



**Today is February 16, 2025**

## *The Call To Come Out*

By Curtis Pugh

Humans dislike being different from their peers. Whatever group we identify with we tend to be in most every way like them. We want to be accepted by them. But God calls upon His people to come out. Second Corinthians 6:17-18 says: "Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty." The "them" are those who do not serve God.

This passage is clear: the relationship of God as a Father to His "sons and daughters" - His receiving of them - hinges upon their coming out. Notice that in the Bible God either receives individuals or He does not. Today people emphasize trying to get spiritually dead sinners to "receive Christ" as if they have the ability to do so. Those who received (welcomed) Christ when He was here on earth did so because something had previously happened to them. John 1:12-13 explains it: "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God." If men and women were made willing and able to receive (welcome) Christ by the new birth when He was present bodily upon the earth, how much more now that a relationship with Him is a purely spiritual matter? Clearly the new birth is not brought about by anything the creature does. His will is not the cause. It is God who wills to birth sinners into His family.

Paul wrote to a congregation these words: "Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure," (Philippians 2:12-13). Some folk latch onto the first part of this passage and do not realize that the only way a person's inner spiritual experience bears outward fruit is because the Holy Spirit is working within the child of God causing him to "will and to do" what God tells us to do.

And we are told to "come out from among them and be ye separate." We are not even to "touch" the unclean thing: that which is sinful in God's eyes. After all, God is, "...of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity..." (Habakkuk 1:13). How can we then think that God will have anything to do with those who do not "come out, but continue to walk in harmony with the world? Jesus said: "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me," (John 10:27). Are you following the Good Shepherd?

# **WELCOME TO THE SOVEREIGN GRACE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH**

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## **Our Prayer List**

*"Pray without ceasing."*

1 Thessalonians 5:17

Sister Zee Mink Fuller and Family, Her son's Bryan Armstrong and Hunter Hackie, Johnnie Stephens, Alecia Stephens, and children, Frank & Sonya Trusty, Frank & Dawana Reigel, Diane & Smoke, Andrew Preston, Larry & Martha Mollette and Her Family Juanita her daughter, Lana Paul, Larry Mollette II & Family, Kerry Adcock, Kim Reich, Danny Mollette, 12-year-old Lucas, Joshua Kidd, Ronnie and Sarah Henderson, Ricky Henderson and Family, James and Luann Reynolds, Timothy Fails, Jerry Hughes, Shirley King - Son David - and family, Little Cam Works, Sister Ann McSwain, Brother Justin Bookout and family, Little Weslynn McClelland, Adrienne Lavina, Pastor Nathan Hille and Sister Cassie and his family, Baby Titus Massey, Shane and Brook Sims, Ricky Bennett, Nick, Madison, and Baby Emory Patty, and Russell York, Brother Medic, Sister Mhalyn Lavina and children, Brother Jerry Dodson, Brother Gary and Sister White, Brother David and Sister Jevonna O'Neal, Sister Rebecca Sidders, Mark and Kathy Johnson, Pray for a month old baby boy, Sister Rebecca Johnson.

## **Pray For Our Church Supported Mission Works**

*"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." Act 1:8*

Missionary Dan and Sunny Sullivan in Thailand, and Elder Raul and the Printing work Romania

## Pastor's thought for the week.

*"Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;"* 1 Peter 5:2

### "People do not understand God."

*"For all this I considered in my heart even to declare all this, that the righteous, and the wise, and their works, are in the hand of God: no man knoweth either love or hatred by all that is before them."* Ecclesiastes 9:1

People by nature do not understand God, they simply do not understand anything about Him. It is only after a soul is saved by the power of the Holy Spirit and through the blood of Jesus, then through the teaching of the Holy Spirit that we will ever understand anything about God. Nothing about God comes naturally, it is not simply studied and learned, and it is not handed down through time, it is the gift of God, and all gifts from God are called spiritual gifts. The Apostle Paul wrote it this way, *"Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost. Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit."* 1 Cor. 12:3, 4. As Christians, it would do us well to understand that we are in God's grace, we live, we move and have our being only by His gracious hand. The Preacher (Solomon) wrote a very profound truth, *"I considered in my heart even to declare all this, that the righteous, and the wise, and their works, are in the hand of God:"* The hardest truth for Christians to grasp and understanding is just how much our dependence is on God. The Psalmist David wrote these words, *"Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass."* Psalms 37:4, 5 Human nature teaches us that all things are within our reach if we earn them, fight for them, but God said He supplies all our needs in life. The Preacher wrote *"no man knoweth either love or hatred by all that is before them."* The truth is, people by nature understand little, and even less than little about God. There is no love in the natural heart, but there is hatred, but people do not know that hatred is there because we are born in hatred. Hatred is all people know because we are controlled by sinfulness, everything about the natural man is sinful. Love is a gift from God, just like faith is a gift from God. As Christians we must consider these things in our hearts, we must read God's word and pray that God will teach us and give us the strength to lean on Him, because through Him we can do all things if He so wills. The Apostle Paul wrote, *"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."* Php. 4:13 Albert Barnes wrote, *"He could bear any trial, perform any duty, subdue any evil propensity of his nature, and meet all the temptations incident to any condition of prosperity or adversity."*

## Pastor's Thought Continue.

Though Christ, if it was the will of God. The Omniscient will of God is the key to our success in life, it could be that God's plan for us is to have trials, suffer persecution, or to have success and succeed in life. Remember that the spiritual gifts of God are given in diverse ways as God chooses, therefore, one may succeed and another may fail, but it is all at God's blessings. It is human nature to worry, but for a believer to worry shows a lack of faith in God's Omniscient choosing for us, and His Omnipotent control over everything in our life. Either God controls everything in our life, or He controls nothing. We are neither on our own nor are we left alone, God is our strength and our buckler in life. Please listen closely to the Psalmist David in Psalms 18:2 - 3 *"The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower. I will call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies."* Then look to Job, he never failed to trust the Lord when he lost everything, while he may not have understood everything, he never blamed God not trusted God. We must remember that God has a reason and purpose in all things, even in our sacrifices. Listen to God, *"Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding."* Pro. 3:5

## Church information and Happenings

- Please be in much prayer for our dear brother in Christ Jerry Dodson as his time is limited.
- Please remember to be in much prayer for Brother Ronnie Henderson and Sister Sarah.

## Psalm 150:1-6

Praise ye the LORD. Praise God in his sanctuary: praise him in the firmament of his power.

Praise him for his mighty acts: praise him according to his excellent greatness. Praise him with the sound of the trumpet: praise him with the psaltery and harp. Praise him with the timbrel and dance: praise him with stringed instruments and organs. Praise him upon the loud cymbals: praise him upon the high sounding cymbals. Let every thing that hath breath praise the LORD.

Praise ye the LORD.