

Pastor's Pen

Saved or Not?

“Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you fail to meet the test.” 2 Corinthians 13:5

Every Christian at some time during their life has either asked themselves or had someone ask them, "How do I know I'm saved?" So let me share with you four ways how you can know if you are or not.

First. Do you love Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior? Do you believe that Jesus is the Christ? Then, you must have your theology right to be saved. Romans 10:9-10 states the following *“because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart, one believes and is justified, and with the mouth, one confesses and is saved.”*

Second. If you are saved, you will keep His commandments. From 1 John 2:3-6, we read, *“And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. Whoever says “I know him” but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him: 6 whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.”* What does your walk look like? Can you sin and not grieve over your sin? If so, you don't belong to Him. We will never be sinless, but a believer will eventually grieve over their sin.

Third. Do you love God's Children? Do you love other believers? Again, scripture is clear if we belong to Jesus, we will love other Christians. John writes, *“Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in darkness. Whoever loves his brother abides in the light, and in him there is no cause for stumbling. But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes”* (1 John 2:9-11).

Fourth. Do you love the world? A Christian knows that this is not their home. They are sojourners and just passing through, and this is not their home. *“Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.”* (1 John 2:15-17)

God does not intend for you to live in fear or fear that you are not saved. If you are His, then all four pieces of evidence above will be displayed in your life. So examine yourself today and see if you are indeed a child of God.

Your shepherd,

Pastor Mark

Quote of the Week

“As Christians we should never feel sorry for ourselves. The moment we do so, we lose our energy, we lose the will to fight and the will to live, and are paralyzed.”

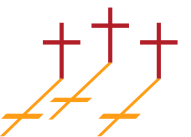
- Martyn Lloyd-Jones

Grace Gems

Trials' Lessons: Humility
John MacArthur

“To keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to buffet me” 2 Corinthians 12:7

God sometimes uses trials to humble believers. Professional athletics, as a whole, makes up one of the least humble sectors in modern American society. Players with multi-million dollar salaries and extravagant benefits have replaced those who played because they loved their sport and had great community loyalty. One such noble model from the past was Lou Gehrig, the Hall of Fame first baseman with the New York Yankees, whose career ended in 1939 after he was stricken with a rare and always fatal neuromuscular disease. Throughout his ordeal, Gehrig conducted himself with dignity and humility, all of which culminated on July 4, 1939, before a capacity crowd at Yankee Stadium, with millions more listening on the radio. He concluded his special remarks on “Lou Gehrig Day” with this amazing statement: “Today, I consider myself the luckiest man on the face of the earth.” He died approximately two years later. Shouldn't those who seek to serve and glorify God react in similar fashion if confronted by the same kind of trial? They will if they remember that He sometimes sends trials to humble His children and remind them they are not to be overconfident in their own spiritual strength (Rom. 12:3). Today's verse tells us God allowed Paul to be plagued by some sort of chronic, painful problem, “a messenger of Satan.” This likely refers to a man who led the opposition to Paul at the church in Corinth. When we are greatly blessed spiritually—Paul saw the risen Christ several times and was even taken up into the third heaven—the Lord sometimes allows “a thorn in the flesh” to afflict us, that we might remain humble. Whenever we are besieged by such trials and come to the point where all strength seems gone, God's Word reminds us, as it did Paul, *“My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.”* Most gladly, therefore, I [Paul] will rather boast about my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may dwell in me” (2 Cor. 12:9).



Weekly Gatherings



Bible Classes

New Testament
Sunday School
Sunday Morning @ 9AM



Weekday Meetings

Mondays | 7PM
Men's Bible Study



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-8PM



Service Times

Sunday Service 10:30AM
Children's Church @10:30AM

Giving from service on 05/02/2021

General Offering	9,974.64
Building Fund	2,740.00
Uganda100.00
Benevolence	150.00
Total	\$12,964.64
Attendance174
Sunday School118
Online26

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

Grace Harvest Baptist Church

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