

Pastor's Pen

Resolved: To know Christ More

"that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death," Philippians 3:10

It happens every year. January arrives, and with it come our resolutions—plans to improve, restructure, lose, gain, and change. Yet by the time February arrives, many of those ambitions fade like the last traces of Christmas lights. But there is one resolution that must not—and cannot—be set aside: to know Christ more.

Paul's desire in Philippians 3:10 is not casual. It is not seasonal. It is the lifelong pursuit of the believer. He doesn't say, "That I may know about Him," but rather, ***"That I may know Him."*** This is the language of intimacy, worship, and union. Salvation is not merely deliverance from judgment; it is entrance into fellowship with the risen Lord. To know Christ is the heart of Christianity. Paul speaks of knowing Christ in three dimensions:

The Power of His Resurrection

To know Christ more is to live in the power of His risen life. This is daily resurrection power—power to obey, power to resist sin, power to endure. The same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead is at work in us. We do not resolve to grow in Christ by grit or willpower alone, but by dependence on the power that conquered death.

The Fellowship of His Sufferings

To know Christ is not only to share His victory, but also His sorrows. This doesn't mean we seek suffering, but that we do not flee from obedience when it costs us. True discipleship embraces Christ even in the valley, knowing Him more deeply through every tear, trial, and burden. Suffering with Christ is not abandonment—it is fellowship.

Being Conformed to His Death

The Christian life is one of daily surrender. As Christ laid down His life, so we lay down our pride, our sin, our self-rule. Every day we die a little more to self and live a little more unto Him. True growth is not adding more of ***"us,"*** but yielding more to ***"Him."***

This year, resolutions will come and go. Diets will begin, budgets will tighten, and schedules will fill. But one pursuit stands above them all—to know Christ more than we did yesterday. This is not a task of human effort but a grace-driven resolve: the Spirit drawing us deeper into the heart of the Savior who already knows us fully. May this new year not be defined by what we accomplish, but by whom we behold. For to know Christ is to know life, joy, and peace in every season.

Your shepherd, Pastor Mark

Grace Gems

Some beloved idol? (J. C. Philpot, "Spiritual Times and Seasons" 1841)

"Because the whole land is filled with idols, and the people are madly in love with them." Jeremiah 50:38

Have we not all in our various ways, set up some beloved idol . . . something which engaged our affections, something which occupied our thoughts, something to which we devoted all the energies of our minds, something for which we were willing to labor night and day?

Quote of the Week

"Resolved, that I will do whatsoever I think will be most to God's glory ... throughout my whole life."

- Johnathan Edwards

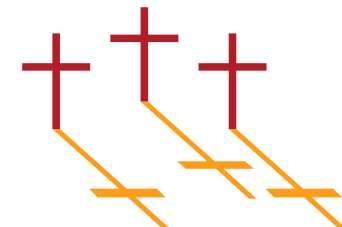
Be it money, be it power, be it esteem of men, be it respectability, be it worldly comfort, be it literary knowledge, there was a secret setting up of SELF in one or more of its various forms, and a bowing down to it as an idol.

The man of business makes money his god. The man of pleasure makes the lust of the flesh his god. The proud man makes his adored SELF his god. The Pharisee makes self-righteousness his god. The Arminian makes free-will his god. The Calvinist makes dry doctrine his god.

All in one way or other, however they may differ in the object of their idolatrous worship, agree in this: that they give a preference in their esteem and affection to their peculiar idol, above the one true God.

"Idols will be utterly abolished and destroyed." Isaiah 2:18
There is, then, a time to break down these idols which our fallen nature has set up. And have not we experienced some measure of this breaking down, both externally and internally? Have not our idols been in a measure smashed before our eyes, our prospects in life cut up and destroyed, our airy visions of earthly happiness and our romantic paradises dissolved into thin air, our creature-hopes dashed, our youthful affections blighted, and the objects from which we had fondly hoped to reap an enduring harvest of delight removed from our eyes?

And likewise, as to our religion . . . our good opinion of ourselves, our piety and holiness, our wisdom and our knowledge, our understanding and our abilities, our consistency and uprightness; have they not all been broken down, and made a heap of ruins before our eyes?



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 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



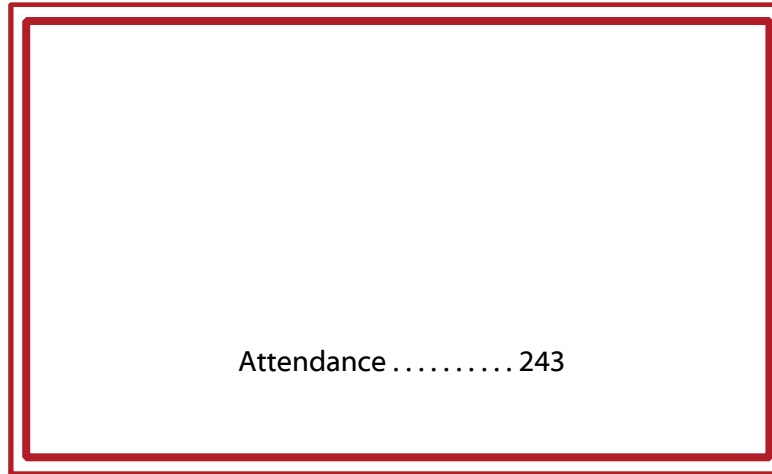
Youth Study

Wednesdays @6:30PM
Youth Study & Surge!



Service Times

Sunday School 9:00AM
Children's Church 10:30AM
Sunday Services 10:30AM



Attendance 243

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

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