

# Pastor's Pen

The End is Near!

***While they are saying, "Peace and safety!" then destruction will come upon them suddenly like labor pains upon a woman who is pregnant, and they will never escape. 1 Thessalonians 5:3***

Every Christian, including the early church, has wondered if the end is near. Will Christ return while you're alive? There has never been a shortage of people claiming to know when Christ will return.

A Baptist preacher by the name of William Miller predicted the second coming of Jesus Christ would occur before March 21, 1844. When this date passed, a new date was predicted, April 18, 1844. Again, the date passed and another of Miller's followers, Samuel S. Snow, derived the date of October 22, 1844. The non-fulfillment of these predictions has been named the Millerite Great Disappointment.

The founder of the Calvary Chapel system, Chuck Smith, published the book *End Times* in 1979. He predicted that the Lord would return by 1981. He wrote,

"If I understand Scripture correctly, Jesus taught us that the generation which sees the 'budding of the fig tree', the birth of the nation Israel, will be the generation that sees the Lord's return; I believe that the generation of 1948 is the last generation. Since a generation of judgment is forty years and the tribulation lasts seven years, I believe the Lord could come back for his church anytime before the tribulation starts, which would mean anytime before 1981. (1948 + 40 - 7 = 1981) However, it is possible that Jesus is dating the beginning of the generation from 1967, when Jerusalem was again under Israeli control for the first time since 587 BC. We don't know for sure which year actually marks the beginning of the last generation"

Hal Lindsey held the same belief and wrote about it in his book, *The Late Great Planet Earth*.

There is one sure way to know when Christ is not going to return. If someone predicts the date, you can be sure that it won't happen on that date. Speaking of His return, Jesus said, "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone." So, there is no way to know for sure we are living in the last days. However, you are living in your last days. One of two things will happen, either you will die, or the Lord will meet you in the clouds ( 1 Thess.4:17). The end is near for each of us. How will you live this life as you wait upon His return or your homecoming?

Your shepherd,

Pastor Mark

# Grace Gems

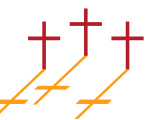
Spurgeon on Infant Baptism

If I thought it wrong to be a Baptist, I would give it up, and become what I believed to be right. If we could find infant baptism in the Word of God, we would adopt it. It would help us out of a great difficulty, for it would take away from us that reproach which is attached to us—that we are odd, and do not as other people do. But we have looked well through the Bible, and cannot find it, and do not believe that it is there. Nor do we believe that others can find infant baptism in the Scriptures, unless they themselves first put it there.

I am persuaded that so long as infant baptism is practiced in any Christian Church, Popery will have a door set wide open for its return. It is one of those nests which must come down, or the foul birds will build in it again. We must come to the Law and to the Testimony, and any ordinance which is not plainly taught in Scripture must be put away!

As long as you give Baptism to an unregenerate child, people will imagine that it must do the child good, for they will ask, "If it does not do it any good—then why is it baptized?" The statement that it puts children into the Covenant, or renders them members of the visible Church—is only a veiled form of the fundamental error of Baptismal Regeneration. If you keep up the ordinance, you will always have men superstitiously believing that some good comes to the baby thereby, and what is this but sheer Popery?

Since the child cannot understand what is done, any good which it receives must come to it after the occult manner so much in vogue with the superstitious—is it any wonder that Popish beliefs grow out of it? And not only as to infant Baptism, but as to every other doctrine, ordinance, or precept—we must each seek to get back to this Book and follow closely the Word of God.



## Quote of the Week

"The great doctrine of the second advent has in a sense fallen into disrepute because of...this tendency on the part of some to be more interested in the how and the when of the second coming rather than in the fact of the second coming."

-Martyn Lloyd-Jones

# 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 2/13/2022

General Offering .....	11,907.33
Building Fund .....	1,602.20
Uganda .....	120.00
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$13,629.53</b>

Attendance .....	189
Sunday School .....	108
Online .....	44

## 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  
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# Grace Harvest Baptist Church

Feb 20, 2022

