



**Today is Sunday September 01, 2024**

**“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*

**I am never alone.**

*“That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us: For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring.”*

Acts 17:27 - 28

I am no different than any other person, I am a sinner, born in sin, grew-up in sin, grew-old in sin, and yes, I will die a sinner. When I was born, I was born at enmity with the God of creation, the God of grace, and the God of salvation. Not knowing nor even caring about God or what He had in store for me. I thought as all people do, I must live and exist on my own, making my own way and being my own defender. It was not until my gracious Lord’s Spirit come to me, entered my body, quickened my dead spirit, called and caused me to believe on Jesus Christ as my Saviour. It was that moment that this worthless and sinful young man became a child of God. It was that very moment I could feel the Holy Spirit working inside of me, while I did not know what was happening inside of me, I knew it was changing me. It was years later in life when I was taught that the life-changing experience I had was the power, grace, and love of God and His Beloved Son Jesus who died for me so many years ago. What I felt working inside of me was the Holy Spirit and that He would never leave nor forsake me, no matter what. It is hard to understand just how much the Lord God works in our life, and that He is so close that He is never far from us. I am blessed, because later in life I learned just how much God works in my life, I can feel Him working and see the results of His work in every move and happening in my life. I understand that I will live my entire life and never totally understanding how much God did in my life. God made me a promise, “that all things work together for good to them that love God”. Many things happen in my life, my day is full and there is no telling what good or disastrous thing may happen in that single day. But I have learned that every step I take, every breath of life I breath, and every happening thing, good or disastrous things, it is God that brought it, and it was brought for my good. The Lord is never far from me because He lives inside of me. I am not my own, I belong to the Lord my God and He has promised that no matter if the house falls on my head, it was He that caused it to fall. God has even promised me, “though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me”. It is I that must be patient and wait on the Lord because it is He that has made me all these wonderful promises, and that I will never walk alone for a single moment alone.

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

“Where the truths of God’s word have been taught  
For sixty-two 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

Pastor’s Blog: sgmbcpastor.blogspot.com

Church’s Website – www.sgmbaptist.com

Churches Facebook Page – www.facebook.com/sgmPastor

E-Mail pastor.johnson@sgmbaptist.com

**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, Tyler Castle, 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.

**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,

## **Everything short of Hell is mercy!**

By James Smith, from his "Good and Evil Alike from God" 1861

"What? shall we receive good at the hands of God, and shall we not receive evil?" Job 2:10

Jehovah's Prerogative.

He sends GOOD, all good.

He sends EVIL, not moral evil, for God cannot be the author of sin, nor in any way give His sanction to it.

But He does send afflictions, bereavements, losses, crosses, pains and sorrows. He sends good and evil sometimes in quick succession. He sent the fish to preserve the life of Jonah, and the gourd to screen him from the sun; but He sent also the worm to destroy the gourd, and teach Jonah a beneficial lesson. Who can read the life of Jacob or Joseph, of David or Daniel; and not see that the Lord sends both good and evil upon His people. Hence the prophet asks, "Shall there be evil in a city, and the Lord has not done it?"

The Believer's Duty. We should receive all as from God's hand. The reference is not so much to the receiving, for we must receive it; but the manner of receiving—as from God. We often receive good as from God, but we do not so receive evil; yet both alike should be so received.

GOOD should be received with gratitude and praise, with humility and love, with a deep sense of our unworthiness, and God's unmerited goodness. Nor should we forget that we are held responsible for the use of all the good things we receive from God.

EVIL should be received with patience and submission, saying with Eli, "It is the Lord, let Him do what seems good unto Him." There should be a recognition of His justice—as Aaron, when his two sons were slain, he held his peace. He was dumb, he opened not his mouth, because the Lord did it. There should also be confidence in His love, because the dispensations of His hand, never prove a change in His heart. He loves us as much when He sends evil, as when He sends good; for His love is not only everlasting, but unchangeable.

We should receive good and evil alike, as from a sovereign, wise, gracious, and holy God!

The Expostulation. "What? shall we receive good at the hands of God, and shall we not receive evil?" Are we to view good alone as coming from God? Are we not to look at evil—at our trials, troubles, and tribulations, as coming from Him?

Are we to forget His favors, lose sight of His paternal relationship, quarrel with His wisdom and love, and thus act the rebel and the ingrate? Alas! this is too often the case. One trouble swallows up the remembrance of many mercies! We think more of one loss, than we do of the gains of years; and we are more affected with one hour's pain and sickness, than we are with months of ease and health. But it would not be so, if we were properly affected with a due sense of our sinfulness, ingratitude, and unworthiness.

Then in the midst of our good things, we would say with Jacob, "I am not worthy of the least of all Your mercies!"

And in the midst of our evil things we would say with Job, "The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord"

It is folly to lose sight of God's hand in our troubles. We should rather say, "This also comes forth from the Lord Almighty, who is wonderful in counsel, and excellent in working."

Nor is it wise to complain of His dealings with us; for a sinner out of Hell, can never have any reason to complain. Everything short of Hell is mercy!

He assures us that all that He does, is in love. His word to us, when things are at the worst is, "As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten." Silence befits us, though to justify God would befit us more.

We should not make too much of the instruments by which we suffer. Joseph said unto his brethren, "It was not you, but God." David said of Shimei, "Let him curse, for the Lord has bidden him." The holiest of men have always looked more at God who uses the rod, than at the rod which He used. If He appoints it, it is wise. If He permits it, it is for our good. He does nothing, He permits nothing to be done—which affects His children, but they would do themselves, if they were as wise, as judicious, and as far-seeing as He is. Nor is there a doubt, but in eternity we shall bless and praise His holy name, for the very things that grieve and distress us now. Believer, receive everything, whether painful or pleasant, as from God's hand! And bless a taking God, as well as a giving God.

Lord, pardon our folly and forgive our sins, for we have been guilty of both in our conduct toward you; and help us in the future if tempted to repine, or if rebellious feelings arise in our hearts to say: "What? shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil also?"

## **Church information and Happenings**

- Our Bible Conference coming up soon, September 13th & 14th
- Pastor Johnson will be gone from September 19 – 29  
Brother Justin Bookout will fill the pulpit and teach in His place.