

# Pastor's Pen

Passing Through!

*You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. James 4:4*

Does the world seem upside down to you? Is it hard to recognize the country that you grow up in? It seems that over the past 12 months, our world has been turned upside down. Riots and looting were occurring in cities all across America. Even when arrest occurred, prosecutors choose not to prosecute in many cases. We had sections of cities under siege, and nothing was done to restore order.

Federal courthouses were set on fire, and statutes were vandalized throughout the country.

In addition, we have been bombarded with "wokeness" as it pertains to gender identity. We live in wicked times when a school teacher can be fired for refusing to use a student's preferred pronoun. Schools across the country are acquiescing to the demand that transgender students can use bathrooms and locker rooms of their declared gender, not their biological gender.

The reality is that Christians should not be surprised. In the 60's we experienced the sexual revolution and free love in this country. But, it did not stop there. By the turn of the century, homosexuality became the next "taboo" to be normalized, and in 2015 the Supreme court ruled 5-4 that states must allow same-sex marriages. But, unfortunately, nothing seems to be out of the reach of the depraved heart.

So, what do we do, dear Christian? The same thing that every believer who has ever lived should do, obey Scripture. Before we get too self-righteous, let me remind you what the Apostle Paul told the church in Corinth;

*"Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. 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*

Since we were justified and positionally sanctified, we are called to live no longer for ourselves but for Christ. We are to be transformed and not conformed to this world. Christian, you are passing through this is not your home. The Bible describes us as sojourners (a person who resides temporarily in a place) and ambassadors. Not only is this life temporary, but we also have been called to proclaim the message of the King, the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Stop and check yourself. Ask yourself why am I upset about what is happening. Are you upset because of the world's lostness or because it disrupts your love for the things of this world?

Your shepherd,

Pastor Mark

# Grace Gems

God has promised to work everything together for the good of His people. If God is for us, it follows that, ultimately, nothing can stand against us. That is logical. Otherwise, God would not be God. If something could rise up against God and overcome Him, that other thing would be God. God would then prove to be a false god—no God at all. But on the contrary Paul is saying that in the last analysis, nothing can be against us if God is for us.

But this raises the million-dollar question: "Is God for me?" Perhaps even more pointed is the personal question: "How do I know that God is for me?" Well, do you know that? How do you know?

Satan is very insistent about this—indeed, he has been insistent on this question from the beginning. He asked it in the Garden of Eden. In fact, his first recorded words are an assault on God's gracious character (will we never learn how much he hates God and His people?): "Did God put you in this lavish garden and forbid you to eat from any of its trees? What kind of God does that? You don't think He is really for you, do you, if He does that kind of thing?" (see Gen. 3:1).

You will find this innuendo repeated in various forms and guises throughout your Christian life. You need to have biblical answers to these questions:

How do you know God is really for you?

Where should you look for the proof that God is for you? Does it lie in the fact that your Christian life has been unbroken happiness?

Does it lie in the fact that your Christian life been one of ecstatic joy?

## Quote of the Week

*"To know that nothing happens in God's world apart from God's will may frighten the godless, but it stabilizes the saints." -J I Packer*

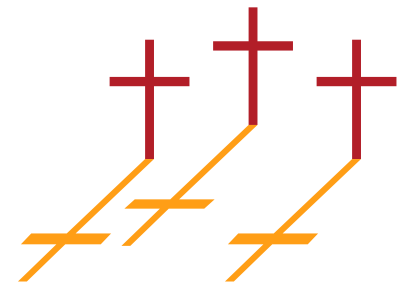
There is only one irrefutable answer to these questions. It cannot be found in our circumstances. It lies only in the provision that God has made for us in Jesus Christ. This is the whole point of Paul's question in verse 32. We can be sure that God is for us because this God, the God of the Bible, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, did not spare His own Son, but gave Him up to the cross for us all. If this is true, Paul affirms, we can be confident He will give us everything we will ever need. This is the only sure way we can know that God is for us.

Frequently in the closing pages of the Gospel records we are told that the Lord Jesus Christ was "delivered up" (e.g., Matt. 26:15; 27:2, 18, 26). He was handed over by one person or group to another until eventually He was handed over by Pilate to be crucified as a criminal. But Paul understood that behind every human "handing over" was the purpose of the heavenly Father. He "handed over" (it is the same verb) His own Son to bear the condemnation due to sinners.

Here is the heart of the plan of God and the wonder of the gospel. The best of all men dies as though He were the worst of all criminals. This is not merely a matter of human wickedness destroying a good man. It is the heart of the purpose of God, as Isaiah had long before prophesied (Isa. 53:4-6, 10).

Behind the handing over of the Lord Jesus—by Judas Iscariot, by Herod, by the priests, by Pontius Pilate—stood the purposes of His heavenly Father handing Him over to the cross in order to die in the place of sinners. He bore God's judgment and wrath against our sin.

What inexpressible love this is.



# Weekly Gatherings



## Bible Classes

New Testament  
Sunday School  
Sunday Morning @ 9AM



## Weekday Meetings

Mondays | 7PM  
Men's Bible Study



## Family Groups

Thursdays @ 7PM @ Royall's  
Every other Thursday @7PM  
@ Patrick's & Cox's



## Build the Body Teams

If you would like to serve on a BtB Team and forgot to sign up, please contact the team leader at the appropriate email address.



## Youth Study

Wednesdays @6:30PM  
Youth Study



## Service Times

Sunday Service 10:30AM  
Children's Church @10:30AM

### Giving from service on 06/20/2021

General Offering .....	5,677.65
Building Fund .....	487.60
Uganda .....	100.00
Benevolence .....	100.00
Total .....	\$6,365.25

Attendance .....	216
Sunday School .....	123
Online .....	

## Build the Body Ministries

Women's Ministry-women@ghbcva.org  
AWANA-awana@ghbcva.org  
Outreach Ministry-outreach@ghbcva.org  
Worship Ministry-worship@ghbcva.org  
Men's Ministry-men@ghbcva.org  
Children's Ministry-children@ghbcva.org  
Youth Ministry-youth@ghbcva.org  
Prayer Team-prayer@ghbcva.org  
Maintenance-maintenance @ghbcva.org  
Fellowship-fellowship@ghbcva.org  
Communications-communications@ghbcva.org  
Front Line-frontline@ghbcva.org  
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# Grace Harvest Baptist Church

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