



**Today is March 23, 2025**

***The noblest ecclesiastical edifice***

By J. C. Ryle, from his "The Gospel of Mark" 1857

As He was leaving the temple, one of His disciples said to Him, "Look, Teacher! What massive stones! What magnificent buildings!"

"Do you see all these great buildings?" replied Jesus. "Not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down." Mark 13:1-2

We are naturally inclined to judge things by the outward appearance, like children who value flowers more than wholesome grain. We are too apt to suppose that where there is . . .

a stately ecclesiastical building,  
and magnificent ceremonies,  
and carved stone,  
and stained-glass windows,  
and fine music,  
and handsomely dressed ministers

—that there must be genuine religion in such a place.

And yet there may be no true religion at all!

It may be all form, and show, and appeal to the senses!

The ministers may perhaps be utterly ignorant of the Gospel, and the worshipers may be dead in trespasses and sins! We need not doubt that God sees no beauty in such a building as this. We need not doubt that the stately Greek Parthenon had no value in God's sight, compared to the dens and caves where the early Christians worshiped; or that the poorest room where Christ is preached at this day, is more honorable in His eyes, than St. Peter's Cathedral at Rome.

Let it be a settled principle in our religion, however beautiful we make our churches—to regard pure doctrine and holy practice as their principal ornaments! Without these two things, the noblest ecclesiastical edifice is radically defective. It has no glory, if God is not there. With these two things, the humblest poor cottage where the Gospel is preached, is lovely and beautiful. It is consecrated by Christ's own presence, and the Holy Spirit's own blessing.



**Welcome to the  
Sovereign Grace  
Missionary Baptist Church**

*"Where the truths of God's word have been taught  
For sixty-three years." Since October 21, 1961*

1 2 1 7 Dillon Texarkana, Texas 75501

Elder Randy Johnson, Pastor

903 – 490 – 3048

Pastor E-Mail [pastor.johnson@sgmbaptist.com](mailto:pastor.johnson@sgmbaptist.com)

Pastor's Blog: [sgmbcpastor.blogspot.com](http://sgmbcpastor.blogspot.com)

Church's Website – [www.sgmbaptist.com](http://www.sgmbaptist.com)

***Our Prayer List***

*"Pray without ceasing."*

1 Thessalonians 5:17

Sister Zee Mink Fuller, 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, James and Luann Reynolds, Timothy Fails, Jerry Hughes, Shirley King - Son David - and family, Little Cam Works, Sister Ann McSwain, Little Weslynn McClelland, Adrienne Lavina, Pastor Nathan Hille and Sister Cassie and his family, Baby Titus Massey, Ricky Bennett, and Brother Medic, Sister Mhalyn Lavina and children, Brother David and Sister Jevonna O'Neal, Mark and Kathy Johnson, Baby Jud, Sister Rebecca Johnson, Missionary Dan Sullivan and Sister Sunny.

***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

## **“A thought for the week From Our Pastor.”**

*“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

### **What is good for a Christian?**

“A good name is better than precious ointment; and the day of death than the day of one's birth.” Ecclesiastes 7:1

When people look at life, they must look at who they are, for example if you are a lost soul then you look at earthly/worldly things or humanistic things. For a Believer in Jesus Christ, for a soul that has been redeemed by God's grace through the blood of Christ, for a soul that now has a living spirit, our outlook on life should be completely different. For a believer, the things that are good for us are opposite to those that are lost. For example, look at what God says, *“A good name better than precious ointment; the day of death better than the day of birth; the house of mourning is better than the house of feasting; sorrow is better than laughter, the rebuke of the wise better than the songs of fools; the end of a thing better than the beginning; the patient in spirit better than the proud in spirit.”* If you do not understand God and what God says is good for us, then we will always look to our human side. For a believer in Jesus Christ to be happy and satisfied is to be faithful to/in God and to be walking in the Spirit of His word. There is nothing more satisfying to God than a faithful servant, Noah – obeyed God, built the Ark exactly as God commanded and because of this Noah had a good name. It was Able's faith in God that gave him a better name than Cain his brother – *“By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain....”* Again, Abel's good name is what made him better than his brother. Then there is Enoch, God credited his faith and said, *“for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.”* Therefore, it was Enoch's faithfulness to God that gave him his good name. And the examples continue, Abraham, Sara, Isaac, Jacob, and etc., etc., and etc. all who gained good names by trusting God and doing as God commanded. It matters not how great our name is with the world if it is not great with God. Now compare what God says about what is good for Christians, opposite to what the world says is better for us, or that we sometimes believe is better for us. *“It is better to go to the house of mourning, than to go to the house of feasting”* How is this possible, it is simple, because whatever God has given to you is better than anything else. It is all about how much we believe and trust God. God said, *“Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.”* Matthew 6:31- 32

## **Pastor's Thought Continue.**

The question is, do we believe this? The question is, do you really believe God and what He said? The ask yourself this question, do you really believe this, *“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.”* Rom 8:28 The question is, do you truly believe that everything that happens in your life is for your good? Our true faith in God is seen when God rest us, gives us trials, tribulations, or even persecution. It is easy to praise God when good things happen, but what about when bad things happen in your life? Either we trust God or not, either we lean on God or ourselves. Listen to God, is *“Sorrow is better than laughter”*, is it *“better to hear the rebuke of the wise, than for a man to hear the song of fools”*, and do you believe *“by the sadness of the countenance the heart is made better.”* God said all of this is better, because it is what God promised would be better for us because He chose it for us. We do not know what God has sent to be in our life, but if God sent it, then He ordained it for our good. Is it better for a Christian to die than to live on this earth? Is it better to give than it is to receive, is it better to suffer for the Lord than to live happily in this world? God said it is, that all of this is better for you, if God gave it to you. The truth is we do not know what is good for us nor do we truly know what is good for us, but God does. If we truly trusted the Lord, we would be glad and thank Him for everything that happens no matter what it is, because God controls everything in our life. There are many reasons God brings things into a person's life, some He brings to reproof or rebuke us, sometimes to teach us, maybe to draw us closer to Him or to trust Him more, but be certain, God brings it for our good.

## **Church information and Happenings**

- Please remember Sister Rebecca Johnson as she is rehabbing.
- Missionary Dan Sullivan is having eye surgery here in the USA.

## **Ecclesiastes 1:8 – 10**

*“All things are full of labour; man cannot utter it: the eye is not satisfied with seeing, nor the ear filled with hearing. The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun. Is there any thing whereof it may be said, See, this is new? it hath been already of old time, which was before us.”*