

THE ECHO



Saint Rebecca P. B. Church ☐ 330 Grimwood Road ☐ Hazel Green, AL 35750 ☐ 256.828.5304 ☐ Vol. 33 No. 9 Sept. 2024

Pastor's Pen

When God created the heavens and the earth, the water and the dry land, the plants, animals and humanity as well; the creation was in a state of perfect peace. And all that God had made reflected His glory in the way it was intended. But into that world of peace and beauty came an enemy bent on sabotage. He deceived our first parents, leading them into open rebellion and sin against God. Their act of disobedience was the stone that was cast into the pool and the reverberation of Adam and Eve's rebellion has spread out to cover all of us right down to this very day.

The issue at stake in the Garden was not some arbitrary fruit; the issue at stake was the right to determine what is good and evil. The essence of sin is a longing for autonomy (self-rule) which is to "choose oneself as the source of determining what is right and wrong, rather than relying on God's Word for direction." Up to that point it was God who declared something good and it was God who declared something evil. But Satan offered Eve the opportunity to decide for herself what was good and what was evil. Ultimately sin is putting oneself in the position of God.

And we see this same thing on full display in our world today. We live in a culture where the foundation of our thinking is that we determine what is right and good for ourselves independent of any outside force or person. And we don't just see this at work out in the culture, we see this in the church as well.

Every time we say, I know what the Bible says, but. Every time we determine in our minds that we know better than God how something should be. This is the foundation of sin, to grasp at the seat of power which only God can sit upon. We see it where "we prefer our own wisdom to God's wisdom, our own desires to God's will, and our own reputation to God's honor."

God's grace is God's favor freely given to those who do not deserve it. It is the unmerited blessing of forgiveness that is received, not by our working, but by our believing. Saving grace does not come to us by works, we don't earn it through church activities and attendance. It is freely bestowed on all who believe. Grace is sovereign: God exercises it toward those whom He chooses and He is under no obligation to do so.

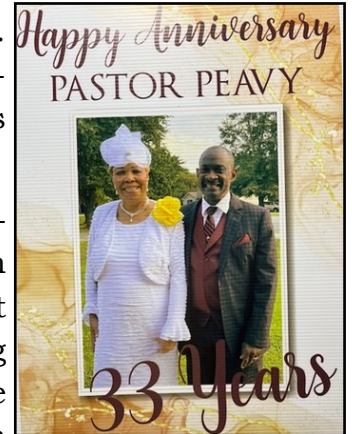
The message is, don't take God's Grace for Granted. He says that "I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy".

Worship with Old Zion

God's Grace and Mercy never ceases to amaze and on the second Sunday in August He showed up again. The church traveled to Pulaski Tennessee to worship with Elder Robert Peavy on his 33rd Pastoral Anniversary. It is always a blessing and pleasure for the two churches to worship together. The welcoming spirit that is always extended is heartwarming and appreciated.



Elder Dr. Perry Clark brought the message from 2 Timothy 4:1-8 with a sermon topic of God's Man. He lifted up that there's nothing better than a man wanting to be God's man. To be God's man is to be a good man and God gave Old Zion a "God's Man".



The job of any pastor is to take pastoring serious. There's an old adage that says it's good to hang around those who have the church and God on their mind and willing to do what they can do now, so the church of tomorrow can be stronger.

In the text, Paul is referring to one's lifestyle in the ministry. Sometimes people will need to see a sermon, before hearing a sermon. Being a pastor requires much study so you will be ready at a moment's notice and learn how to master "The Word." You must preach when they want to hear you and when they don't want to hear. In the midst of our mess, God still loves us. Pastors must be sound in what they speak because the only thing that will change people is the Word of God.

The Male Chorus provided the song service. Following worship, Old Zion served a meal "fit for a king." The church thanks you for the hard work and love you put in to taking care of God's people. May God continue to bless each of you.

92 Looks Good on You

Sister Jennie V. Garner is well on her way toward her motto, "I will live to be a hundred". This lady that is young at heart celebrated birthday 92 on August 15, 2024. On that day, her door was nothing less than revolving. She received visits, flowers, cards, phone calls, sweet treats, tokens of love and lots of love from her children, grandchildren, nieces nephews and a host of other family and friends. There was a full blown celebration given by her children on Sunday, August 18th. There was more love along with a to-go meal.



God continues to smile on her. He honors her faithfulness and for being the soldier that she is. Your family and church family honor you as well. Just know, that 92 looks as good on you as 21 did. We love you and wish you many more birthdays. Continue to stand on the promises of God.

