

# The OKLAHOMA BAPTIST

Serving Churches of the Baptist Missionary Association of Oklahoma

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Number 11

## McGirt v. Oklahoma “The State We Are In....Or Not”

By Christ Gonthier  
BMAOK Moral Action

One of the most troubling developments we are facing in the state of Oklahoma is the fallout that is associated with this Supreme Court Decision. (18-9526 McGirt v. Oklahoma (07/09/2020)- Supreme court.)

I recommend that all residents of Oklahoma become familiar with this as soon as possible. At issue is whether or not tribal reservations were dissolved when Oklahoma became a state.

In writing this article I want to make it clear that in no way am I, or the BMA of Oklahoma, trying to be condescending or judgmental toward any group or groups of people. In fact, quite the opposite is true.

“But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors.” James2:9

We believe all should be treated equally in the eyes of God, and we all become one at salvation.

“There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.” Galatians 3:28

The ultimate goal is to see unification of all believers in Christ Jesus.

Now let us try to gain an understanding of the implications of the above-mentioned ruling (will be referred to as McGirt through the rest of the article). At the heart of the matter is whether reservations still exist and who ultimately has jurisdiction and authority over eastern Oklahoma.

Understand that not all of the tribes have

the same opinion on this matter. Also, different individuals within tribal jurisdictions have varied opinions on this matter.

I have spoken to one native who believes that Oklahoma does not exist east of I-35 and that all people living on tribal lands should pay taxes to the nation they live in. This would mean that I would pay taxes to the Cherokee nation, and would be a resident of that nation, but I would not be a member.

McGirt primarily dealt with the jurisdiction of crimes, but how would it influence the ownership of property? Can a nonnative own property in the area of question?

Since Oklahoma became a state, all citizens have been legally allowed to own property, and the jurisdiction has been under the state. The current question is, “Is my land part of Oklahoma, or does it lie within or on a reservation.”? Furthermore, what role does the federal constitution play in this matter, particularly the 14th amendment?

“Section 1. All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process

of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.”

These details have not presently been fully addressed and are cause for concern. For instance, why would a company want to buy land and invest in the development if there is a possibility, albeit remote, that they will lose ownership of that property?

There are problems that we currently face because of the McGirt decision. We have heard that criminals were allowed to go free from jail because they were natives, and their convictions took place in a state court rather than tribal or federal.

On November 16, 1907, President Theodore Roosevelt signed legislation combining the Oklahoma Territory and the Indian Territory making Oklahoma the 46th state.

Some natives challenge the authority of the statehood of Oklahoma, saying reservations should still exist. Other people feel that if an Indian sold, or “legally” gave up his land, it is no longer part of a reservation.

This is a very divisive issue that determines which entity has authority in legal matters. For instance, if there is a dispute (criminal) between two non-natives then the state has jurisdiction.

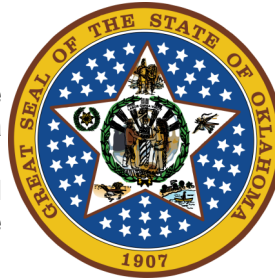
If it is between two tribal members, the tribe has jurisdiction, or perhaps federal. If the crime involves a native and a nonnative, then it becomes a federal issue.

So does the federal government apply federal law? Or does it apply state law? Do the tribal laws apply?

Neither the federal government, nor the Tribes currently have the infrastructure to handle such an influx of cases. Unless the crime is of a very serious nature, many that would have been handled by the state are never prosecuted.

This means there is no justice for the victims, and it could possibly embolden the criminals. I have heard an estimate that in some counties as much as 95 percent of crimes involving tribal members are not being prosecuted.

(“The State We Are In...or Not” cont on pg 7)



# New Generation Baptist Church News

Many I'm sure have already heard of the passing of our brother in Christ, Thomas Dickerson, the pastor of the Missionary Baptist Church in Lindsay, OK. He was doing some work on the church building there and had a fall from a ladder which led to his death.

I didn't know him really well, but I had several occasions recently to interact with him some and learn that he was a great man.

He and his wife Francis had helped us some in our outreach efforts as we tried to reach into the Hispanic community here in Norman. They both spoke Spanish which helped us in our interaction with Hispanic folks.

Please be in prayer for Francis. That God would give her peace during this time of loss and uncertainty.

