

Upcoming Date To Remember:

Women's Fellowship Meal
and Bible Study
NEXT SUNDAY - March 26

"March 19" from William Mason's "Morning Thought"

"Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward." **2 John 8.**

The salvation of God's people is certain, by his immutable love. Their safety depends on his almighty power; their confidence and glorying is in the finished work of Jesus; and their comforts are enjoyed from the Spirit's testimony of the Saviour to their hearts; as having loved, redeemed, and saved them as lost, guilty, and perishing sinners. The clearer views we have of this truth, so much the more do we cleave to Jesus. As our faith increases our comforts are strengthened; and this is the evidence of a gracious heart; the comforts of love ever excite to care and circumspection in life and practice. A glimpse of Jesus begets longing after more comfortable enjoyment of him: so also a holy jealousy of soul, lest what is gained should be lost in sense and enjoyment. While surrounded by false teachers, exposed to unscriptural doctrines, beset by a subtle adversary, and so nearly allied to corrupt lusts and carnal reasonings, we are ever in danger of losing sight of free-grace truths, gospel-love, and the finished salvation of Jesus, so as to be moved away from the hope of the gospel, and to make shipwreck of faith and a good conscience. Gospel truths and gospel grace give spring to action, life to obedience, are the sources of encouragement to persevere in the path of truth and holiness. What thanks are due to the loving Spirit for this wholesome advice! How much concerned should we be daily to improve it! Look to yourselves, see your danger, your vileness, your weakness; look up to Jesus for safety and strength. Blessed be the God we serve, he is not unrighteous to forget our works of faith, patience of hope, and labour of love. We enjoy his reward in our work, though not for our work. No: let Jesus have all that glory. Still the more work, the more sufferings for his sake, so much the more reward; of just debt to him, of righteous grace to us. O how apt are we to pine and grieve at the loss of a little shining dust! O should not the loss of light, liberty, love, peace and joy in Jesus, infinitely more affect us!

Would we avoid sorrowful complaints of loss? Are we solicitous to rejoice in present gain, and in hope of a future full reward? "Therefore, my brethren, be steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord; forasmuch as ye know your labour is not in vain in the Lord."—1 Cor. 15:58.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Richard Warmack, Pastor - (318) 513-9809

EMAIL: pastor@gracebaptistofruston.org

WEBSITE ADDRESS: www.gracebaptistofruston.org

Also visit: www.sermonaudio.com/graceofruston

Grace Baptist Church
2808 N. Trenton Ruston, La.71270
3/19/17

Call To Worship

Unto the Lord, this sinner owed
A debt I could not pay;
My sins were such an awful load,
But Christ put them away. **(REPEAT)**

His blood has washed away my shame,
And satisfaction made;
O bless the dear Redeemer's name,
My ransom price is paid. **(REPEAT)**

Salvation unto Christ I owe,
O what a gracious Friend.
He washed and made me white as snow,
On Him my hopes depend. **(REPEAT)**

Someday in heav'n I'll sing His praise,
With all the ransomed throng;
And joyfully my voice I'll raise,
To sing redemption's song. **(REPEAT)**

(Tune: "All Things Work Out For Good", pg.267)

Remember In Prayer This Week:

Sallie Barfield; Judy Ward; Pam Austin; David Brown;
Cindy Brantly; Emily Dubose; Devonne Lewis; Dusty Adams;
Emily Gay; Lydia Headrick; Freida Womack

Happy Anniversary

Matt and Kim Warmack - **TODAY**

Happy Birthday This Week:

Abby Stepp - **March 21**

From "Through Baca's Valley"

"Is there no balm in Gilead? is there no physician there?" **Jeremiah 8:22**

There is balm in Gilead, and there is a physician there. This is, and must ever be, our only hope. If there were no balm in Gilead, what could we do but lie down in despair and die? For our sins are so great, our backslidings so repeated, our minds so dark, our hearts so hard, our affections so cold, our souls so wavering and wandering, that if there were no balm in Gilead, no precious blood, no sweet promises, no sovereign grace, and if there were no physician there, no risen Jesus, no great High Priest over the house of God, what well-grounded hope could we entertain? Not a ray. Our own obedience and consistency? These are a bed too short and a covering too narrow.

But when there is some application of the balm in Gilead, it softens, melts, humbles, and at the same time thoroughly heals. No, this balm strengthens every nerve and sinew, heals blindness, remedies deafness, cures paralysis, makes the lame man leap as a deer and the tongue of the dumb to sing, and thus produces gospel sight, gospel hearing, gospel strength, and a gospel walk. When the spirit is melted, and the heart touched by a sense of God's goodness, mercy, and love to such base, undeserving wretches, it produces gospel obedience, aye, a humble obedience; not that proud obedience which those manifest who are trusting to their own goodness and seeking to scale the battlements of heaven by the ladder of self-righteousness, but an obedience of gratitude, love, and submission--willingly, cheerfully rendered, and therefore acceptable to God, because flowing from his own Spirit and grace. It is the application of this divine balm which purifies the heart, makes sin hateful, and Jesus precious, and not only dissolves the soul in sweet gratitude, but fills it with earnest desires to live to God's honor and glory.

This is the mysterious way the Lord takes to get honor to himself. As he opens up the depth of the fall, makes the burden of sin felt, and shows the sinner how his iniquities have abounded, he brings the proud heart down, and lays the head low in the dust; and as he makes him sigh and cry, grieve and groan, he applies his sovereign balm to the soul, brings the blood of sprinkling into the conscience, sheds abroad his mercy and love, and thus constrains the feet to walk in cheerful and willing obedience. This is obeying the precept from right motives, right views, right influences, under right feelings, and to right ends. This is the true Christian obedience, obedience "in the spirit and not in the letter," an obedience which glorifies God, and is attended by every fruit and grace of the Spirit.

J.C.Philpot