



# 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**

— March 2020 Issue —

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



### NURSERY SCHEDULE

#### March

- 01 Troy and Jessica Moseley
- 08 Melanie Myatt and Vicki Johnson
- 15 Susan Gay and Linda Olive
- 22 Melanie Myatt and Lori Hewlett
- 29 Vicki Johnson and Jan Fursdon

#### April

- 05 Troy and Jessica Moseley
- 12 Melanie Myatt and Vicki Johnson
- 19 Lori Hewlett and Linda Olive
- 26 Melanie Myatt and Angie Williams

### CHURCH CLEANING

- March - A. Williams
- April - Marshs and Steve Page

## GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH

CELEBRATES

# 30<sup>th</sup> CHURCH ANNIVERSARY

Sunday March 15, 2020



Special Guest Speaker:  
**Pastor Mark Webb**

He will be speaking  
at 9:30 AM, 11:00 AM  
and 5:00 PM

**Speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.**

**EPHESIANS 4:15-16 (ESV)**

### SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

#### NORMAL SUNDAY SERVICES

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

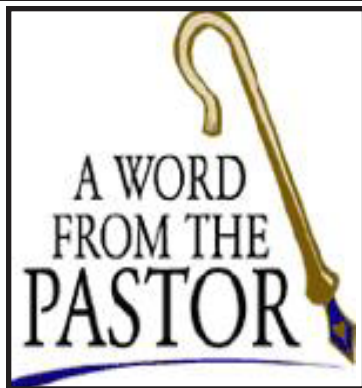
#### FIRST SUNDAY SERVICES

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
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*No Sunday School  
or Evening Service*



## God's Phone Number

Modern phone numbers are quite different from phone numbers when I was a boy. These days, telephone numbers are just that – numbers. But back then, a telephone number started with a

few letters (which stood for a word) and then came the numbers.

The great band leader, Glenn Miller, recorded a song with a phone number which became famous. The number was PE 6-5000, two letters and five numbers. In some other areas of the country a phone number might be two letters and three numbers or three letters and four numbers. But in the number made famous by the Glenn Miller Band, PE stood for the Pennsylvania exchange (an exchange for the Penn Station area of NY City). A caller would ring the operator and have her connect them to PE 6-5000. The song rang out this number as PEnnsylvania 6-5000.

E. L. Smothers, an interim pastor at my home church when I was a teenager, once referred to Jeremiah 33:3 as God's phone number. That stuck with me – JER 333. This verse is God's challenge to us to pray for great things.

The familiar KJV has, *“Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.”* The ESV is more faithful to the Hebrew in the latter part of the verse. *“Call to me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known.”*

The text divides itself into two parts. It is our part to ask, to call unto the Lord, and it is God's part to answer. The Lord exclaims, *“Call unto me,”* and he promises, *“and I will answer you.”*

We are instructed to call upon the Lord. The Lord summons us to pray and to pray for great things. Prayer is the means that God has ordained for us to receive blessing from his hand. *“You have not because you ask not,”* says James 4:2. We must ask. Jesus said, *“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you”* (Mt 7:7). Prayer is an integral element in the achievement of God's purposes. God bids us to pray. He says in Ps 50:15, *“Call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me”* (often referred to as Robinson Crusoe's text).

Jeremiah was a prisoner in Zedekiah's custody. He and

the people were in great want. God had made promises to the nation (the restoration of Israel is the subject beginning in v. 4) but prayer was to be made to God that he might bring about his will. God challenged him to pray. The Lord said, *“Call unto ME.”* The Bible is filled with examples of God doing great things for those who called on him!

The challenge from the Lord is, *“Call unto me.”* The promise is, *“And I will answer you.”* God promised Jeremiah that he would show or tell him *“great and hidden things that you have not known.”* The great things were related to God bringing them back to the land after captivity (vv. 6ff.). The hidden things are the things beyond their minds to know at the present time but which would be revealed in the coming days.

Whoever prays in accordance with God's will know hidden things. Jesus said, *“When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come”* (Jn 16:13). Those who would obtain knowledge from God, however, must seek it by prayer.

