDULE

January

05 Troy and Jessica Moseley
12 Vicki Johnson and Melanie Myatt
19 Susan Gay and Janet Marsh
26 Linda Olive and Melanie Myatt

February

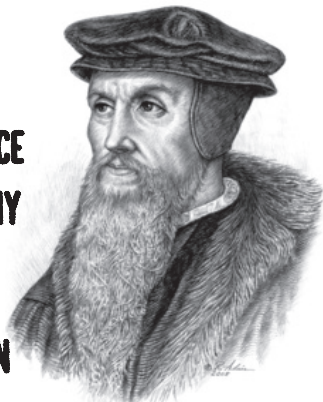
02 Troy and Jessica Moseley
09 Jenny and Peter Lovassy
16 Vicki Johnson and Melanie Myatt
23 Susan Gay and Janet Marsh

CHURCH CLEANING

January - Myatts
February - Moseleys

**THOU, LORD, BRUISEST ME.
BUT I AM
ABUNDANTLY
SATISFIED SINCE
IT IS FROM THY
HAND.**

-JOHN CALVIN



PRAISE FOR THE LORD'S HELP Philip Doddridge

My helper, God! I bless His Name,
whose love for ever is the same;
the tokens of whose gracious care
open, and crown, and close the year.

I midst ten thousand dangers stand,
supported by His guardian hand,
and see, when I review my ways,
ten thousand monuments of praise.

Thus far His arm has led me on,
thus far I make His mercy known;
and while I tread this desert land,
new mercies shall new songs demand.

My grateful soul, on Jordan's shore,
shall raise one sacred pillar more;
then bear in His bright courts above
inscriptions of immortal love.

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

NORMAL SUNDAY SERVICES

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

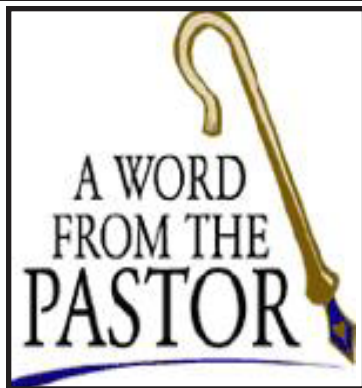
FIRST SUNDAY SERVICES

Morning Worship 9:30 AM
Meal at the Church 11:00 AM
Afternoon Service 12:30 PM

WEDNESDAY EVENING

Bible Study and Prayer Meeting
7:00 PM

*No Sunday School
or Evening Service*



Time

There are two statements in John 7:6 that cause us to think about time. Of himself Jesus said, "My time has not yet come." Of his unbelieving half-brothers he said, "But your time is always

here."

How we think about time and how we use the time allotted to us is of vital importance. With the passing of one year and the coming of a new one, we do well to ponder our use of time.

Time is precious. Because it is, time ought not be wasted. But it is hard not to waste time because it never stops moving. Time doesn't stand still for anyone. It is always in motion. It takes no breaks, it has no intervals, and it shows no respect of persons. It is always moving, always passing, always ticking. Once it has passed it cannot be retrieved.

Just suppose there was a bank in town that credited your account each morning with \$1440.00. However, no balance is carried over from day to day. Any balance left at day's end is deleted. That means if you only spent \$200.00, then \$1240.00 would be removed at the end of the day.

What would you do with the money deposited daily into your account? Would you spend it or would you lose it? I know your answer. You would spend it! You wouldn't leave any of it in your account till the end of the day. If you spent every dollar every day, you would spend \$525,600 for the year!

Did you know that we have such a bank as that? It is called the Bank of Time. Every day we are credited with 1440 minutes. Every night, the time which we have not used is gone; it is no longer in the bank. You can't go back for a second chance and you can't borrow from tomorrow. Time not used is wasted. And it is so valuable, we cannot afford to let it slip away from us.

Since the creation of the world there has only been one day when there was extra time. Joshua needed some extra daylight to finish a battle so God caused the sun to stand still temporarily (Joshua 10:12ff.). What a miracle that was!

Various natural explanations have been given as to what actually happened that day, but it was a supernatural miracle. Spurgeon said, "How God did it is no question for us... It is not ours to try and soften down miracles, but to glorify God in them." The God who made the universe can momentarily stop it if he

so chooses without the catastrophes that science tells us that would occur as a result. When the sun stopped that day, time stood still. That day was more like a 48 hour day than a 24 hour day! But that was the only occasion in all of history that time ever stopped.

I am more conscious of time now that I ever have been before. I am nearing the threescore and ten mark and I am amazed at how fast time passes. I am also disappointed that I have left so many of my minutes in the Bank not spent.