We have made a lot of contacts in our recent outreach efforts. To date we have had five professions of faith in Christ.

We have had lots of support from others outside of our Church, with ten teams on the first Saturday and six teams on the following Saturday.

We are also preparing for a block-party which we hope will bolster these efforts.

Brother Chris is sharpening his focus on evangelism and his Evangelism Explosion efforts.

He has had several opportunities to train others in distant Churches, one in Leedy, Oklahoma and another in Mercedes, Texas.

Brother Luis Santos and his wife Melissa continue to be great assets in the ministry here. He preaches often and helps with other needs. Melissa sings and plays the keyboard a lot.

She also, translates during our

bilingual services.

Please continue to support and pray for the ministry here.

If you know of any other people that you think might enjoy this newsletter, please send me their email address and I'll try to include them in the future or feel free to forward this to them.

As always, pray for revival.

Steve & Lynn Puckett  
Cell – 405 570-8325

Chris Lorenz  
Cell – 405 226-4111

## Central Baptist College Homecoming set for January 28 & 29 CBC to kickoff Homecoming with a 70th Anniversary Bash

Next year marks Central Baptist College's 70th Birthday and we have plans to celebrate all year long; starting with Homecoming 2022. CBC will host its annual Homecoming activities on Friday, January 28, and Saturday, January 29, 2022. Several events will take place during the week as we gear up for our main events on Friday and Saturday.

We are bringing back the Chili Cook-Off this year in the Mabee Student Center. Students, alumni and faculty/staff are encouraged to compete. This will be held on Wednesday, January 26, during lunch 11:00 am-1:00 pm. Registration is FREE; all we ask is that you provide enough chili for our students to sample. The event will have free admission and our Dining Services Staff will be providing hot dogs to accompany the chili. To register a Chili Cook-Off team, email Amy Reed at areed@cbc.edu.

The Stampede Open House for prospective students is Friday beginning at 2:30 p.m. in the Story Library. Students interested in CBC will learn more about scholarships, financial aid, the admissions process, and much more. Students may sign up at [cbc.edu/visit](http://cbc.edu/visit).

Dust off your leather jackets and poodle skirts and join us for our 70th Anniversary Celebration! Beginning at 5:30 p.m., we want to take you back to 1952. Join us on CBC's Campus for a fun night of food and fun....1952 style! This event will be free, so bring your family to this blast from the past. Costumes are encouraged so start making those plans now!

Immediately following our birthday celebration, we will kick off the 2nd Annual Battle of the Bands. Students, alumni, and staff are encouraged to participate. For more information contact Marieca Ashworth at [mashworth@cbc.edu](mailto:mashworth@cbc.edu).

On Saturday, we will recognize our 1971-1975 graduates at our Half Century Club Induction. The induction will begin at 10:00 a.m. in the Mitchell Lecture Hall. Light refreshments will be served. We hope to see many graduates back on campus to help us celebrate the weekend. If you happen to be one of the 71-75 graduates, be on the lookout for more information in the coming weeks.

The CBC Alumni Luncheon will be held at 11:30 a.m. in the Dining Hall of the Mabee Student Service Building. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased at [cbc.edu/homecoming](http://cbc.edu/homecoming). Proceeds from the luncheon will go towards the Kenneth Brown Scholarship. Awards will be given to four alumni who have demonstrated incredible service to their community, their careers, and steadfast faith. Award winners will be announced in January.

The highlight of the day begins in A.R.Reddin Fieldhouse at 1:00 p.m. with the Lady Mustangs taking on Hannibal-LaGrange University. The 2022 Homecoming Court will be announced after the women's game and will be followed by the Mustangs going head to head with Hannibal-LaGrange University.

**For more information, go to [cbc.edu/homecoming](http://cbc.edu/homecoming)  
or contact Jessica Faulkner at [jfaulkner@cbc.edu](mailto:jfaulkner@cbc.edu) or 501.205.8800.**

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# "I Was Just Thinkin'"

By Narita Roady

## Everything I Ever Needed to Know About Trusting God, I Learned From My Grandchildren! Part 2

I am deep into my course study of Grandchildren 101. When graduation day is, I am not exactly sure. The study is quite demanding and the curriculum extensively varied.

For example the study topic, Many Things are Edible, taught me that scraps of paper, dog food, and dead moths can be consumed without ill effects.

