

Pastor's Pen

Where Is Your Brother?

'Then Yahweh said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?"' Gen. 4:9

This question is only the second time God asks a **"where"** question since creation. The first was after Adam's sin: **"Where are you?"** (Genesis 3:9). Both questions come after sin and are not asked because God is unaware. The Lord knows everything. These questions serve a moral and spiritual purpose, aimed at confronting the sinner and encouraging repentance before judgment.

In Genesis 3, God's question reveals the fractured relationship between humanity and Himself. In Genesis 4, His question highlights the damaged relationship between individuals. Sin consistently impacts both, distancing us from God and corrupting our love for others. Cain's killing of Abel didn't happen suddenly; it was the result of a heart already consumed by jealousy, anger, and unbelief.

Before passing judgment, God speaks compassionately. **"Where is Abel your brother?"** prompts Cain to admit his fault and reconsider. Instead, Cain answers rebelliously: **"I do not know; am I my brother's keeper?"** This reply exposes the profound corruption of sin—denial of guilt, avoidance of responsibility, and disdain for moral duty.

God's question still confronts us today. He asks not only, **"Where are you before Me?"** but also, **"Where is your brother?"** Scripture is clear that love for God cannot be separated from love for others. As the apostle John teaches, **"Whoever does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen"** (1 John 4:20).

The gospel answers this question clearly. Jesus Christ is the true and better Brother. Where Cain took his brother's life, Christ willingly laid down His life for sinners. Abel's blood cried out from the ground for justice, but **"the blood of Jesus speaks a better word than the blood of Abel"** (Hebrews 12:24). Abel's blood demanded judgment; Christ's blood secures mercy.

Cain refused responsibility, but Christ embraced it fully. He did not ask, "Am I their keeper?" He came **"to seek and to save the lost"** (Luke 19:10). On the cross, Christ bore our guilt, absorbed God's righteous judgment, and reconciled us to the Father. In Him, God answers both searching questions of Genesis: Christ seeks sinners who are hiding, and He stands in our place as the Brother who would not abandon us—even unto death.

Those who have been kept by Christ are now called to live differently: walking in repentance, humility, and sacrificial love for one another.

Your Shepherd, Pastor Mark

Grace Gems

How astonishing is all of this! -Jonathan Edwards

How astonishing it is, that One who is forever blessed and is infinitely and essentially happy—should endure the greatest sufferings that ever were endured!

How astonishing it is, that One who is the supreme Lord and Judge of the world—should be arraigned and stand at the judgment seat of mortal worms, and then be condemned!

Quote of the Week

"God's question to Cain was an act of mercy before judgment—an invitation to confess sin rather than conceal it."

— John MacArthur

How astonishing it is, that One who is the living God and the fountain of all life—should be put to death!

How astonishing it is, that One who created the world and gives life to all His creatures—should be put to death by His own creatures!

How astonishing it is, that One of infinite majesty and glory, and so the object of the love, praises and adoration of angels—should be mocked and spit upon by the vilest of men!

How astonishing it is, that One who is infinitely good and who is love itself—should suffer the greatest cruelty!

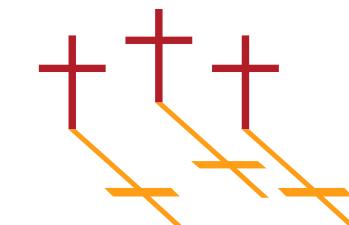
How astonishing it is, that One who is infinitely beloved by the Father—should be put to inexpressible anguish under His own Father's wrath!

How astonishing it is, that One who is the King of Heaven, who has Heaven for His throne and earth for His footstools—should be buried in the dungeon of the grave!

How astonishing is all of this!

And yet this is the way that God's wisdom has fixed upon as the way of sinners' salvation, as neither unsuitable nor dishonorable to Christ.

"How great is the love the Father has lavished on us—that we should be called children of God!" 1 John 3:1



Weekly Gatherings

Sunday Bible Classes

Elders- Old Testament (Sanctuary A)
Bereans- New Testament (Sanctuary B)
Young Adults- (Downstairs B, Red Rm.)
Youth and Surge (5th-6th)- (Upstairs C)
Children & Nursery (Downstairs C)



Weekday Meetings

AWANA—Wednesday's 6:30-8:00 pm
Trail Life—Monday's at 6:30 pm



Family Groups

All Family Groups began **Sept 25th**
Host Families: Tom & Penni Cox, Jesse & Deborah Royall, Larry & Gina Covington, Jeff & Bridget Brown, Alan & Leigh Anne Chambers and Mark & Trisha Keffer



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



Youth Study

Wednesdays @6:30PM
Youth Study & Surge!



Service Times

Sunday School 9:00AM
Children's Church 10:30AM
Sunday Services 10:30AM



Giving from service on 01/25/2025	
General Offering	\$2,911.03
Building Fund	\$420.00
Uganda	\$000.00
Benevolence	\$22.00
Total.....	\$3,353.03
Attendance	32

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
Widows-admin@ghbcva.org
HH-HomeschoolHub@ghbcva.org



GRACE HARVEST BIBLE CHURCH
GO GATHER GROW GO

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Grace Harvest Bible Church

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