

# Pastor's Pen

Set Aside!

**"You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and that your fruit would abide, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you."** John 15:16

Today is a special day in the life of Grace Harvest. Zachery Turner has been tested and found approved to be ordained as a Minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. You will witness his solemn pledge to the following vows:

"Do you affirm that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the inspired Word of God, the only infallible rule of faith and practice, and do you promise to preach them faithfully and without compromise?"

"Do you believe in the doctrines of grace as taught in Scripture—God's sovereign election, the total depravity of man, Christ's atoning work, the perseverance of the saints, and the centrality of God's glory in all things—and will you faithfully uphold and proclaim these truths?"

"Do you commit to shepherd God's people entrusted to your care, feeding them with the Word, protecting them from false teaching, visiting the sick, and guiding them in righteousness, as a faithful under-shepherd of Christ?"

"Do you pledge to live a life above reproach, setting an example in speech, conduct, love, faith, and purity, knowing that your life is to be a pattern to the flock?"

"Do you commit to this local church, submitting to its leadership, cooperating with its members, and striving for its unity and growth, as Christ's body on earth?"

"Do you promise to pray without ceasing, to depend on the Holy Spirit in all ministry, and to preach the Word faithfully, whether convenient or inconvenient, for the glory of God and the good of His people?"

"Do you, the members of Grace Harvest Baptist Church, receive this man as your pastor, promising to support him in prayer, to honor his teaching, and to submit to his loving oversight, so that together you may glorify God?"

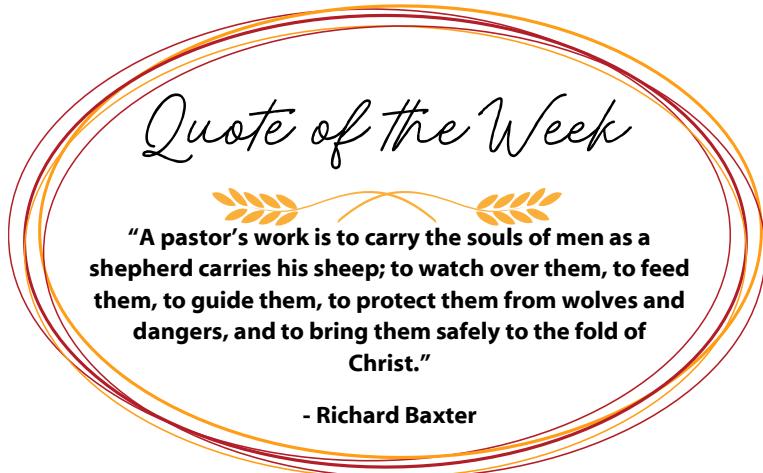
From this day forward, Zach Turner will be known and referred to by the members of GHBC as Pastor Zach. Please pray for him and his wife as he steps out to faithfully serve this body of believers.

Your shepherd,  
Pastor Mark

## Grace Gems

### The Good Shepherd

During the exchange between the Pharisees and Jesus that we looked at yesterday, we saw how Jesus, as the long awaited Shepherd-King, came to call His sheep into the true sheepfold, into which He is the only door. The Pharisees were false shepherds who had led Israel away from faithfulness to God's covenant, but Jesus is the true Shepherd who never leads His flock astray (John 10:1-5).



John 10:11 gives us the fourth **"I Am"** saying that we find in the fourth gospel: **"I am the good shepherd."** In uttering this statement, Jesus reveals Himself to be the fulfillment of the shepherding metaphor applied to the leaders of Israel under the old covenant. Before the incarnation of the Son of God, David was among the most important shepherds the Israelites ever had. This shepherd-king understood well the task of one who cares for sheep, for he grew up tending these animals. In Psalm 23, he likens himself to a lamb walking fearlessly through the valley of the shadow of death because of the good shepherd who is with him. David, despite his great accomplishments as Israel's king, understood his need of a greater shepherd, one who would guide and comfort him with rod and staff. This good shepherd, of course, was none other than Yahweh, Israel's covenant Lord.

Though Jesus is identified with the shepherd depicted in Psalm 23, He does much more than even David described in his writing. Not only is He constantly present with us, leading us and comforting us, He also gives His life for the sake of His sheep (John 10:11). This is most unlike the hireling (v. 12), who does not receive his livelihood from owning the flock of sheep, and has no incentive to stand guard over the animals when he and his sheep are threatened. The Good Shepherd, however, defends the sheep, even unto a horrible death on the cross, which He willingly endured (vv. 15-18).

During Jesus' earthly ministry, many Israelites had a narrow view of the sheepfold — it could be home only to the ethnic sons of Abraham. But when the Messiah had come, it meant that the messianic age had dawned, along with the enlargement of the sheepfold — Gentiles in the kingdom of God. These sheep, when they hear and follow the voice of the Good Shepherd, are welcomed into His flock (v. 16). Jew and Gentile now come in together through the one Door to follow the one Good Shepherd.

Grace Gems -Ligonier Ministries/Tabletalk

# Weekly Gatherings

## Sunday Bible Classes

Elders- Old Testament (Sanctuary A)  
Bereans- New Testament (Sanctuary B)  
Ladies- (Downstairs B, Gray Room)  
Young Adults- (Downstairs B, Red Rm.)  
Youth and Surge (5th-6th)- (Upstairs 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 Keffler

## 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 12/28/2025	
General Offering .....	\$31,691.87
Building Fund .....	\$8,690.30
Uganda .....	\$3,505.30
Benevolence .....	\$3,355.00
Total.....	\$47,242.47
Attendance .....	234

## 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



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# Grace Harvest Bible Church

Jan 4, 2026