Happy Birthday

Birthdays are special and should be treated as such. The church wishes each of you a blessed day. Spend it with someone you love

Morgan Carr 1st
Perris Clark 1st
Trevron Hereford 1st
Yutta Tibbs 2nd
Eunice Townsend 5th
Cierrina Rice 5th
Ruth Baker 6th
Tiffany Rucker 7th
Dea. Jimmy Andrews 8th
Darren McClendon 9th
Fredrena Parker 10th
Tiffany Jones 13th
Makayla Carr 13th
Marcus Crutcher 14th
Spence Townsend 16th
Merisha Ford 18th
Jerome Garner 20th
Christy Parker 20th
Xavier Rucker 20th
Robert Cook 21st
Gail Hereford 21st
Samuel Hereford 22nd
Cameron Clay 22nd
Crystal Bridges 23rd
DeAndre Townsend 24th
Cierrissa Goodlow 25th
Elder Stacy Stewart 26th
Jessica Townsend 26th
Phillip Hereford 27th
Tricia Clark 27th
Mother Jimmie D. Smith 28th
Chrystal G. Martin 29th
Donell Robinson 29th
Elder Trevor Stewart 29th

Happy Anniversary

Congratulations to the couples below who celebrates their anniversary this month.. You are an example of what love, togetherness and stick-to-itiveness like. May your union and lives continue to be blessed by God.

Rickey & Sylvia Graham 12th
Lamont & Janice Garner 18th
Charles & Mildred Bone 21st
Brent & Sabrina Thompson 22nd
Samuel & Hazel Hereford 23rd

Inspiration/Meditation

Used or Loved

While a man was polishing his car, his 4 year old son picked up a stone and scratched lines on the side of the car. In anger, the man took the child's hand and hit it many times: not realizing he was using a wrench.

At the hospital, the child lost all of his fingers due to multiple fractures. When the child saw the father...with painful eyes he asked, 'Dad when will my fingers grow back?' The man was so hurt and speechless; he went back to his car and kicked it a lot of times. Devastated by his own actions...sitting in front of that car he looked at those scratches; the child had written "LOVE YOU DAD'. The next day that man took his own life.

Anger and love have no limits; choose the latter to have a beautiful life. Remember: things are to be used and people are to be loved. But the problem in today's world is that, People are used and things are loved... Be careful to be yourself...This is the only day we HAVE.

Christian Humor

The Sunday School teacher was explaining the story of Elijah the Prophet and the false prophets of Baal to her class. She explained how Elijah built the altar, put wood upon it, cut the steer in pieces and laid it upon the altar. And then Elijah commanded the people of God to fill four barrels of water and put it over the altar. He had them do this four times. “Now, said the teacher, “can anyone in the class tell me why the Lord would have Elijah pour water over the steer on the alter?” A little girl raised her hand with great enthusiasm and said “To make the gravy”

Man is praying to God, saying I follow all your commandments, I don't live in vain, could you please grant me one wish: God says, what would you like my son? Man says build me a bridge from California to Hawaii and back. God says: That's kind of a tall order: Can you give me something much easier? The man says, okay God tell me everything there is to know about a woman and why she thinks the way she thinks: And God says, so do you want a two lane or a four lane bridge!

An atheist scientist came to God and said, “We've figured out how to make a man without you.” God said, “OK, let me see you do it.” So the atheist bent down to the ground and scooped up a handful. But God stopped him and said, “Oh, no you don't. Get your own dirt!”

PUZZLE FUN

L T K A H U Z H Z Q C W X E X H Y M C Y
J O U U W M P C B R U B R S O A A P O A
O P V Z V E D K I K D I J E N Y D A N D
K N S S J P Y S J D H X W P I R R T S S
G N I K C I P E L P P A M T U I O R T T
P U M P K I N S P I C E E E Q D B I I N
R E M M U S N A I D N I W M E E A O T E
U H A R V E S T M O O N T B N S L T U R
E T O I D E I P N A C E P E M H Z D T A
J A R L U U V O Z M P Q N R U J K A I P
W G K L J F V W E S R F Q M T R B Y O D
O O B E E R T W O L L I W Z U K B N N N
C H A N G I N G L E A V E S A T H G D A
P V M L S N L L A B T O O F K M U Z A R
M O R N I N G G L O R Y P U U Z B A Y G

APPLE PICKING
AUTUMN
AUTUMN EQUINOX
BLUE SAPPHIRE
CHANGING LEAVES
CONSTITUTION DAY
CRISP
FOOTBALL
GRANDPARENTS DAY
HARVEST MOON
HAYRIDES
INDIAN SUMMER
LABOR DAY
MORNING GLORY
PATRIOT DAY
PECAN PIE
PUMPKIN SPICE
SEPTEMBER
VIRGO
WILLOW TREE