



## **INNER LIGHT**

By Curtis Pugh 1944 – 2018

What a person believes is dear to him. Belief systems motivate people to act. For instance if a person believes that good works results in salvation they will try to work their way to heaven. On the other hand, if they believe that salvation is by grace they will seek to learn if they are recipients of God's grace. Whatever a person's belief system is they hold it to be the truth. For them it is the truth and many people have died down through the centuries rather than give up their beliefs – their truth – their inner “light.”

The Lord Jesus spoke of men's belief systems when He said, “Take heed therefore that the light which is in thee be not darkness,” (Luke 11:35). It is possible, then, that a person's inner “light” be wrong. It is possible that a person can be quite confident that they know and understand the truth while actually believing lies. In such cases that person's inner “light” is actually inner “darkness.”

These words of the Lord Jesus are based upon these two facts: one, there is such a thing as truth; and, two, it is possible to know the truth. That truth exists and can be known is a basic teaching of the Bible. Jesus said to His disciples, “And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free,” (John 8:32). These words of the Lord also indicate that there is such a thing as truth and that it is possible to know it. But as the first verse quoted above warns, it is possible that those things which a person believes and holds dear are actually error.

The importance of the truth is seen again in the future condition of those who do not love the truth – those whose inner light is actually inner darkness. There is a city which in the future shall be the habitation of Christ and His bride. Outside of that blessed place and refused entry into it are people classified as “...whosoever loveth and maketh a lie,” (Revelation 22:15). What! Is it possible that some people love lies? Is it possible that some people love lies so much they make it their business to make and promote lies? Sadly it seems so! Outside of the blessing of God now, they shall remain so throughout eternity.

Whether an individual is a church member or not, each one of us believes certain things regarding God and eternity. We believe something about salvation even if we deny the existence of heaven and hell. In that case we deny the existence of those things, but in doing so indicate what we believe – and that we do indeed have an inner belief system. Each person thinks they believe the truth. They think they have light in them. So the words of Jesus spoken long ago are still appropriate: “Take heed therefore that the light which is in thee be not darkness.”

**Today is Sunday September 15, 2024**

## **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](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)

Churches Facebook Page – [www.facebook.com/sgmPastor](http://www.facebook.com/sgmPastor)

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

## **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

### **"As Christians we belong to God."**

As Christians we are the children of God, we are no longer the property of any other because we were bought by the blood of Jesus, God's own Son. We are to live, move, and have our being by the rule, authority, and laws of God, because He is our Father. God hates sin, there is not one sin that our Heavenly Father is pleased with, not one. So, what is a sin against God, it is any action, word, desire, purpose, or omission contrary to the law, which is contrary to the word of God. Jesus, God's own Son said, *"I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me."* John 5:30 If every believer had this thought in their heart, and worked to accomplish this, we would be so obedient to our Father and our crowns and rewards would be also great in heaven. While we all sin because of our old nature, our new nature should correct our old nature, and we would sin so much less. When our sin is a voluntary violation of, or failure to comply with the word of God then we are in greater violation of God's law. God said, *"Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin."* The Believers who walk the closest with God in His word are always the happiest because we are walking in fellowship with God. Jesus said, *"Verily, verily, I say unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him. (17) If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them."* John 13:16 - 17 And He should know because He walked 100% with God and in God's will. We must remember that every transgression is represented in the Bible as an act of rebellion against God, who is all Holy and is a hater of all sin. For us as His children to act independently of him, to set up the will of His child against the will of their Father in Heaven, and to put self in the place of God, and thus to dishonor His Holy name. We must also understand that it is wrong to twist our thinking and to blame our natural flesh for our sin. We must accept responsibility to God and work every second of everyday to please our Father. Sin should be our unrest in life, like a tossing of the waves of the sea; a constant disturbance, the flesh against the spirit, us against Satan. The Apostle Paul wrote about "departing from the faith" it was like *"...having their conscience seared with a hot iron;"* 1 Timothy 4:2b That is "to render insensitive" to the will of God for us to walk upright.

## **Pastor's Thought Continued**

Paul wrote about our new born again life, *"This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart: Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness."* Ephesians 4:17 – 19 And do not forget, when Paul speaks of the word "Gentiles" his reference is to lost people of the world.

## **Church information and Happenings**

- Pastor Johnson will be gone from September 19 – 29  
Brother Justin Bookout will fill the pulpit and teach in His place.

## **Christ takes the garbage!**

**By Charles Spurgeon**

Jewelers can only prepare and polish the choicest diamonds. But Jesus Christ polishes a common pebble, and makes a jewel of it!  
Jewelers make their precious treasures, out of precious materials. Christ makes His precious things, out of dross!  
He always begins with bad material. Christ takes . . .  
the despicable,  
the vilest,  
the scum,  
the off-scouring,  
the filth,  
the garbage of the world,  
and out of such stuff and matter as that, He builds up a holy temple, and gathers to Himself trophies for His honor and praise!

"Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.  
And that is what some of you were! But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God." 1 Corinthians 6:9-11