An interesting Math experiment has been, can Pampers size 18-28 pounds, really hold 18-28 pounds? (The results look doubtful thus far)

Take for example, my incredible Biology discovery that a 32" boy's muscles can stretch to twice his height to reach a pair of scissors on the kitchen counter.

I have been rendered speechless, by the Science demonstration that gravity can be defied. I was privy to this astonishing feat when I walked into a room and found Seth balancing on one foot on, a 10'x12" box, a small wobbly stool, and an ice chest (stacked in that order!), stretching to reach the candy jar!

### Lesson 3

**When darkness surrounds you and circumstances frighten you, cry out to Him, He will comfort you.**

Caring for small children is a 24 hour a day job. Every night I found myself

getting off the second shift only to be on call, for the third shift. Not far into my night time nap I would be jolted from a deep sleep (or was it a coma?) by a piercing cry.

One of the boys would wake up in the dark, frightened, hungry, or thirsty. My feet would hit the floor before my eyes even opened, and I would rush to his side.

Quickly scooping him up, his little chubby arms would encircle my neck in a death grip. With my presence driving away all Boogie Bears, I comforted him, and his sobs quickly turned into snores. All fear was gone.

God is not only there to help us when we fail, but He is also there to comfort us in our fears.

When you are scared of the dark shadows life casts upon you, our heavenly Father's ears are always alert to our cries for comfort. He will quickly come to our side, soothing us with His presence.

---

***"When you are scared  
of the dark shadows life casts upon you,  
our heavenly Father's ears  
are always alert to our cries for comfort.  
He will quickly come to our side,  
soothing us with His presence."***

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Then they cry unto the Lord in their trouble, and he bringeth them out of their distresses. He maketh the storm a calm, so that the waves thereof are still. Then are they glad because they be quiet; so he bringeth them unto their desired haven. Psalm 107:28-30



### Lesson 4

**Appreciate all He provides or you in all areas of your life. No matter how small or seemingly unimportant.**

My grandsons' think I am the giver of the greatest gifts!

Fisher Price and Little Tike don't

hold a candle to me!

I toss them empty cake boxes, empty paper towel cylinders, or a few orange juice lids, and their eyes light up like a Christmas tree!

The smiles, hugs and "Tank woo's" of appreciation warm my heart as nothing else can. Their thankfulness for such insignificant objects still amazes me.

Rushing about our daily tasks, pursuing the bigger, better, and faster, we are blinded to the little joys and blessings God bestows upon us.

We generously proclaim our gratitude for the big flashy gifts He furnishes, but fail to even notice the modest pleasures He so liberally sprinkles throughout our days.

Let us not be like the ungrateful Israelites whom God showered with manna, angel's food, (Psalm 78:23-25), daily for 40 years, yet they failed to see the miracle in it because their hearts and eyes were lusting after earthly food.

(*"Grandchildren,"* cont on pg 7)

# Reality Check: Thinking Correctly

How about a reality check?

What's your attitude like? Would you describe yourself right now as full of hope and excitement, or are you full of despair and discouragement?

Maybe you're allowing all that activity to rob you of the ability to worship? (Remember Mary and Martha and the lesson Mary learned?) What are you focused on, thinking through, and meditating about the most?

Paul says in 1 Thessalonians 5:8, "But since we belong to the day, we must be serious and put the armor of faith and love on our chests, and put on a helmet of the hope of salvation."

This is especially important right now as things seem to be growing progressively dimmer!

Are you focused on the hope of your salvation? What happens when that is the first thought of every day?

Jesus gives you a keen awareness of and gratitude for your deliverance from the bondage of sin and your ability to live a pure and God-pleasing life.

If you have recently found yourself griping too much, it's possible you're not praising Him enough. The hope of your salvation gives you a deep understanding that sin can destroy your health, your relationships, and the ability to fulfill your purpose, so you must remain focused on the Savior.

This laser beam of intentional concentration enables you to have deep compassion for those who need a Savior and need to experience what you have in Christ!

Intentionality also makes you quicker to witness, give thanks, offer praise for your Savior, and intercede for others.

This is the real battleground on which

the enemy fights his strongest, dirtiest, bloodiest, and most important battles. Consider this: Jesus is Savior and His work in us is salvation.

There is tremendous benefit in meditating on His loving-kindness and His death on the cross, so you might live free of sin and inherit an eternal home.

