

Pastor's Pen

Don't Worry Be Happy!

"When the cares of my heart are many, your consolations cheer my soul." Psalm 94:19

In 1988 there was a song that Bobby McFerrin wrote. It was the first a cappella song to reach number-one on the Billboard Hot 100 chart, a position it held for two weeks. The name of that song was "Don't Worry, Be Happy." The opening lyric was, "Here's a little song I wrote. You might want to sing it note for note. Don't worry, be happy. In every life we have some trouble but when you worry you make it double don't worry, be happy". It's a catchy little tune that made a lot of people, well, happy.

The psalmist who wrote 94 lived during a time when his government was engaged in the promotion of evil and the persecution of the righteous. The wicked arrogantly furthered their interests at the expense of those who were defenseless: the widows, the aliens, and the orphans (v. 6). We live in a time in which our government promotes evil. What God calls sin, our government protects and promotes. What God calls murder, the killing of babies in their mother's womb, our government not only allows this to happen, they pay for it to happen. Everywhere we turn, we seem to be facing another crisis to worry and fret about, whether it is Covid, inflation, food shortages, fear of war, or the beginning of the persecution of the Church.

Yet, this is nothing new for God's people. Despite all of the troubles of this world, we are commanded not to worry or live in fear. Jesus told His disciples, "Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?" (Matthew 6:25). "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid." (John 14:27).

Until the Lord comes, there will be wars and rumors of wars (Matthew 24:6), persecution (2 Timothy 3:12), and hatred towards believers (John 15:18). But, take heart, believer, don't worry, and be encouraged that we can have joy knowing that our salvation is secure and nothing can separate us from the love of Christ Jesus our Lord through all the difficulties we face. Let us take comfort in the words of Christ to Paul, the apostle, "But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong." (2 Corinthians 12:9-10).

Your shepherd,

Pastor Mark

Quote of the Week

"The very essence of anxious care is the imagining that we are wiser than God, and the thrusting of ourselves into His place, to do for Him that which we dream He either cannot or will not do!"

-Charles Spurgeon

Grace Gems

Thank God that He has veiled the future! (George Mylne)
"Since no man knows the future, who can tell him what is to come?" Ecclesiastes 8:7

God's purposes have all their seasons of fulfillment. His judgments each have their time of visitation. Mapped out in clear perspective, your every dispensation was fixed from everlasting in the eternal mind of God. Your sunny seasons, and your cloudy days; sorrow and pain, anxiety and lack, your every loss of property or friends — all was designed before you ever saw the light. Trials may be in store for you, the thoughts of which would harrow up your soul — if you knew they were coming!

All this is known and ordained by God. What it will be, or when it is to come — He never tells to His creatures. As lightning strikes — for quickness, as wave comes after wave — for frequency; so may trials visit you. They are as uncertain as the wind. Yet fixed in divine purpose, and in performance sure — they come. From day to day, from hour to hour, who can foretell his future?

"Therefore, the misery of man is great upon him!" Reader, is this your feeling? Is "therefore" misery great on you? Does it make you brood over possibilities — alarmed at the contingency of woes? Would you rather, that all were known before, that you might be prepared for whatever trials and tribulations come? Rather, thank God that He has veiled the future, and deals out His dispensations one by one. The time, the way, the kind, the circumstances — are all fixed by unerring wisdom, and by boundless love. It is thus that God is glorified; His power felt; His sovereignty known, free from the trammels of His creatures' will. Matchless in skill; unfailing in resources — He thus proclaims His sovereign Godhead.

The world may murmur — but the saints submit to God's sovereign plan. The world may tremble — but the saints are glad. In all their woes, they see a Father's hand, and a Savior's sympathy. They would not alter it if they could! They meekly leave the future to their God. The times and seasons; the "what," the "when," the "how," the "why" — they would not, dare not, know!

But these things they do know: that as their days — so their strength shall be; that He who counts the stars, and calls them by their names — will heal the broken-hearted and bind up their wounds; that divine comforts shall keep pace with worldly sorrows, and that God's grace will be sufficient for every time of need!



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
AWANA @6:30 starting 9/15/21



Service Times

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

Giving from service on 08/29/2021

General Offering	4,904.30
Building Fund	380.60
Uganda	400.00
Total	\$5,684.90

Attendance	202
Sunday School	131
Online	21

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



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Grace Harvest Baptist Church

September 5, 2021