God has wonders in store for those who call upon him. He can do what we can't even dream of! He can do great and mighty things! John Newton said in a hymn on prayer:

*COME, my soul, thy plea prepare,  
Jesus loves to answer prayer;  
He Himself has bid thee pray,  
therefore will not say thee nay.*

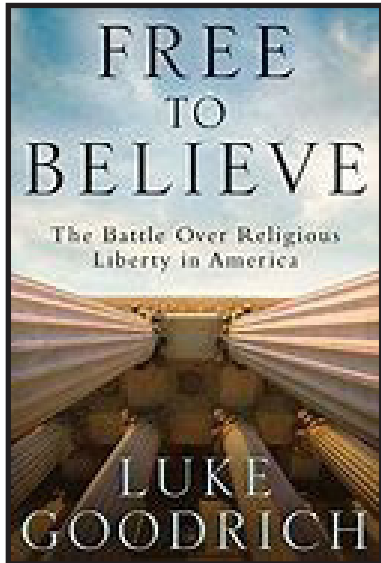
*Thou art coming to a King,  
large petitions with thee bring;  
for His grace and power are such,  
none can ever ask too much.*

What God asks of us is to call upon him. God is always ready to answer the cry of the human heart, but he would have us make request to him for assistance. Let us not delay in seeking his assistance. Spurgeon said, *“Let us cheerfully render Him our prayers at once”* (*Faith's Checkbook*). God is able to reveal what he desires to whom he desires and when he desires, but he does that for those who pray.

“Those that expect to receive comforts from God must continue instant in prayer. We must call upon him, and then he will answer us” (Matthew Henry). Do you know God's phone number? It's JER 333 – *“Call to me and I will answer you.”*

## BOOK REVIEW

***Free to Believe: The Battle Over Religious Liberty in America***, by Luke Goodrich, Multnomah, 2019, pp. 288.



A leading religious freedom attorney, veteran of multiple Supreme Court battles, helps people of faith understand religious liberty in our rapidly changing culture-- why it matters, how it is threatened, and how to respond with confidence and grace. *Free to Believe* was recognized as the 2019 book of the year by World Magazine.

Many Americans are concerned about rising threats to religious freedom. They feel the culture changing around them, and they fear that their beliefs will soon be marginalized as a form of bigotry. Others, younger Christians in particular, are tired of the culture wars, and they wonder whether courtroom battles are truly worthwhile, or even in line with the teachings of Jesus. Luke Goodrich offers a reasoned, balanced, gospel-centered approach to religious freedom. He applies biblical understanding to a number of the most hot-button cultural issues of our day. He also offers practical steps Christians can take to respond to religious freedom conflicts in an informed, responsible, and graceful way.



**MARCH 8** – Daylight Savings Time. Spring forward with your clocks and be on time for worship.

**MARCH 11** – No mid-week meeting at GBC. We will be joining Dana Crowell and the folks at Prosperity Presbyterian Church for their annual Bible Conference.

**MARCH 15** – We will be celebrating the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Grace Baptist Church. Mark Webb will be preaching three times and will be singing as well.

## Spurgeon's Catechism with Scripture Proofs



**Question 62:** What is required in the ninth commandment?

**Answer:** The ninth commandment requires the maintaining and promoting of truth between man and man, and of our own, and our neighbor's good name, especially in witness-bearing.

**Scripture:** Zechariah 8:16; 1 Peter 3:16; Acts 25:10; Proverbs 14:5, 25.

**Commentary:** From whence did lying spring? The Bible is very specific about the origin of the lie. Lying has its beginning with the devil and his dealings with Eve in the Garden of Eden (Gen 3:4). And the lie has been his chief weapon to fight against God in his attempts to destroy man ever since (John 8:44).

There is a stark contrast between our Savior and our Adversary. Jesus is the truth and the devil is the father of the lie. R. C. Sproul says, "Be careful when you play with truth. Playing loosely with truth is the beginning of involvement in Satan's trap and can lead to destruction." What is it that God desires of his people? God desires truth in our inner most being! Psalm 51:6 says, "Behold, you desire truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part you shall make me to know wisdom."

A.W. Pink summed up our obligation well when he said, "The duties of our tongues may be summed up in two words: our speech must always be true and spoken in love." That is exactly what the Scriptures teach. Paul wrote to the Ephesians about "speaking the truth in love" (4:16). When we speak, we should speak the truth, and the truth should be spoken in love.



**Samuel  
Rutherford  
Puritan Quotes  
YOUR CAUSE**

Serve Christ; back Him; let His cause be your cause, give not an hairbreadth of truth away, for it is not yours but Gods.

