

# Pastor's Pen

Justified

***Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Romans 5:1***

What do you think of when you hear the word justified? Webster defines justified as "having or shown to have a just, right, or reasonable basis." We use the term in case of justifiable homicide. The taking of another life in self-defense or trying to save the life of another would be ruled a justifiable homicide. You might be justified in a civil proceeding where you were sued, and the judge finds it in your favor.

However, there is a much more important use of the word when it comes to your eternal security. If you do not know Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, you stand guilty before a Holy God, and He will cast your soul into hell at the Great White Throne Judgment. But, God, in His great mercy, made way for you to be made right with Him. Paul writes, "*For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God*" (2 Corinthians 5:21).

When Jesus went to the cross, suffered, bled, and died, He appeased the wrath of God against our sin. When He rose from the dead three days later, He defeated death once and for all. Now anyone who makes Jesus Christ Lord and Savior of their lives has been justified before God. You have been declared righteous before God. You are no longer slaves to sin, but you are now slaves of righteousness.

God the Father sees us as perfect and unblemished, and He sees us justified. Because God justifies us by grace through faith in Christ, we now have peace with God (Romans 5:1). Like Joshua the priest, we have been stripped of our "filthy clothes" (Zechariah 3:4), and, like the prodigal son in the parable, we are now clothed with "the best robe" (Luke 15:22).

Your shepherd,  
Pastor Mark

## Quote of the Week

"The true gospel is a call to self-denial.  
it is not a call to self-fulfillment."

-John F. MacArthur

# Grace Gems

The miserable dregs of self! (J. C. Philpot)

"Accepted in the Beloved." Ephesians 1:6

We are ever looking for something in SELF to make ourselves acceptable to God. We are often sadly cast down and discouraged when we cannot find in ourselves . . . that holiness, that obedience, that calm submission to the will of God, that serenity of soul, that spirituality, that heavenly-mindedness, which we believe to be acceptable in His sight!

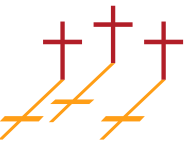
Our crooked tempers, our fretful, peevish minds, our rebellious thoughts, our coldness and barrenness, our alienation from good, our headlong proneness to evil, with the daily feeling that we get no better, but rather worse--make us think that God views us just as we view ourselves!

And this brings on great darkness of mind and bondage of spirit, until we seem to lose sight of our acceptance in Christ, and get into the miserable dregs of self--almost ready to quarrel with God because we are so vile, and only get worse as we get older!

Now the more we get into these dregs of self, and the more we keep looking at the dreadful scenes of wreck and ruin which our heart presents to daily view--the farther do we get from the grace of the gospel--and the more do we lose sight of the only ground of our acceptance with God. It is "in the Beloved" that we are accepted--and not for any . . . good words, good works, good thoughts, good hearts, or good intentions of our own!

If our acceptance with God depended on anything in ourselves, we would have to believe we might be children of God today and children of the devil tomorrow! What, then, is to keep us from sinking altogether into despair, without hope or help? Why, a knowledge of our acceptance "in the Beloved," independent of everything in us--good or bad!

"And you are complete in Him!" Colossians 2:10



# Weekly Gatherings



## Bible Classes

Old Testament  
New Testament  
Young Parents  
Young Adults  
Sunday Morning @ 9AM



## Weekday Meetings

Mondays | 7PM  
Men's Bible Study  
Every other Saturday:  
Women of Grace | 9am



## 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  
AWANA @6:30PM



## Service Times

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

Giving from service on 1/02/2022

General Offering .....	6,381.00
Building Fund .....	1,085.00
Uganda .....	325.00
Total .....	\$7,791.00

Attendance .....	163
Sunday School .....	103
Online .....	42

## 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  
Security-security@ghbcva.org



ghbcva.org | 804.561.3742  
9821 South Redfield Drive, Amelia, VA 23002

# Grace Harvest Baptist Church

Jan 09, 2022