**Reality check number one** is that no one can govern or monitor your thinking but you. You control and govern what you will allow your mind to dwell on. You have the power to both dismiss and entertain thoughts.

Paul makes it clear that we are to pursue having the mind of Christ. His attitude. If you allow wrong thinking to control you, before long it becomes a stronghold and will end up characterizing your attitude toward life.

Tony Evans says, "If it becomes a stronghold it is because you either do not know the truth or are not making use of the truth you know."

**Reality check number two** is that you can have even have victory in your mind and your thinking. Easier said than done, but Paul would not have made the challenge if it were not possible through the work of the Holy Spirit in our hearts and minds.

What is the most important thought to remain focused upon? That Jesus is your Lord and Savior. Salvation does not only refer to a person's initial acceptance of Christ, but also to God's ongoing rescuing and delivering power.

This is why you are instructed by the Savior to pray daily, "Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one."

**Reality check number three** is that how you think usually determines how you function. The helmet protects the head where the brain is the control

center for all we do.

Protect your thought life by trusting God to save, rescue, and deliver you from the onslaught of messages you encounter every day.

God desires to save you from all doubt and deliver you from the enemy's lies. This onslaught is meant to rob you of joy, peace, security, and confidence.

Second Corinthians 10:4-5 says, "We demolish arguments and every high-minded thing that is raised up against the knowledge of God, taking every thought captive to obey Christ."

**Reality check number four** is that the helmet of salvation is what protects you from discouragement. The enemy tempts you to give up when you don't see the results you desired.

You prayed but God did not answer it the way you had hoped.

You poured your life into a ministry and yet it did not grow and flourish.

You disciplined someone countless hours but they did not continue on the path you believed they should. The temptation is to lose heart.

You begin to wonder if you have labored in vain as the enemy whispers into your ear that you are a failure.

Remember that he is a liar and God has called you to be faithful.

**Reality check number five** is if the enemy can discourage you, he will then deter you. Discouragement comes from looking at your failures, sins, unresolved problems, poor health, or anything else negative in your life causing you to lose confidence in the loving care of your heavenly Father.

You begin to doubt His promises, goodness, and dependability. Do not forget you are in a race you cannot lose and a fight where you are guaranteed victory.

The helmet of salvation gives us confidence and assurance that our present struggles won't last forever!

Reality check . . . in Christ you are on the winning team.

# “Six Things to Stop Doing”

Leading your church in being a healthy and growing congregation of believers means that you must stop doing certain things.

While there are many “must dos” there are also many “must don’ts” that require honest evaluation. They are things that, if you continue to practice them, will cause you and your church to remain plateaued or even headed in a downward death spiral.

Refusing to stop doing these things could very well lead you to a place where you will crash and burn . . . emotionally, spiritually, and physically.

## **Stop ignoring the importance of your quiet time and building your personal intimacy with Christ**

A.W. Tozer said, “God doesn’t have favorites, but He does have intimates.” If you are not careful you will know a lot about God but not really know Him personally. What are you doing to ensure that your personal relationship with your heavenly Father is close, intimate, and vibrantly alive?

There is a huge difference between having knowledge of God and having a deep relationship with God. Do you know more about Him than you actually know Him personally?

## **Stop talking about prayer and pray**

It is a discipline that takes a lot of time and dedication to develop but is well worth the journey.

Bill Elliff, in *Simply Prayer*, reminds us of the need to begin prayer with adoration, “Our Father who is in heaven, hallowed be your name.”

Are you worshiping Him daily? Are you slowing down long enough to focus on His presence? While there, what are you noticing about who He is and how He operates?

Bill says, “Don’t rush this moment in prayer. It will set the tone for the rest of your praying. Let a vision of God fill your soul and direct your praise.”

## **Stop deciding what you will do each day**

Bill Bright used to lay his calendar before the Lord every morning and ask Him what needed to be removed and what needed to be added. He sought to make sure that everything was run through the filter of obeying the Great Commission.

We should also pray, “Your kingdom come, your will be done in earth as it is in Heaven.” Every day should begin by focusing on aligning with God’s purpose for you and for that day.

Stop striving to get God to do what you want through persuading Him to bless what you have planned.