## Six Life-Giving Truths from the New Testament (part 2)

Thomas R. Schreiner

4. The Son ushers in the age of the Spirit. A remarkable feature of the New Testament witness is the role of the Spirit in God's saving work in Christ. The Spirit is the eschatological sign that the new age has arrived, that the new creation has become a reality. The saving work of God in Christ is implemented through the work of the Spirit. The great saving events that commenced with the coming of Jesus Christ signaled that the age of the Spirit had arrived. Indeed, the blessing that God has promised to the whole world has arrived with the gift of the Spirit.

The giving of the Holy Spirit is tied to the ministry, death, resurrection, and exaltation of Jesus Christ. New Testament writers do not conceive of a ministry of the Spirit apart from the work of Jesus Christ as the crucified and risen one.

The Spirit strengthens believers so that they live lives that are pleasing to God. This too signals the arrival of the new age, for the law was unable to transform human beings, but the Spirit energizes human beings to obey God. The Spirit's work in granting life is linked to the assurance granted to believers by the same Spirit, for those who have experienced God's love are assured by the witness of the Spirit in their hearts.

5. Faith and obedience cannot be separated. The variety of situations addressed in the New Testament and the diverse purpose of the writings mean that various themes are emphasized. In some instances, faith is trumpeted as the only means by which the blessing of eternal life is received, whereas in other cases the necessity of obedience and discipleship takes center stage. Yet there is a fundamental unity of approach throughout the New Testament.

Faith is fundamental and primary for a right relation with God or for receiving eternal life. Human beings cannot obtain an eternal

reward on the basis of their works, for human sin intervenes and rules out works as the pathway for blessing.

Faith also receives from God the salvation accomplished through Jesus Christ; looks away from itself and gives glory to God as the one who delivers human beings from sin and death; casts its hope upon Jesus Christ as the crucified and risen Lord; finds its roots in the cross of Jesus Christ; looks outward to what God has done in Christ instead of gazing inward upon the ability of the human subject.

The faith that saves, however, is not an abstraction, and it cannot be separated from (though it can be distinguished from) repentance and the transformation of one's life. The New Testament writers never imagined a passive faith that could be sundered from a life of discipleship. Paul himself, the champion of faith, insists that true faith manifests itself in love, that only persevering faith is saving faith. Those who do not do good works will not inherit God's kingdom.

Believers confirm their calling and election by their good works, or, as James says, the faith that saves must be accompanied by good works. The priority of faith in the New Testament rules out legalism, but it also eliminates antinomianism. Those who have truly come to know Jesus Christ keep his commandments and show by their love for fellow believers that they are truly born again. Only those who enter through the narrow gate of obedience will be saved.

The remarkable emphasis on the need for a transformed life does not cancel out the priority of faith. Instead, it helps readers discern the authenticity of faith so that genuine faith can be distinguished from mere notional faith — faith that resides in the intellect but has not penetrated the heart and life. All good works flow from faith and thus do not become an occasion for human boasting. The changed lives of believers simply reveal the object of their trust.

6. The law is fulfilled. The role of the Old Testament law in the New Testament is one of the most

complicated and controversial issues in New Testament theology. The fulfillment of God's promises in Christ did not merely lead New Testament believers to ratify and maintain everything contained in the Old Testament law. We see in the New Testament both continuity and discontinuity with the Old Testament law. There is continuity in that the coming of Christ brings to fruition the Old Testament promises of salvation and the righteousness demanded by God; there is discontinuity in that the covenant under which the Jewish believers lived is no longer in force, and believers are not members of ethnic Israel.

The New Testament writings consistently teach that the Mosaic covenant is no longer in force for believers, and they don't bind their churches with practices that distinguished Jews from Gentiles, such as circumcision, Sabbath, or purity laws. Another regular feature is that the law is fulfilled in Jesus Christ and points toward his death and resurrection. The New Testament writers do not merely argue that the Mosaic covenant is set aside in Jesus Christ; they also teach that the law finds its terminus and goal in him, so that he fulfills what is adumbrated in the Old Testament law. Even though the phrase "law of Christ" is found only in Paul, it seems that such a phrase sums up nicely the New Testament witness regarding the law. The Old Testament law is reinterpreted in light of the Christ event. The central norm of the law is love, and Jesus Christ's giving of himself on the cross is paradigmatic of the love expected of disciples.

The Old Testament law must be interpreted in terms of salvation history, and the law is realized only through the saving work of Christ and the empowerment of the Holy Spirit.

(Excerpt from *New Testament Theology*, Baker Academic)