

Pastor's Pen

Watch Your Step

Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. Ephesians 5:15-16

I must admit I never knew what Tik-Tok was really about. I had a basic knowledge that it was a social media platform that individuals could post short videos. I had even read an article about how a young woman came to saving faith from watching Christian Tik-Tok. The article discussed how Tik-Tok was a vehicle to reach Gen Z with the Gospel. Curious to see what Tik-Tok was about, I downloaded the app. I wish I hadn't. I was exposed to the most hedonistic messages and images within a few scrolls. It may not have been pornographic in its nudity, but the messages were.

I cannot and will not even begin to describe what I saw. Christian beware. Just as Paul warned the believers in Ephesus that the days are evil, we continue to live in evil days in a world that hates God. I am thankful that the young woman came to saving faith because of the Gospel messages on Tik-Tok. However, I would counsel her or any other believer to delete the app and never return. We live in this evil world, but this is not our home. God warns us, "Do not enter the path of the wicked, and do not walk in the way of the evil. Avoid it; do not go on it; turn away from it and pass on (Proverbs 4:14-15)".

The world we live in is heading towards judgment. The rightful owner, Jesus (Rev. 5), will reclaim what is rightfully His. But, until that day, the enemy of God, Satan, will do everything in his power to corrupt and pollute what God has created. A band called "lamb of god" from Richmond, Va. (I will not capitalize their name because they are a band that blasphemes God) openly mocks God and His children. I could go on and on about the evil that seems to be increasing by the day. As a believer in Jesus Christ, we can not entirely avoid all the evil around us, but we must be careful how we walk. Are you exposing yourself unnecessarily to the evils of the world? Are you allowing your children to be exposed to evil because all their friends are? Let us be wise. Let us be wise as serpents and harmless as doves. Use discernment Christian. Flee from evil and make no provision for it.

Be encouraged and warned. *"Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up."* Galatians 6:7-9.

Your shepherd,
Pastor Mark

Quote of the Week

"The nearer a man lives to God, the more intensely has he to mourn over his own evil heart."

-Charles Spurgeon

Grace Gems

Christ's Radiance and Representation- John MacArthur

"He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature" (Heb. 1:3).

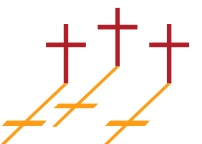
Jesus is both God manifest and God in substance. Just as the rays of the sun give light, warmth, life, and growth to the earth, so Jesus Christ is the glorious light of God shining into the hearts of men and women. As "the radiance of God's glory," Jesus expresses God to us. No one can see God in His full glory; no one ever will. The radiance of that glory that reaches us from God appears in the Person of Jesus Christ.

Just as the sun was never without and can never be separated from its brightness, so God was never without and cannot be separated from the glory of Christ. Never was God without Him or He without God, and never in any way can He be separated from God. Yet the brightness of the sun is not the sun, and neither is Jesus exactly the same as God in that sense. He is fully and absolutely God, yet as a distinct Person within the triune Godhead.

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world; he who follows Me shall not walk in the darkness, but shall have the light of life" (John 8:12). As the radiance of God's glory, Christ can transmit that light into your life and mine so that we can radiate the glory of God to a dark world.

In using the term "exact representation" to describe Christ's relationship to God's nature, the writer employs terminology usually associated with an impression reproduced on a seal by a die or stamp. Jesus Christ is the reproduction of God—the perfect, personal imprint of God in time and space.

How wonderful to realize that Jesus Christ, who is both the full expression of God and exact reproduction of God's nature in human history, can come into our lives and give us light to see and to know God! His light is the source of our spiritual life. And His light gives us purpose, meaning, happiness, peace, joy, fellowship, everything—for all eternity.



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 12/05/2021

General Offering	10,884.20
Building Fund	2,684.20
Uganda	835.00
Total	\$14,403.40

Attendance	181
Sunday School	107
Online	26

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

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