Bill Elliff reminds us that Jesus listened to His Father in heaven and did only what the Father initiated. Planning is important and calendars are good but we must remain sensitive to the leading and prompting of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus made it clear that He could do nothing of His own initiative. Are you living by divine initiation? If you are not careful, you can schedule God’s divine interruptions right out of your day because it was not on your calendar.

It is good to be goal and time driven, but it is even better to take your goals and your calendar and allow them to be controlled by the Holy Spirit.

## **Stop believing your critics**

Yes, everyone has them and unfortunately, they impact us far more than we like to admit. If we are looking for our sense of worth and accomplishments in what others say, there will always be the temptation to allow the praise to corrupt us and the criticism to crush us.

One of the enemy’s greatest weapons is words of accusation. Satan is the accuser of the brethren (Revelation 12:10), and it brings him great joy when someone allows him to use them as his spokesman.

Words do hurt, and accusatory words

can be vicious either in nature or in the way they are said.

## **Stop trying to do it by yourself**

In Exodus 18:17-18 Moses was trying to handle everything himself and received some very wise counsel. “What you’re doing is not good,” Moses’ father-in-law said to him. “You will certainly wear out both yourself and these people who are with you, because the task is too heavy for you. You can’t do it alone.”

Great advice because exhaustion and burn out are real if you do not find some margin in your life. It is easy to just keep saying yes and doing more and more and more, but you must begin saying no to some things is order to say yes to others.

Maybe you want others to help, but right now there just isn’t anyone available. First, usually there is someone. Realize that you can burn the candle at both ends for a season, but you cannot sustain that pace forever. Begin praying for God to raise up leaders out of the harvest and begin pouring into them and training them.

If you do not have someone to oversee and direct that ministry, maybe you don’t need it. That is hard, but it is better to do a few things well than to do many things poorly.

Do you have a discipleship pathway that leads into a leadership pipeline?

## **Stop wondering if there is any hope for your church**

As long as Jesus is on His throne and at work, there is always hope. Your labor is not in vain. John Maxwell said, “Where there is not hope in the future, there is not power in the present.”

Remember, just because you cannot see the way does not mean that God doesn’t have a way for you and your church.

There is power in the present and real hope when you place a radical trust in God that includes a candid admission that you do not know the details of the future.

What you do know - that He is God - far outweighs what you do not know.

# "That Reminds Me"

By Jesse Spurlock

"Did You Know?"

Some people apparently have too much time on their hands, because I keep running across trivia information that makes me wonder how and why someone would find this stuff out. Consider the following:

A "jiffy" is an actual unit of time equivalent to 1/100th of a second. (I thought it was just an expression.)

Almonds are members of the peach family. (Personally, I don't see the family resemblance.)

Butterflies taste with their feet. (Apparently they're careful about where they walk before meals.)

Cats have more than one hundred vocal sounds. Dogs have only about ten. (Obviously a biased survey by a cat lover.)

If the population of China walked past you in single file, the line would never end because of reproduction. (I don't think they were Chinese, but I tried to find the end of a line like that the other day at Sam's.)

It is impossible to sneeze with your eyes open. (If you keep your eyes open you might get some "sneeze germs" in them.)

Maine is the only state whose name has only one syllable. (I always suspected those Yankees were lazier than Okies. We have four syllables in the name of our state.)

No word in the English language rhymes with orange, silver, month or purple. (I found that out when I had to write poems for my high school English class.)

The giant squid has the largest eyes in the world. (Obviously he sees a lot of surprising things in his life.)

The only 15 letter word that can be spelled without repeating a letter in "uncopyrightable." (Yes, but how many times have you seen that word written out?)

There are 293 ways to make change for a dollar. (Now, who had the time to figure that one out? Also, who cares?)

Women blink nearly twice as much as men. (Don't tell the Women's Lib movement about this! They will insist men conform.)

Two-thirds of the world's eggplant is grown in New Jersey. (Now I know why I don't want to live in New Jersey.)

A dime has 118 ridges around the

edge. (I was sure I counted 120 the last time I checked.)

A snail can sleep for up to two years. (Who tracked this?)

