

Pastor's Pen

The Wrong Peace!

"They have healed the brokenness of My people superficially, Saying, 'Peace, peace,' But there is no peace."
Jeremiah 6:14

Jeremiah's warning reveals a recurring danger: providing a false sense of peace that comforts temporarily but fails to truly heal the soul. The false prophets of his time delivered reassuring messages, overlooking sin, repentance, and God's holiness. They assured peace without confronting the core issue, which God describes as a superficial remedy. The world still loves this kind of peace.

In 1969, John Lennon sang, "All we are saying is give peace a chance." A few years later, Coca-Cola invited the world to unity with the promise that we could "buy the world a Coke." Modern slogans like "coexist" echo the same idea—that peace can be achieved by shared sentiment, tolerance, or ignoring what divides us.

Jeremiah reminds us that peace isn't created through optimism or goodwill. The real issue isn't a lack of harmony but a fractured relationship with God. When sin is overlooked, peace becomes this false sense. The Bible clearly states: **"There is no peace...for the wicked"** (Isaiah 57:21).

The false prophets during Jeremiah's time offered reassurance rather than harshness. However, providing comfort without encouraging repentance leaves people unready to face a holy God. Claiming "peace" when judgment is imminent is not compassion; it's deception.

Christ presents a profoundly different kind of peace. Jesus declared, **"Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you"** (John 14:27). Whereas the world provides peace through distraction and denial, Christ offers peace through reconciliation. His peace is not achieved by lowering God's standards but by fulfilling them through the cross.

Through Christ's sacrifice, believers are no longer enemies of God. **"Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ"** (Romans 5:1). This peace is not temporary or emotional—it is rooted in forgiveness, righteousness, and restored fellowship with God.

Jeremiah's warning still stands. False peace numbs the conscience and delays repentance. True peace confronts sin, points to the cross, and rests in Christ alone. Anything less is still "peace, peace"—the wrong peace.

Your Shepherd, Pastor Mark

Grace Gems

Eternal Peace- Alistair Begg

Jesus himself stood among them, and said to them, "Peace to you!" But they were startled and frightened and thought they saw a spirit." Luke 24:36-37

We might use many words to sum up the achievement of the gospel and our experience of the gospel. One phrase which deserves meditation and inspires worship is simply this: the gospel is a **"gospel of peace"** (Ephesians 6:15). When the risen Jesus appeared to the disciples three days after His death, they were understandably frightened. So Jesus spoke to them. What He said was a typical greeting: "Shalom!" or "Peace to you!" But it was also a necessary greeting to calm His disciples' fear. And His words offered His followers far more than just temporary relief. They also pointed to a deeper, eternal peace.

Quote of the Week

"There is no peace between the soul and God until it has been brought about by Christ."

-Martin Luther

Throughout the Gospel of Luke, peace and salvation are almost synonymous. At the start of Luke, Simeon had responded to the news of Jesus' coming birth by praying, **"Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation"** (Luke 2:29-30, emphasis added). When Jesus was grown, He'd told the woman who had anointed His feet with her tears, **"Your faith has saved you; go in peace"** (Luke 7:50, emphasis added). When the risen Jesus spoke peace to His disciples, then, He was using familiar terminology—but in a whole new context.

Jesus' promise of peace can be a stumbling block for those new to Christianity. At Christmastime, people hear phrases like "Peace on earth and good will to men" and perhaps say to themselves, Well, clearly such peace isn't happening. There seem to be more wars, factions, and disagreements today than there have ever been. So what did Jesus mean in promising His disciples peace?

Notice that His declaration of peace was followed by an invitation to see His hands and His feet—evidence of His crucifixion. And what was His crucifixion? It was His substitutionary death on behalf of sinners in order to make **"peace by the blood of his cross"** (Colossians 1:20).

If what Jesus meant by peace was the instant end of all bloodshed and the inhumanity of man to man, then yes, Christianity is a dud. If He was referring to a kind of valium-enhanced tranquility whereby we just drift through our days with nothing able to cloud our vision or bother us, then Christianity is a failure. But if He was speaking of the peace which would be established between the holy God and sinful humankind through His blood shed on the cross, then the gospel truly is the greatest story ever told.

Just as Jesus appeared to His unsettled disciples amid their emotional turmoil, so He comes to us and promises us peace unlike any other. Indeed, He says specifically, **"My peace I give to you"** (John 14:27, emphasis added). Do not be troubled or afraid, then. For you are at peace with your Creator, loved in the only eyes that matter. Your faith has saved you; go in peace.

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 02/1/2026	
General Offering	\$7,587.36
Building Fund	\$1,139.30
Uganda	\$50.00
Benevolence	\$162.00
Total	\$8,938.66
Attendance	205

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

Feb 8, 2026

