

Important Date To Remember

Seeing that July is a **FIVE SUNDAY MONTH**, we will again follow our fifth Sunday month schedule. On **July 30th**, we will gather for only **ONE SERVICE**, at **10:30**. At the conclusion of the service, we will observe the Lord's Table. Following the service, we will have a fellowship meal. Please mark you calendar and make your plans to be with us for this special time of worship.

"Confirming the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that through many afflictions we must enter into the kingdom of God." **Acts 14:22**

If there were no temptations to try, no sharp sorrows to grieve, no painful afflictions to distress them; or if, on the other hand, there were no sensible weakness of soul, no sinking of heart, no despondency of spirit, no giving way of faith and hope, no doubt or fear in the mind, how could the souls of the disciples be strengthened? The souls of God's people are not made of cast iron, against which arrow after arrow may be discharged and leave no dent, make no impression. The Lords people, who carry in their bosom broken hearts and contrite spirits, are often sinking, often shaken, often cast down through the many trials they have to encounter. It is for this reason that they need confirming, supporting, strengthening, and that the Lord Himself "would lay His everlasting arms underneath them, lift them into His bosom, and make His strength perfect in their weakness."

J.C.Philpot

The Gospel does not command us to DO anything in order to obtain life, but **IT BIDS US LIVE BY THAT WHICH ANOTHER HAS DONE**. And the knowledge of its life-giving truth is not labour but **REST** (rest of soul, rest which is the root of all true labour). For in receiving Christ we do not work in order to rest, but we rest in order to work. In believing, we cease to work **FOR** pardon, in order that we may work **FROM** it. And what incentive to work or source of joy in working, can be greater than an ascertained and realized forgiveness? That there are works done **BEFORE** faith we know; but we are assured that they profit **NOTHING**, for "*without faith it is impossible to please God.*"

Horatius Bonar

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

7/16/17

Call To Worship

Jesus Christ, the sinner's Friend,
Loves His people to the end;
And that they may safe abide,
He's the Rock in which they hide.

As a Rock, He guards them well
From the rage of sin and hell.
Such a Rock is Christ to me,
I am safe, though thousands flee!

Sheltered in His wounded side,
Now no ill can me betide;
From the tempest covered o'er,
One with Him for evermore.

(Tune: "Depth Of Mercy", pg.233)

Remember In Prayer This Week:

Judy Ward; Pam Austin; Mavis Gray; Cindy Brantly;
Sue Green; Emily Dubose; Billy Colving; Devonne Lewis;
Dusty Adams; Lydia Headrick; Shelly Miller

"That Eternal Line Which Separates" by J.C.Philpot

The true believer can never be satisfied with 'doctrine in the mere letter'—nor can he ever rest until he has the manifestation and discovery of it with power to his heart by the Holy Spirit. And here is that eternal line which separates the living from the dead—here is that narrow, narrow path which distinguishes the heaven-born children, from those who are wrapped up in a nominal profession. The living family must have the power of the truth in their hearts—while others are satisfied with the mere form of truth in their heads. The living family must have heavenly teaching, while those who are dead in sin can be contented with seeing truth in the Scriptures—without a feeling application of it with dew and savor to their hearts.

"We Love Him Because?"

The way you answer this seemingly simple question gives great insight into your hope of justification before the true and living God. Have you ever seriously considered your **MOTIVE**, (the inner drive or reason), for all the religious activities you do (prayer, church attendance, giving, evangelizing, holy living, etc)? I can speak from personal experience concerning this life or death issue. When I was in a state of lostness, I was actively involved in false, self-righteous, works religion, and went to great lengths to pray, to give at least a tithe, and to attend every activity that went on at the church. Now as I look back on these things, with eyes enlightened to the truth of justification fully accomplished for me at Calvary, I know that true righteousness is based solely on Christ's perfect obedience and substitutionary sacrifice as my Representative. I see that my motive made all my effort and energy to be nothing more than "*fruit unto death.*" "*For when we were in the flesh (in a state of lostness), the motions of sins, which were by the law, did work in our members to bring forth fruit unto death.*"(Rom.7:5) I can remember thinking that if I didn't give enough; God was going to take it from me somehow, **SO I'D GIVE**. If I missed church, I was quite certain God would punish me for it, **SO I WOULD ATTEND**.. Every thing I did was either from a mercenary or a legal motive. It was done either to earn or merit some reward, or to keep God from punishing me.

MOTIVE IS EVERYTHING when it comes to the true obedience of a justified sinner. Think about Saul of Tarsus. What religious activities did he perform while in a state of lostness? "*Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee; Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.*" (Phil.3:5:6) After God regenerated and converted him, what did he say of these things that he once thought so important? He referred to them as "**LOSS**" and "**DUNG.**" **Read Phil.3:7-10.** Before Paul's conversion, don't you think he prayed, gave, studied, and sought converts? Yet all of it was an evidence of his natural ignorance of how God could be both "a just God and a Saviour". After his regeneration, you can be assured that he still prayed, gave, studied, evangelized, and eventually died for the God of His salvation. What made the difference? It was his motive. He no longer did any of these things to save himself, keep himself saved, or to even recommend himself to God. His motive for all obedience was gratitude to God for all that He had already given him through the Lord Jesus Christ's obedience unto death. John wrote: "*We love him, because he first loved us.*"(I Jn.4:19) Those whom God has forgiven, whose sins were completely put away at Calvary, do indeed love Him, and seek to obey Him in every area of their lives. What's your motive?

Bro.Richard