

# Pastor's Pen

What's the Big Deal?

**"And He came down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee, and He was teaching them on the Sabbath; and they were amazed at His teaching, for His message was with authority." (Luke 4:31-32)**

I have heard Christians say that they are not concerned about doctrine or theology when looking for a church. The conversation goes something like this, "I want to find a church that loves people and Jesus. Nothing else matters."

You might even be thinking, what's the big deal? Why are doctrine and theology so important. Without proper doctrine and theology, I will submit to you are like a ship in the middle of the ocean without a rudder or engine. You may survive and even find land, but you will not know where you are heading or where or when you will get there.

Biblical Theology is the study of the Bible that seeks to discover what the biblical writers, under divine guidance, believed, described, and taught in the context of their own times. Christian doctrine simply means the beliefs held by Christians. Christian doctrine is what the entire Bible says on one particular subject. Therefore, we speak of such things as the "doctrine" of Christ, the "doctrine" of God, and the "doctrine" of the church. This all refers to what Christians believe about these subjects based upon the teaching of the Bible.

It is every Christian's responsibility to study God's Word and grow in your knowledge of Him. We accomplish this through sound theology and doctrine. Without biblical solid doctrine and theology, a church is susceptible to bad teaching at best and heretical false teaching at worse.

Your shepherd,

Pastor Mark

# Grace Gems

The Whole World

**"He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world." (1 John 2:2)**

In today's passage, John expands on the idea of Christ being our Advocate as explained in 1 John 2:1. In verse 2, we see that Jesus is the "propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world."

The idea of propitiation is central to the atonement. We learned yesterday that God is a just and holy God and therefore must punish sin. But God also loves His people and desires to be in relationship with them. In order that God's love and justice might both be satisfied, the wrath of God against our sin must be placated; this happened in the atonement. On the cross, the sins of God's people were imputed to Jesus and He bore the full wrath of God that is due them. This wrath having been satisfied, God can now be favorable, or propitious, to His people. His love provided a way for His wrath to be satisfied so that we might be reckoned as righteous in His sight and enjoy fellowship with Him (Rom. 3:21-26).

## Quote of the Week

"Now, in order that true religion may shine upon us, we ought to hold that it must take its beginning from heavenly doctrine and that no one can get even the slightest taste of right and sound doctrine unless he be a pupil of Scripture."

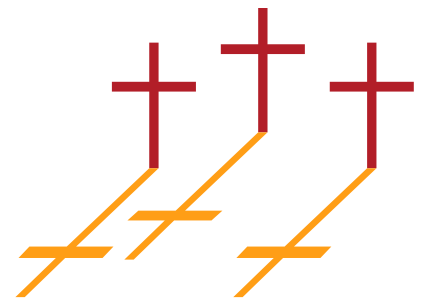
- John Calvin

John teaches that this propitiation is not only for us but is also for the whole world (1 John 2:2). But if Christ has satisfied the wrath of God for the whole world, then is the whole world going to be saved?

Many passages of Scripture make it clear that this cannot be the case (for example, Rev. 21:8). What 1 John 2:2 is telling us is that Jesus is the only Savior of the world; that is, He is the only way anyone can be saved no matter who he is (John 14:6). Jesus died to save a people out of every nation; in that sense, He is the propitiation for the whole world. Nevertheless, this does not mean that He died for every individual who has ever lived.

Jesus' death benefits only those who trust in Him, for only those who serve Him in faith receive cleansing from Him (1 John 1:7). This does not make the efficacy of the atonement dependent on us, however. Jesus does not offer a potential atonement for all that we make effectual by our believing; rather, He offers an effectual atonement for His people, which cleanses them, and only them, from their unrighteousness. John simply reminds us in 2:2 that Jesus is the only way for anyone to be saved, not that the atonement is universal.

-Ligonier Ministries



# 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 2/27/2022

General Offering .....	5,930.91
Building Fund .....	700.75
Uganda .....	290.00
Total .....	\$6,921.66

Attendance .....	207
Sunday School .....	128
Online .....	38

## 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



Grace Harvest  
Baptist Church  
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# Grace Harvest Baptist Church

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