

Pastor's Pen

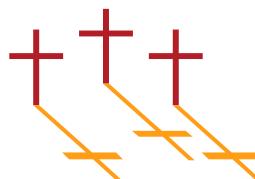
Where You At?

**"Yahweh God called to the man and said to him,
"Where are you?"** Genesis 3:9

Genesis 3:9 marks a crucial moment in Scripture. After Adam and Eve disobey God by eating from the forbidden tree and conceal themselves in fear and shame, God asks a simple yet meaningful question: **"Where are you?"** Though it may seem redundant since God is omniscient and knows exactly where they are, in biblical and Reformed theology, this question carries profound spiritual meaning.

First, consider a moment for self-reflection. God's question isn't about physical whereabouts but about spiritual state. Adam and Eve hid because sin had severed their relationship with God. Their fear and shame signified their internal distance from Him. When God asks **"Where are you?"**, He is highlighting their heart condition, prompting them to acknowledge their disobedience and its impact. This serves as a divine invitation for self-awareness—an opportunity to reflect on personal sin, motives, and the ways we might attempt to hide from God today.

Second, it serves as an invitation to confess. God's question is merciful and relational, not immediate judgment. Instead, God invites dialogue, offering a way to repentance. Even amid rebellion, He calls us to come out of hiding and acknowledge our sins. This reflects His approach in our lives: He lets us face the consequences of sin while also beckoning us to confess and seek restoration.



Third, it reveals God's seeking heart. The question shows God's character—He is not indifferent or detached. He searches for His creation even when it has turned away. This idea is reflected throughout Scripture: In the Psalms, God pursues the sinner, saying, **"Seek the Lord while He may be found; call upon Him while He is near"** (Isaiah 55:6). In the New Testament, Jesus calls out to sinners, inviting them to repent and follow Him, just as He called Zacchaeus from the sycamore tree (Luke 19:5).

Fourth, a lesson for everyone: God's question shows that trying to hide from Him—whether by denial, making excuses, or feeling shame—cannot eliminate sin. His repeated call is for us to step into the light, be truthful with ourselves and Him, and accept His forgiveness. When we sense separation from God, His **"Where are you?"** is not born from ignorance but serves as a gracious invitation for restoration, reconciliation, and renewed fellowship.

Take time to honestly reflect on your heart. Consider where you might be avoiding God due to fear, pride, or guilt. Bring your sins into the light and speak them truthfully to God, trusting in His mercy to renew you. Make it a daily practice to engage with Scripture, prayer, and community. God invites you not only to admit your sins but also to walk in renewed obedience and closeness with Him. Just as God reaches out to us, we can lovingly encourage others to return to Him when they go astray.

Your Shepherd, Pastor Mark

Quote of the Week

"Those who by sin go astray from God should seriously consider where they are; they are afar off from all good... If sinners will but consider where they are, they will not rest till they return to God."

-Matthew Henry

Grace Gems

The Sovereignty of God in Saving Sinners!- J.C. Ryle

Matthew 11:25-26, **"At that time Jesus said: I praise You Father, Lord of Heaven and earth, because You have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes Father, for this was Your good pleasure!"**

We here observe the sovereignty of God in saving sinners. "You have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children."

The meaning is clear. There are some from whom salvation is hidden. There are others to whom salvation is revealed. The truth here is deep and mysterious. **"Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments, and His paths beyond tracing out!"** Romans 11:33

We can merely acknowledge that the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, supply the only explanation which can be given: **"Yes Father, for this was Your good pleasure!"**

Let us however, never forget that God's sovereignty does not destroy man's responsibility. That same God who does all things according to the counsel of His own will—always addresses us as accountable creatures, as beings whose blood will be on our own heads if we are lost.

"I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion. It does not, therefore, depend on man's desire or effort, but on God's mercy!" Romans 9:15-16

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 01/18/2025

General Offering	\$10,247.12
Building Fund	\$2,138.30
Uganda	\$140.00
Benevolence	\$30.00
 Total.....	\$12,555.42
Attendance	259

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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