

Pastor's Pen

Going Home!

I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account.

Philippians 1:23-24

As we enjoy the blessing that God gives us in this life we must never forget our role as Christians. The great Apostle Paul understood this and my desire is the same as Paul's, to live is Christ to die is gain. However, for too many of us we have been caught up with the things of the world so much that it hinders our effectiveness to be ambassadors for Christ.

As I was thinking about all the blessings of my life I realized how much my definition of blessings has changed. When I was immature in my faith I counted anything favorable in my life as blessings. If everything was going well with me and my family I was happy, content, and counted it joy. As I have grown in my faith I have come to realize that blessings can come in trials. If you would have told me two years ago that my love for my wife and my faith in the Lord would be greater now I would have told you that would not be possible.

When Cathy was diagnosed with Parkinson I can remember thinking how can this be Lord. We had reached the point when everything was going so well. The ministry was going well, our kids were all doing well, and I was looking forward to Cathy and I traveling around the country during our vacations. How could this happen? Then it hit me. My desire has always been to be used up by God, to burn out in service to Him and then go home. He needed to get my attention and get me refocused on His will for my life. During the past several years God has used our struggles to trim away the fat in my spiritual life. My love for God and my wife have grown beyond anything I could have imagined since we received the news from the doctor.

Tim Keller is a retired preacher and author who has recently been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. He has asked for prayer for healing but he also asked for the following, "For Kathy and me, that we use this opportunity to be weaned from the joys of this world and to desire God's presence above all." When I read that it hit me like a ton of bricks. I read it over and over again. What a powerful prayer for a believer to ask God to wean them from the joys of this world. There is nothing wrong with enjoying the things of the world that God has given to us but I understand full well that those joys can hinder my walk with God or distract me from my service to Him.

Be encouraged Christian, enjoy this life, your family, the things that bring you joy but never forget that God has much more in store for you when you finally go home to be with Him forever.

Your shepherd,
Pastor Mark

Quote of the Week

"Unless our faith makes us pine after holiness and pant after conformity to God, it is no better than the faith of devils, and perhaps it is not even so good as that."

- Charles Spurgeon

Grace Gems

Christ at the Center

It is they that bear witness about me. -John 5:39

Jesus Christ is the Alpha and Omega of the Bible. He is the constant theme of its sacred pages; from beginning to end they bear witness to Him. At the creation we immediately recognize Him as one of the sacred Trinity; we catch a glimpse of Him in the promise of the woman's seed; we see Him pictured in the ark of Noah; we walk with Abraham as He sees Messiah's day; we live in the tents of Isaac and Jacob, feeding upon the gracious promise; and in the numerous types of the law, we find the Redeemer abundantly foreshadowed. Prophets and kings, priests and preachers all look one way—they all stand as the cherubs did over the ark, desiring to look within and to read the mystery of God's great propitiation. Even more obvious in the New Testament we discover that Jesus is the one pervading subject. It is not that He is mentioned every so often or that we can find Him in the shadows; no, the whole substance of the New Testament is Jesus crucified, and even its closing sentence sparkles with the Redeemer's name. We should always read Scripture in this light; we should consider the Word to be like a mirror into which Christ looks down from heaven; and then we, looking into it, see His face reflected—darkly, it is true, but still in such a way as to be a blessed preparation for one day seeing Him face to face.

The New Testament contains Jesus Christ's letters to us, which are perfumed by His love. These pages are like the garments of our King, and they all bear His fragrance. Scripture is the royal chariot in which Jesus rides, and it is paved with love for the daughters of Jerusalem. The Scriptures are like the swaddling clothes of the holy child Jesus; unroll them, and there you find your Savior. The essence of the Word of God is Christ.

-by Alistair Begg



Weekly Gatherings



Bible Classes

Discipleship Class
With Brian Patrick
Sunday Morning @ 8am



Weekday Meetings

Mondays | 7PM
Men's Bible Study

Mondays 9:30am | Thursdays 6:30PM
Women's Book Study—postponed



Job Study

Wednesdays @ 7PM
Teaching Series



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.



Children's Studies

Youth Study Wednesdays @6:30pm
& Youth Studies with Caleb Capps



Service Times

Sunday Service 8:30am & 10:30 AM
Children's Church @10:30am

Giving from service on 06.07.20

General Offering7,354.60
Building Fund2,815.60
Total 10,170.20

Attendance ...127 present

Got Questions

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

Grace Harvest Baptist Church

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