

Pastor's Pen

The Hour Glass!

"As for the days of our life, they contain seventy years, Or if due to might, eighty years, Yet their pride is but labor and wickedness; For soon it is gone and we fly away." Psalm 90:10

Life is short, fragile, and often burdensome. Psalm 90, a prayer by Moses, reveals a sobering truth: even a lengthy life—seventy or eighty years—is filled with labor, suffering, and human frailty. Our strength diminishes, plans are disrupted, and death arrives unexpectedly. John Calvin noted that life's fleetingness should remind us of our reliance on God and the importance of aligning our days with His will. Similarly, Jonathan Edwards stressed that earthly life is brief, and eternity is what truly counts; all our efforts, joys, and sorrows should be measured against God's eternal glory.

If you've visited my office, you've seen the hourglass on my desk. Think of your life as that hourglass, where each grain of sand signifies a day, a moment, or an opportunity to honor God. Initially, the top appears full, and we often take our time for granted, believing we have endless days ahead. However, each grain slowly slips through the narrow neck, passing beyond our reach. We can't speed up, slow down, or recover a fallen grain. Soon, the top is almost empty, confronting us with the unyielding passage of time. Psalm 90:10 reminds us that life is limited, and every day is precious.

The brevity of life carries a deep call to wisdom. John Calvin noted that recognizing life's shortness should drive us to focus on God's glory and our salvation. Edwards encouraged believers to look beyond earthly matters and dedicate their brief time to what lasts forever: faithfulness and obedience to God. Every grain of sand used for Him, and every moment spent obeying, adds to His eternal kingdom.

Life's struggles and hardships are temporary, but God's mercy and Christ's salvation last forever. The hourglass, while reminding us of mortality, also directs us toward eternity. As the sands fall, let them serve as a reminder to focus your life on what truly matters—loving God, walking in His truth, and sharing Christ's hope with others. Our days are finite, but God's faithfulness knows no bounds, and His promises withstand the fleeting sands of time.

- ***"Behold, You have made my days as handbreadths, and my lifetime as nothing before You; surely every man, even standing firm, is altogether vanity. Selah."*** (Psalm 39:5)
- ***"Yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring—what your life will be like! You are a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away."*** (James 4:14)
- ***"Man is like a breath; his days are like a passing shadow."*** (Psalm 144:4)
- ***"Remember how short my time is!"*** (Psalm 89:47)
- ***"For we are sojourners before You, and foreign residents, like all our forefathers; our days on the earth are like a shadow..."*** (1 Chronicles 29:15)
- ***"For who knows what is good for a man during his lifetime, during the few days of his vain life? He will make do with them like a shadow..."*** (Ecclesiastes 6:12)
- ***"Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring forth."*** (Proverbs 27:1)
- ***"Man born of woman is of few days and full of trouble; he comes out like a flower and withers; he flees like a shadow and does not continue."*** (Job 14:1-2)
- ***"As for man, his days are like grass; he flourishes like a flower of the field; for the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more."*** (Psalm 103:15-16)
- ***"For my days vanish like smoke, and my bones are burned like a hearth."*** (Psalm 102:3)

Your shepherd, Pastor Mark

Quote of the Week

"Life is precarious, and life is precious. Don't presume you will have it tomorrow, and don't waste it today."
— John Piper

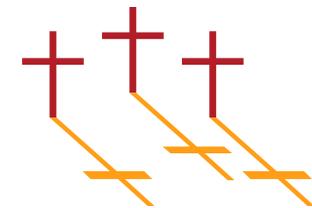
Grace Gems

Spiritual Depression: Its Causes and Cure
Martyn Lloyd-Jones

To make it quite practical I have a very simple test. After I have explained the way of Christ to somebody I say "Now, are you ready to say that you are a Christian?" And they hesitate. And then I say, "What's the matter? Why are you hesitating?" And so often people say, "I don't feel like I'm good enough yet. I don't think I'm ready to say I'm a Christian now." And at once I know that I have been wasting my breath. They are still thinking in terms of themselves. They have to do it.

It sounds very modest to say, "Well, I don't think I'm good enough," but it's a very denial of the faith. The very essence of the Christian faith is to say that He is good enough and I am in Him. As long as you go on thinking about yourself like that and saying, "I'm not good enough; Oh, I'm not good enough," you are denying God – you are denying the gospel – you are denying the very essence of the faith and you will never be happy.

You think you're better at times and then again you will find you are not as good at other times than you thought you were. You will be up and down forever. How can I put it plainly? It doesn't matter if you have almost entered into the depths of hell. It does not matter if you are guilty of murder as well as every other vile sin. It does not matter from the standpoint of being justified before God at all. You are no more hopeless than the most moral and respectable person in the world.



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 02/15/2026	
General Offering	\$10,805.11
Building Fund	\$710.00
Uganda	\$130.00
Benevolence	\$173.00
Total	\$11,818.11
Attendance	230

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 22, 2026