Jesus's two statements about time should cause us to reflect upon our use of it. When Jesus said, "My time has not yet come," he was indicating that he was following a divine schedule. He was living in complete obedience to God's sovereign timetable for his life. When he said to his unbelieving brothers, "Your time is always here," he was indicating that they were living for the moment. They were living their lives without any view to God's purposes.

We live our lives in one of those two ways. Either we are conscious of and are living by God's timetable, or we are living for the moment without any knowledge of or care for the will of God.

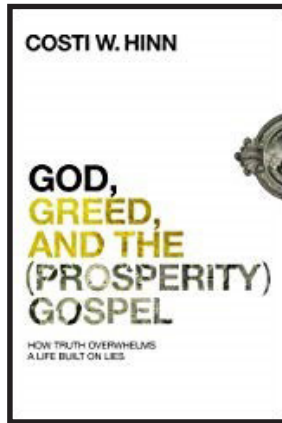
How much do you value time? Time is so precious. The apostle Paul exhorted both the Ephesians and the Colossians to "redeem the time" (Eph 5:16; Col 4:5 KJV). One of the greatest missionaries that ever lived, Adoniram Judson, spent his life preaching the gospel in Burma. He commented on the preciousness of time.

"A life once spent is irrevocable. It will remain to be contemplated through eternity... The same may be said of each day. When it is once past, it is gone forever. All the marks which we put upon it will exhibit forever... Each day will not only be a witness of our conduct, but will affect our everlasting destiny... How shall we then wish to see each day marked with usefulness... It is too late to mend the days that are past. The future is in our power. Let us, then, each morning, resolve to send the day into eternity in such a garb as we shall wish it to wear forever. And at night let us reflect that one more day is irrevocably gone, indelibly marked" (*The Life of Adoniram Judson*, by E. Judson).

There is no guarantee that any of us will see tomorrow. Let us look to Christ today and use every moment he gives us to serve and worship him. What is your outlook on life, on time? Either we are conscious of it and are living by God's timetable, or we are living for the moment without proper knowledge of or care for the will of God.

BOOK REVIEW

God, Greed, and the (Prosperity) Gospel: How Truth Overwhelms a Life Built on Lies, by Costi Hinn, Zondervan, 2019, 224 pp.



Millions desperate for hope and solutions are enticed by the promise of the prosperity gospel - that God will do whatever they need with just a little faith and a financial gift. All the while, prosperity preachers exploit the poor and the needy to stockpile their riches. What can followers of the true gospel do to combat the deception?

Through a remarkable and fascinating journey, Costi Hinn went from a next-generation prosperity preacher to the first to abandon the family faith and share the true gospel. Nephew of the world-famous televangelist, Benny Hinn, Costi had a front-row seat to the inner workings and theology of the prosperity gospel. But as Costi's faith deepened, so did his questions about prosperity teaching. As the deceptions in his past were exposed, Costi came face to face with the hypocrisy and devastation caused by his belief system, and the overwhelming truth about the real Jesus Christ.

This captivating look into the daily lives of one of the world's leading prosperity dynasties offers a thoughtful perspective on the perils of greed, the power of the true gospel, and hope for the future of the global church. Through real-life stories, Costi challenges and equips readers to be living lights pointing the way to the true gospel and the saving grace of Christ.



FEBRUARY 2 – Annual church business meeting in the afternoon service.

MARCH 22 – 30th Anniversary of Grace Baptist Church will be celebrated. Mark Webb will be the guest preacher for the day.

Spurgeon's Catechism with Scripture Proofs



Question 60: What is forbidden in the eighth commandment [You shall not steal]?

Answer: The eighth commandment forbids whatsoever does or may unjustly hinder our own, or our neighbor's wealth, or outward estate.

Scripture: 1 Timothy 5:8; Proverbs 21:6; 29:19; Ephesians 4:28

Commentary: Negatively, the eighth commandment forbids theft, the wrongful taking of property that is not ours. This law of God forbids any act by which, directly or indirectly, we dishonestly obtain the goods of another individual.

Positively, the eighth commandment requires the lawful obtaining of material goods for us and to give aid those in need (Lev. 25:35; Phil. 2:4). The Bible lists three legitimate ways to obtain goods: 1) inheritance (Num. 36:7-9), 2) gifts (Phil. 4:18), 3) and especially work (Eph. 4:28).

Capitalism is a biblical system; we own what we work for. Socialism is theft by the state. But Christians realize that ultimately, all property belongs to God, and we are to use what he gives us as he directs. Though the Lord is the rightful owner of all things, he has entrusted it to us. Therefore, we must be good stewards. We are to manage all our earthly possessions properly. We are trustees. "It is required in stewards that one be found faithful" (1 Cor. 4:2).