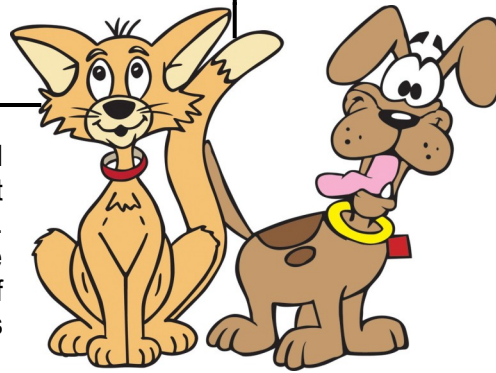
On a Canadian two-dollar bill, the flag flying over the Parliament building is an American flag. (Another reason I liked Canadians.)

A goldfish has a memory span of only three seconds. (I've known some people like that.)

In dealing with trivia, I find myself fascinated with some of it. But there are books that deal with "Trivia of the Bible," that I find neither fascinating nor amusing.

These usually come up with really weird, remote facts, and usually take the information out of context. Paul warned about endless genealogies and such like (Titus 3:9 & 1 Timothy 1:4).

Some of the "Bible Trivia" falls into that category. Those who read the Bible to find "Bible Trivia" would be better off reading it to find God's will for their life.



## 2021 NATIONAL SENIOR ADULT

November 15-17, 2021  
CHATEAU ON THE LAKE

The 2021 National Senior Adult Conference will be a great conference you won't want to miss. Pastor Kirk Shelton from Fayetteville, AR will be the conference pastor for the week. Pastor Kirk is an incredible Bible teacher, that we are sure you'll enjoy.

Travis Sellers will be leading worship for the week. Travis is the worship pastor at Antioch Baptist Church in Conway AR. Danny Parrish from Lifeward Media Ministries will be the conference emcee.

Lauren Talley and Brian Free and Assurance will be in conference as well as dinner and a show on the Branson Belle Showboat.

## **“Grandchildren,” cont from pg 3**

(Numbers 11:4-9).

Slow down and look at your world through the eyes of a child, delighting in the small daily wonders He sends your way. After all, which one of us couldn't use more joy in our life?

### **Lesson 5**

**Show God your love and appreciation. It will bring Him great joy.**

The long hours of hard work are worth every hair pulled out and drop sweated.

Unfailingly, my grandsons generously reward me with their heartfelt appreciation and love.

It might be Caleb's big wet kisses. He firmly grabs a hank of hair on each side of my head, pulls my face toward him with Herculean strength, then my eye, nose, or chin disappears

into his wide open drooling little mouth.

(His kisses don't have a pucker yet)

Maybe it is one of Seth's bear hugs or ear to ear grins. The method doesn't matter but what's in their heart does.

***“Rushing about our daily tasks,  
pursing the bigger, better, and faster,  
we are blinded to the little joys  
and blessings God bestows upon us.  
We generously proclaim our gratitude  
for the big flashy gifts He furnishes,  
but fail to even notice the modest pleasures  
He so liberally sprinkles throughout our days.”***

## **“The State We Are In...or Not” cont from pg 1**

Understand that I do not wish for anyone to lose their identity. My question is what now?

If we hold to Oklahoma statehood, then all should be treated equally within all of the state.

If you are of the opinion that all land should go back to the natives, then how do you compensate those who have current ownership of land, and it is recorded in county and state records.

If you give the land back to natives and

decide compensation is required who determines value (remember some non-natives have been here for generations).

Where would the money come from? Do we steal it from taxpayers? If we take the land without compensation, then the current owners lose.

If we don't equally apply the law, then we are in violation of the 14th amendment section one. Again my question, What now?

It brings us great joy when those we sacrifice and lovingly labor for respond in sincere gratitude. God is no different. How happy it must make Him when we His children show our love and appreciation for all He does for our benefit.

We are all guilty of taking His gifts with an open hand but closing our hearts to expressing the gratitude He deserves.

Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with benefits, even the God of our salvation. Selah.

Psalms 68:19

Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

Rev. 4:11

Yes, since I have embarked upon this new area of education in my life, Matthew 19:14, has become alive to me.

But Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven.

No wonder we can learn so much from these precious little children.

## **October Report From Grace Harbor**

October was a rather “ordinary” month for the most part. I had someone tell me recently that ministry is like farming. You often times do not know “how things are going” until months down the road. But for today, you keep tilling, sowing, and doing the work the Lord has laid before you for that day.

This seems to be the theme for the work going on in OKC through Grace Harbor. It is not unexciting by any means. We are having more Gospel conversations than we have had in the past and we believe the Lord is truly working in these relationships. We are grateful for the Lord's work in the seasons of “ordinary”.

