

Pastor's Pen

The Battle

If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. John 15:19

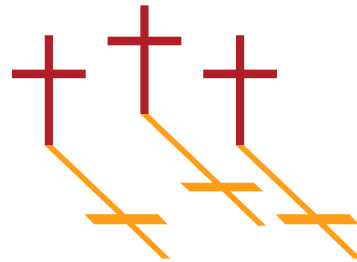
Did you understand that you were entering into a battle when you came to Christ? I can tell you that I was unaware of the cost to follow Christ. In the winter of 1980, I was saved in an independent Baptist church. There was no talk about denying yourself and following Christ or counting the cost. I certainly was not aware that over 90% of the world's population just considered me an enemy.

I did not know it would cost me friendships and family relationships. I was raised Roman Catholic. My mom was born to Italian immigrants, and there was a tremendous emphasis on the church's traditions. When our first child was born two years after my salvation, I knew my mother would expect Crystal to be baptized into Roman Catholicism. I had not told my mother of becoming a Christian. They came over for dinner, and my mother asked when the baptism was going to occur. I told her that it would not be happening because the Bible teaches that only believers can be baptized. At that point, my mother came out of her chair, cursed my wife for making me a protestant, and reached over to slap my wife. I got between my wife and my mother, and my dad grabbed my mother and escorted her out of the house. As she was leaving, she was screaming curses at us and told me I was dead to her. At that time, I did not know what Jesus had taught. I should have expected that reaction, *"Do you think that I came to grant peace on earth? I tell you, no, but rather division; 52 for from now on five members in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three (Luke 12:51-52)"*.

Christian, we are in a battle every day. The world hates you because it hated Jesus first. We have always been the minority. That will not change. But, we know that the battles that we fight each and every day are worth the struggle. Paul declared, *"For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the anxious longing of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God (Romans 8:18-19)"*.

Let each of us stand firm, fight the good fight, and eagerly await as we wait for mortality to put on immortality.

Your shepherd,
Pastor Mark



Quote of the Week

"Eternity to the godly is a day that has no sunset; eternity to the wicked is a night that has no sunrise."
-Thomas Watson

Grace Gems

The Bible, the whole Bible, and nothing but the Bible!
- J.C. Ryle

On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus answered him, "What is written in the Law? What do you read there?" Luke 10:25-26

Notice in this passage, the high honor which our Lord Jesus Christ places on the Bible. He refers the lawyer at once to the Scriptures, as the only rule of faith and practice. He does not say in reply to his question, "What does the Jewish Church say about eternal life? What do the Scribes, and Pharisees, and priests think? What is taught on the subject in the traditions of the elders?" He takes a far simpler and more direct course. He sends his questioner at once to the writings of the Old Testament, "What is written in the Law? What do you read there?"

Let the principle contained in these words, be one of the foundation principles of our Christianity. Let the Bible, the whole Bible, and nothing but the Bible, be the rule of our faith and practice. Holding this principle, we travel upon the king's highway. The road may sometimes seem narrow, and our faith may be severely tried—but we shall not be allowed greatly to err. Departing from this principle, we enter on a pathless wilderness. There is no telling what we may be led to believe or do. Forever let us bear this in mind. Here let us cast anchor. Here let us abide.

It matters nothing who says a thing in religion—whether an ancient father, or a modern bishop, or a learned theologian. Is it in the Bible? Can it be proved by the Bible? If not, then it is not to be believed.

It matters nothing how beautiful and clever sermons or religious books may appear. Are they in the smallest degree contrary to Scripture? If they are, they are rubbish and poison, and guides of no value!

What does the Scripture say? This is the only rule, and measure, and gauge of religious truth. "To the law and to the testimony," says Isaiah, "if they speak not according to this Word, it is because there is no light in them." Isaiah 8:20

That book must be worth reading, which has God for the author!" William Gurnall

Weekly Gatherings

Bible Classes

Old & New Testament Classes
Ladies Class
Young Adults Young Parents
Youth Surge
Sunday Morning @ 9:30AM



Weekday Meetings

Mondays | 7PM Men's Bible Study
1st and 3rd Saturday
Women of Grace | 9AM
Wednesdays | 6:30PM AWANA



Family Groups

Thursdays @ 7PM
Please check church website
for start date and directions to each



Build the Body Teams

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



Youth Study

Wednesdays @6:30PM
Youth Study & Surge!



Service Times

Sunday Services 8AM & 11:00AM
Sunday School 9:30AM
Children's Church @11:00AM



Giving from service on 09/10/2023

General Offering7,312.08
Building Fund2,050.00
Uganda Missions 102.83

Total.....\$9,464.91
Attendance 241
Online.....24

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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Welcome