

GIVING

08.09.26

General Offering	\$10,746.48
Building Fund	\$595.01
Uganda	\$140.00
Benevolence	\$210.00
Total	\$11,691.49
Attendance	212

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"Everyone says forgiveness is a lovely idea,
until they have something to forgive."

– C.W. Lewis

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VISITORS + MEMBERS

For ALL church announcements, our
church calendar, ministries for
serving and small groups to join,
please see our Church Center app.



Welcome to
Grace Harvest
Bible Church

08.16.26

SUNDAY BIBLE CLASSES

9:00am

Elders - 2 Samuel
Sanctuary A

Bereans - Luke
Upstairs C

Young Adults - 1 Corinthians
Downstairs B, Gray Room

Surge (10 - 12 Year Olds)
Upstairs C

Youth (13 - 18 Year Olds)
Basement A

Children's SS
(Birth - 9 Year Olds)
Downstairs C

SUNDAY SERVICES

10:30am

Worship Service

Children's Church
(Birth - 9 Year Olds)

WEEKDAY EVENTS

Trail Life &
American Heritage Girls
Mondays 6:30pm

Men's Book Study
Mondays 7pm | Fridays 6am

Women's Book Study
Mondays 6:30pm

Worship Team Practice
Tuesdays 7:00pm

Awana
Wednesdays 6:30pm
(resumes September 16th)

Surge (10 - 12 Year Olds)
Wednesdays 6:30pm

Youth (13 - 18 Year Olds)
Wednesdays 6:30pm

Men's Alliance
Wednesdays 7:00pm

Family Groups Every other
Thursday 9:00am, 6:30pm,
& 7:00pm
(resumes September 24th)

Pastor's Pen

Releasing the Debt

"And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors."
— Matthew 6:12 (LSB)

Forgiveness is one of the hardest commands Jesus ever gave. Many believers think forgiveness means pretending the offense never happened, forgetting the pain, or immediately restoring the relationship. But that is not what Scripture teaches.

When Jesus spoke of forgiveness, the Greek word often used is *aphiēmi* (ἀφίημι), which means to send away, release, let go, or cancel a debt. It was used in legal and financial settings to describe releasing someone from an obligation. In other words, forgiveness is choosing to no longer demand payment for the offense committed against you.

Jesus illustrated this beautifully in the Parable of the Unforgiving Servant (Matthew 18:21–35). The king forgave an enormous debt that the servant could never repay. Likewise, because God has canceled our immeasurable debt through Christ, we are commanded to release those who have sinned against us.

Notice what forgiveness does not necessarily mean. Scripture does not teach that forgiveness always requires immediate reconciliation. Reconciliation requires repentance, truth, and the willingness of both parties (Romans 12:18). Nor does forgiveness mean trust is instantly restored. Trust is rebuilt over time through proven faithfulness. Neither does forgiveness erase the consequences of sin or remove the pain overnight.

Instead, forgiveness means surrendering our right to personal vengeance and entrusting justice to God. Paul writes, **"Never take your own revenge... but leave room for the wrath of God"** (Romans 12:19). God alone is the perfect Judge.

Jesus Himself commanded, **"For if you forgive others for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you"** (Matthew 6:14–15). This does not mean we earn God's forgiveness by forgiving others. Rather, a forgiving heart is evidence that we have truly experienced God's grace (Ephesians 4:32; Colossians 3:13).

Forgiveness is not pretending the wound never happened. It is choosing to release the debt into God's hands. It is laying down the debt instead of carrying it for years. When we refuse to forgive, bitterness keeps us chained to the offense. When we forgive, we are not saying the offense was acceptable; we are saying we trust God to deal with it justly.

The cross is our greatest example. As Jesus hung in agony, He prayed, **"Father, forgive them"** (Luke 23:34). The One who had every right to demand justice chose to extend mercy.

Perhaps today someone owes you a debt they can never repay. They may never apologize. They may never acknowledge the hurt they caused. Yet Christ calls you to release the debt—not because the offense was small, but because His grace toward you has been infinitely greater.

Forgiveness sets the prisoner free, only to discover that the prisoner was you.

Your shepherd, Pastor Mark

Grace Gems

A self-loather- (Thomas Brooks 1662)

"They will loathe themselves for the evil they have done and for all their detestable practices." Ezekiel 6:9

True repentance is a daily turning of the soul further and further from sin-and a daily turning of the soul nearer and nearer to God and holiness.

True repentance includes . . .
a true sense of sin,
a deep sorrow for sin,
a hearty loathing of sin, and
a holy shame and blushing for sin.

A true repenter strives for . . .
a clean head, and a clean heart;
a clean lip, and a clean life.

To repent is for a man to loathe himself, as well as his sin.

Is this easy for man, who is so great a self-lover, and so great a self-exalter, and so great a self-admirer-to become a self-loather? To repent is to cross sinful self, and to walk contrary to sinful self.

True repentance lies in a daily dying unto sin, and in a daily living unto Him who lives forever.

"Then you will remember your evil ways and wicked deeds, and you will loathe yourselves for your sins and detestable practices."
Ezekiel 36:31