

Pastor's Pen

Freedom!

"For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery." Galatians 5:1

As Americans, we are privileged to live in a nation that is one of the freest in the World. In 2026 we will celebrate our 250th anniversary as a free nation. During that time, we have experienced a freedom that most countries or people have never experienced. God has truly blessed us, and He has used this nation to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ around the World.

However, as our nation continues to turn its back on what God loves, we are starting to experience the norm for most believers for two millenniums. When Paul wrote to the church in Galatia, the freedom that he was referencing was far greater than personal freedom. He was referring to being free from slaves to sin, death, and hell. He also reminded the church that they were free from the law. Jewish religious leaders from Jerusalem had gone to the church in Galatia to add to what Paul taught them. These men said that it was good to believe in Jesus, but they also said men must be circumcised and all must follow the law of Moses to truly be included in the family of God (Galatians 2:4). They had taught wrongly that without the works of the law, nobody could be saved. Paul taught them that the law's purpose was to reveal that the law could save no one. Those who come to God by faith in Christ are free.

Here Paul repeats that message with a call to be free against sin and slavery. He tells all Christians that Christ has set us free, so we ought to stand firm. We should not retake that yoke of slavery. As we steadily march towards the second coming of Christ, let each of us remember our freedom in Christ against sin, death, and hell.

Your shepherd,
Pastor Mark

Grace Gems

When God laughs
Charles Spurgeon

"The One enthroned in heaven laughs; the Lord ridicules them!" Psalm 2:4

Note God's derision of the rebellious! What will the King do unto those who reject Him? Mark the quiet dignity of the Omnipotent One, and the contempt which He pours upon His raging enemies. He has not taken the trouble to rise up and do battle with them—He despises them, He knows how absurd, how irrational, how futile are their attempts against Him. He therefore laughs at them! (Charles Spurgeon)

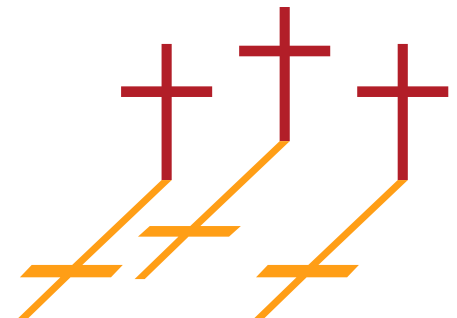
"The One enthroned in heaven . . ." Hereby it is clearly intimated,
(1) that the Lord is far above all their malice and power;
(2) that He sees all their plots, looking down on all;
(3) that He is of omnipotent power, and so can do with His enemies just as He desires. "Our God is in the heavens! He has done whatever He has pleased." (Arthur Jackson)
Sinners' follies are the righteous sport of God's infinite wisdom and power. Those attempts of the kingdom of Satan, which in our eyes are formidable, in God's eyes are despicable. (Matthew Henry)

Quote of the Week

"If you please God, it does not matter whom you displease. And if you displease Him, it does not matter whom you please."
-- Steve Lawson

"The One enthroned in heaven laughs". They scoff at us—but God laughs at them! Laugh? This seems like a harsh word at first view. But are the derision, the persecution and the injuries of his saints; and the cruelties of their enemies—a matter of laughter? God laughs—but it is in scorn; He scorns—but it is with vengeance. Short is the joy of the wicked! Oh, what are God's frowns—if His smiles are so terrible! (Thomas Adams)

The expression, "The One enthroned in heaven", at once fixes our thoughts on a being infinitely exalted above impotent man. And when it is said, "HE laughs," this is designed to convey to our minds the idea, that the greatest confederacies among kings and peoples, and their most extensive and vigorous preparations to defeat HIS purposes—are in HIS sight altogether insignificant and worthless! HE looks upon their poor and puny efforts, not only without uneasiness or fear—but HE laughs at their folly! HE treats their impotency with derision. He knows how HE can crush them like a moth when HE pleases—or consume them in a moment with the breath of HIS mouth! How profitable it is for us to be reminded of truths such as these! Ah! it is indeed a vain thing for the potsherds of the earth to strive with the glorious Majesty of Heaven! (David Pitcairn)



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 11/21/2021

General Offering	5,485.00
Building Fund	895.00
Uganda	600.00
Total	\$6,980.00

Attendance	182
Sunday School	114
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
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Grace Harvest Baptist Church

Nov 28, 2021

Welcome