

# Pastor's Pen

True disciples!

**"If you abide in My word, then you are truly My disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." John 8:31-32**

What is the difference between a true believer and a false believer? There will always be a mixture of the two in every true Church. Even the 12 apostles, the first disciples, had a false believer, Judas Iscariot, in their midst. So how can you be sure that you truly belong to Him? Jesus gives us the answer, "If you abide in My word, then you are truly My disciples." But what does it mean to abide in His Word?

To abide in His word is to obey all of the teachings of Christ. When we read the scriptures and obey them, we will know the truth, and that truth will make us free. Believing in Jesus, obeying His Word, and knowing the truth brings us spiritual freedom. We are no longer slaves of sin or children of Satan. We have God's protection from the evil one (John 17:15). We are free from condemnation (Rom. 8:1), judgment (John 3:18), spiritual ignorance (8:12), and spiritual death.

Scripture repeatedly affirms that only those who obey Christ are truly His disciples:

"For whoever does the will of My Father who is in heaven, he is My brother and sister and mother..." (Matt. 12:50)

"If you love Me, you will keep My commandments." (John 14:15)

"He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him." (John 14:21)

"If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love.." (John 15:10)

"You are My friends if you do what I command you." (John 15:14)

"The one who says, 'I have come to know Him,' and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; 5 but whoever keeps His word, truly in him the love of God has been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him: 6 the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked..." (1 John 2:4-6)

"And the one who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him.. (1 John 3:24) For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome." (1 John 5:3)

Are you a true disciple? Do you abide in His word?  
Do you know the truth?

Your shepherd,

Pastor Mark

## Quote of the Week

"The source of most of the problems people have in their Christian lives relates to two things: either they are not worshipping six days a week with their life, or they are not worshipping one day a week with the assembly of the saints. We need both."  
—John MacArthur

# Grace Gems

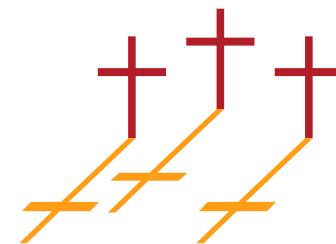
A bad tree

(Octavius Winslow, "From Grace to Glory" 1864)

**"By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people gather grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? Likewise every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit." Matthew 7:16-18**

An unconverted state will bear fruit corresponding with its own essence. It must, in the nature of things, be so. The enmity against God of the carnal mind, the rejection of the Lord Jesus, the governing principle of SELF, the supreme ascendancy of the world, the slavery of sin; indicate, unmistakably, the unrenewed, unregenerate nature from which they spring. We do not expect one to yield the fruits of holiness from an unholy nature.

The life an unbeliever lives is in keeping with the unrenewed heart he possesses. He is of the earth, earthly. It is consistent with his unregenerate nature. . .that he should be of the world, that he should love the world, that the world should love him and claim him as its own, that the things of the world its pursuits, its pleasures, its sins; should . . . harmonize with his nature, charm his tastes, delight his senses, and bind his affections in their spell.



# 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 2/20/2022

General Offering ..... 6,759.26  
Building Fund ..... 1,209.60  
Total ..... \$7,968.86

Attendance ..... 219  
Sunday School ..... 119  
Online ..... 38

## 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



Grace Harvest  
Baptist Church  
go • gather • grow • go



ghbcva.org | 804.561.3742  
9821 South Redfield Drive, Amelia, VA 23002

# Grace Harvest Baptist Church

Feb 27, 2022

