

# Pastor's Pen

Are You Hated?

**"If the world hates you, know that it has hated Me before it hated you." John 15:18**

How would you answer the question, "are you hated"? I think most of us would respond, "I don't think so." For the most part, people want to get along with everyone. The vast majority of people try to avoid conflict in their lives. I, for one, find it very unpleasant when I conflict with another person.

In the letter to the Romans, Paul urges all believers to avoid conflicts, "if possible, so far as it depends on you, being at peace with all men (12:18)." However, there will be times when you will not be able to be at peace with all men. Two weeks ago, we, along with four thousand other churches, answered the call from Dr. John MacArthur to preach on Biblical sexuality. The following is an expert from that sermon:

"There is no such thing as transgender. You are either XX or XY, that's it. God made man male and female. That is determined genetically, that is physiology, that is science, that is reality," MacArthur taught on Jan. 16. "On the one hand, the reality of that lie and deception is so damaging, so destructive, so isolating, so corrupting that it needs to be confronted, but on the other hand, that confrontation can't exaggerate what already exists, which is a sense of feeling isolated in relationships. This notion that you are something other than your biology is a cultural construct intended as an assault on God. The only way you can address it, honestly, is to say, 'God made you and God made you exactly the way He wanted you to be. You are not only fighting God in His physical creation, you are fighting God in His sovereignty. You are fighting God in His spiritual relationship to you. This is a war on God.'"

YouTube promptly removed MacArthur's sermon. "Our team has reviewed your content, and, unfortunately, we think it violates our hate speech policy," When I preached two weeks ago from Romans 1, I stated that we live out Romans 1 in America today. As a nation, we have turned our back on God. We celebrate what God calls sin and murder babies in the womb. He has turned this country over to depraved minds, and now in less than one generation, we have gone from a God-fearing nation to one abandoned by God. But, fear not believer, God has not and never will abandon His elect.

My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish—ever; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. I and the Father are one." John 10:27-30

So, when the world hates you for following Christ, remember the words of our Savior, "If the world hates you, know that it has hated Me before it hated you." We must be the salt and light to a lost and dying world. Stand firm and do not lose heart, Christian. Speak the truth in love and never be ashamed of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek." Romans 1:16

Your shepherd,

Pastor Mark

## Quote of the Week

"It is only when we understand that we deserve the wrath of God that the mercy of God makes any sense."  
-Justin Peters

# Grace Gems

The battlefield!

-(Charles Spurgeon)

There is not a place which a believer walks in—which is free from snares. Behind every tree—is the tempter with his barbed arrow! Behind every bush—is the roaring lion, the Devil, your great enemy, prowling around, looking for some victim to devour! Under every piece of grass—hides the deadly adder!

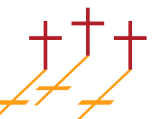
This present world is the battlefield; Heaven is a place of complete victory and glorious triumph. This present world is the land of the sword and the spear; Heaven is the land of the wreath and the crown. This present world is the land of the garment rolled in blood and the dust of the fight; Heaven is the land of the trumpet's joyful sound—the place of the white robe and of the shout of conquest.

Oh, what a thrill of joy shall shoot through the hearts of all the redeemed, when their conquests shall be complete; when death itself, the last of foes, shall be slain; when Satan shall be dragged captive at the chariot wheels of Christ; when He shall have overthrown sin and trampled corruption as the mire of the streets; when the great shout of universal victory shall rise from the hearts of all the redeemed!

"He will remove all of their sorrows, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. For the old world and its evils are gone forever!" Revelation 21:4

### Special Thank You

*Elissa Owens sent the following thank you card to her church family. With special thanks to all of you. "To know you is to know people who are kind, considerate, and thoughtful. To know you is to be grateful for the special things you do" To everything you've done...for being the special people that you are... thank you so very much. God bless you all, Elissa Owens*



# 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 1/23/2022

General Offering .....	10,739.60
Building Fund .....	916.60
Uganda .....	120.00
Justin Peters Ministry.....	2,458.00
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$14,234.20</b>

Attendance .....	155
Sunday School .....	132
Online.....	46

## 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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