Beyond that, this coming Sunday we have “Family Sunday”. We have four Family Sundays each year, and they are times for us to welcome new covenant members, welcome new babies, and baptize. This coming Sunday, we will be welcoming one new family as covenant members, and welcoming two new babies. We also will be celebrating three years since launching as a church.

The Lord has been so good and faithful, and we want to take time to acknowledge the work he has done among us these three years. We will be having lunch and a time of fellowship following our Sunday morning gathering.

# “The Greatest Job In the World”

By Donny Parrish

Someone, somewhere designated October as Pastor Appreciation Month. I'm not sure who that someone is, but they ought to be commended.

I think it's great for churches to set aside time to recognize the sacrificial service pastors give to their people.

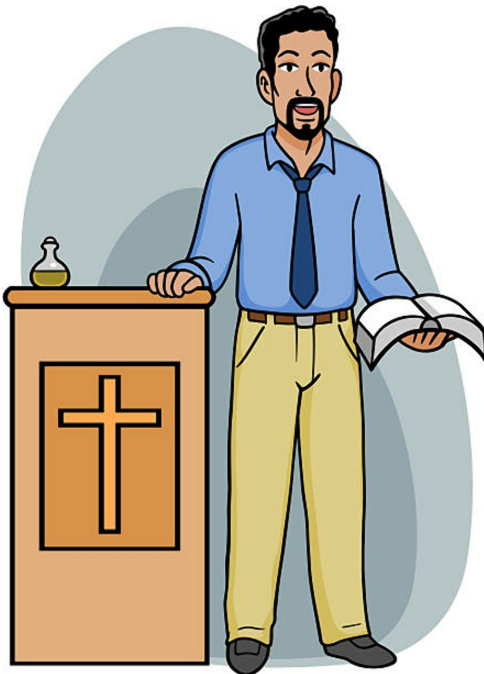
There's a shortage of men giving their lives to serve as pastors today. Did you know that? There aren't enough pastors to fill the vacant pulpits in our country.

There are many of reasons for that, I'm sure, but I think one reason is that many pastors have a negative view of pastoral life:

- The pay can be less than appealing.
- The hours are long.
- There is a high degree of stress that comes with the territory. (You live in a glass house and are held to impossible standards.)
- People can be hard to lead. (Sometimes they're just plain mean.)

Are you considering answering God's call to serve as one of His pastors? Having served in a pastoral role for the better part of four decades, I can tell you a few things about being a pastor.

Can I share with you something that others might be afraid to admit? Being a pastor is the greatest “job” in the world! There's nothing that compares to the joy of serving as a pastor.



Here are four benefits that no other vocation can afford you:

**#1 Pastors get to help people during the most important times of their lives.**

Whether it's the birth of their first child, the passing of a loved one, counsel during times of decision or just being a good friend, pastors get to be part of people's lives during their most important moments. It's an honor!

**#2 Pastors get to watch people grow.**

There's no greater feeling than to see someone grow in their faith. Pastors get to be a part of that spiritual process that will impact every part of a person's life.

**#3 Pastors get to meet lots of interesting people.**

Do you like people? (If you don't, being a pastor probably isn't going to be a good spot for you.)

Pastors are always getting to meet new people and dive into the lives of people from all sorts of backgrounds.

In fact, when you're a pastor you are essentially in the people business. It's really a lot of fun!

**#4 Pastors live in a constantly changing environment.**

Do you like change? Do you hate being bored? Then you'll love being a pastor. Every day is a different day when it comes to ministry.

Because all the people to whom you minister are different so your work will be constantly changing.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Daylight Savings Time Ends  
November 7**

**BMA of America  
Senior Adult Conference  
November 15-17  
Chateau on the Lake  
Branson, MO  
See pg 6**

**Pastors  
Expository Workshop  
November 18-19  
FBC Piedmont, OK  
g3min.org**

**#5 Pastors get to share the greatest news anyone could ever receive!**

How much better can it get? Pastors get to tell people the good news! God loves people so much that He gave us Jesus! You can live in freedom!

It's a privilege to give people hope in this life and in the life to come!

I can confidently say that being a pastor is the greatest “job” in the world! If God is moving your heart to give your life to serve others by being a pastor, do it!

You'll receive so much joy for your labor, and so much happiness for your sacrifice!