Though we are in need of earthly possessions, our eye is not to be upon them; rather, we are to live with God in our sights. The primary virtue that will help us not violate the eighth commandment can be summed up in one word – contentment. Contentment is the opposite of covetousness, which is the root of breaking the eighth commandment.



**Samuel
Rutherford**
Puritan Quotes
TRIALS!

"There is no cross or misery that befalls the church of God or any of His children, but it is related to God."

The Value of the Old Testament

R. C. Sproul

The Old Testament is greatly neglected. Its use has nearly disappeared from the Christian community and from the consciousness of Americans. People today are more familiar with the twelve signs of the zodiac than with the twelve tribes of Israel.

Evangelical Christians devote some attention to the Old Testament, primarily because of the attack on the inerrancy of the Bible by liberal theologians. Scholars defend the truthfulness and inspiration of the Old Testament, for instance, Mosaic authorship of the Pentateuch or the unity of Isaiah. The prophetic parts of the Old Testament receive careful inspection from evangelicals and fundamentalists searching for prophetic clues regarding the nation of Israel or the second coming of Jesus Christ. Such attention to words and phrases tends to obscure the larger Old Testament message.

The general teaching of the Old Testament, however, is not given much attention in evangelical churches. Many people have very limited knowledge of Mosaic law. Few know the history of Israel, even in broad outline. The prophetic books like Isaiah and Jeremiah, are complete mysteries. And singing the Psalms is no longer a regular part of worship.

One of the most important events in my Christian life occurred shortly after my conversion: I read the entire Bible in two weeks. Such rapid reading does not allow for careful meditation, study, and comparison of passages, but it did do one thing for me. When I was finished with the Old Testament, I knew that the God who had called me to himself was a God who plays for keeps.

When Paul wrote to Timothy about the Scriptures he meant the Old Testament. Possibly, he also had in mind those New Testament books that had been written, but the “Bible” for the early church was the Old Testament. Thus, while 2 Timothy 3:16 applies to the whole Bible, its first application was to the Old Testament.

The Greek word translated “God-breathed” is *theopneustos*. The great nineteenth-century theologian B. B. Warfield showed persuasively that *theopneustos* does not mean merely “inspired,” that God breathed something *into* the authors of the Bible—although this indeed is true. Neither does it mean that God dictated every character they wrote. Obviously God mediated his message through the writers’ personalities, experiences, and knowledge. Rather, *theopneustos* means that God “breathed out” the Bible. Thus, Paul told Timothy: “All of the Old Testament is *breathed out* by God—all of it.” What would be our attitude if we really believed that?

What does Paul go on to say about the Old Testament? To begin with, he said it is to be used. God intended it to be useful in four ways: 1) First, it is to teach us about God—his nature, character, standards of righteousness, promises of redemption, plan of salvation—everything we need to know. 2) Second, Paul said the Old Testament is to be used to confront and rebuke sin. 3) Third, it is to be used to correct and point the way of righteousness. 4) Fourth, the Old Testament is to be used to train people in righteousness—to realign their lives according to the will of God.

Let us remember that an understanding of the Old Testament is absolutely necessary to a full understanding of the person of Jesus Christ. American church culture breeds spurious “Christian”

conversions because of its impoverished understanding of Scripture and its incessant appeal to emotions.

You may have had a conversion experience, but be careful: You might know very little about the real Jesus and his saving love. What you consider a conversion experience may not be centered in the Christ of the Bible. Some are converted into a group with a particular lifestyle, a dynamic spirit, or an acceptance they feel lacking from others. Some are converted to friends, not Jesus.

If you have read the entire New Testament but have never read the Old Testament, chances are that you know precious little of Jesus Christ. No matter how many times you approach the text asking the Holy Spirit to illumine your mind and heart—without studying the Old Testament, you cannot possibly understand the New Testament Jesus.

Jesus’ comes to us against the backdrop of the redemptive history of the Old Testament. Those events foreshadow the meaning of the events of Jesus’ life. God used the lives and roles of kings, prophets, judges, priests, and patriarchs to teach about the coming Christ. Their sinful efforts looked forward to the perfect that was displayed in the person of Jesus.

The Old Testament shows how God cultivated the world, making it ripe for Jesus to confront the mightiest humanistic empire the world had ever seen, showing himself to be not only the true Patriarch, Judge, and King, but also the true World Emperor. All the New Testament imagery used to describe Jesus is taken directly from the Old Testament.