

# Pastor's Pen

Does God Hate?

**"The Lord tests the righteous, but his soul hates the wicked and the one who loves violence." Psalm 11:5**

You have probably heard someone say, "God hates the sin but loves the sinner". It sounds magnanimous but the problem is the statement can lead to a misunderstanding of who God loves and hates.

Yes, God hates. When the Bible does speak of God's hatred, the object of His hatred is sin and wickedness. Proverbs 6:16–19 lists seven things the Lord hates: pride, lying, murder, evil plots, those who love evil, false witnesses, and troublemakers. Notice that this passage does not include just things that God hates, it includes people as well. The reason is simple, sin cannot be separated from the sinner except by the forgiveness available in Christ alone. God hates lying, yes, but lying always involves a person who chooses to lie. God cannot judge the lie without also judging the liar. Look what Psalm 5:5 says about God, "You hate all evildoers" (ESV) and Psalm 11:5 is even harsher, "The wicked, those who love violence, he hates with a passion."

Before a person repents and believes in the Lord Jesus Christ, he is an enemy of God (Colossians 1:21). Yet, even before he is saved, he is loved by God (Romans 5:8). The question then becomes what happens to someone who spurns God's love, refuses to repent, and stubbornly clings to his sin? The answer is God will judge them, because God must judge sin, and that means judging the sinner. These are the "wicked" whom God hates, those who persist in their sin and rebellion, even in the face of the grace and mercy of God in Christ.

The problem is that we try to compare our love and hate with how God loves and hates. We can only understand hatred from a sinful and broken perspective. We know when we hate something that it is tainted with sin. When we hear that God hates something we are shocked by it. We cannot love with a perfect love, nor can we hate with a perfect hatred. But God can both love and hate perfectly, because He is God. God can hate without sinful intent. He can hate the sinner in a perfectly holy way and still lovingly forgive the sinner at the moment of repentance and faith.

The good news is that once someone believes in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and repents of their sin they are no longer and enemy of God or hated by Him. They are now His son or daughter and are loved by God forever.

Your shepherd,



## Quote of the Week

"The remarkable thing about God is that when you fear God, you fear nothing else, whereas if you do not fear God, you fear everything else."

-Oswald Chambers

# Grace Gems

To whom do you belong?

**And David said to him, "To whom do you belong? And where are you from?" 1 Samuel 30:13**

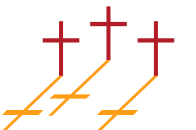
In the life of faith, neutrality is not an option. We are either ranked under the banner of the Lord Jesus, to serve and fight His battles, or we are slaves of the dark prince, Satan. "To whom do you belong?"

Reader, let me assist you in your response. Have you been "born again"? If you have, you belong to Christ; but without the new birth you cannot be His. In whom do you trust? For those who believe in Jesus are the sons of God. Whose work are you doing? You are sure to serve your master, for he whom you serve is thereby owned to be your lord. What company do you keep? If you belong to Jesus, you will keep company with those who wear the uniform of the cross. "Birds of a feather flock together." What is your conversation? Is it heavenly or is it earthly? What have you learned from your Master? For servants learn a great deal from the masters to whom they are apprenticed. If you have served your time with Jesus, it will be said of you, as it was of Peter and John, "they recognized that they had been with Jesus."

We press the question, "To whom do you belong?" Answer honestly before you fall asleep for the night. If you are not Christ's, you are in a hard service—run away from your cruel master! Enter into the service of the Lord of Love, and you will enjoy a life of blessedness.

If you are Christ's, let me advise you to do four things. You belong to Jesus—obey Him; let His word be your law; let His wish be your will. You belong to the Beloved; then love Him; let your heart embrace Him; let your whole soul be filled with Him. You belong to the Son of God; then trust him; rest on nothing or no one but on Him. You belong to the King of kings; then be decided for Him. Thus even without being marked with a sign everyone will know to whom you belong.

-Alistair Begg



# Weekly Gatherings



## Bible Classes

Adult Old Testament  
Adult New Testament  
Young Adults / Couples



## Weekday Meetings

Tuesdays | 7PM  
Worship Team, for more info contact  
[pastorcal@ghbcva.org](mailto:pastorcal@ghbcva.org)

Wednesdays | 6:30PM  
Youth Meeting & AWANA



## Family Groups

Men's Mondays @7pm  
Pastor Mark's Thursdays @7pm  
Lane/Keffer Thursdays @7pm  
Royall's Thursdays @7pm



## 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

Children's Sunday School at 9:00 AM  
For more info contact [admin@ghbcva.org](mailto:admin@ghbcva.org)



## Service Times

Sunday School 9:00 AM  
Sunday Service 10:30 AM

### Giving from service on 03.01.20

General Offering .....	8,604.00
Building Fund .....	1,160.00
Annie Armstrong .....	715.00
Benevolence .....	110.00
Uganda Missions .....	135.00
Foundations .....	125.00

Total ..... 10,849.00  
Attendance ...197

## Got Questions

Women's Ministry-[women@ghbcva.org](mailto:women@ghbcva.org)  
AWANA-[awana@ghbcva.org](mailto:awana@ghbcva.org)  
Outreach Ministry-[outreach@ghbcva.org](mailto:outreach@ghbcva.org)  
Worship Ministry-[worship@ghbcva.org](mailto:worship@ghbcva.org)  
Men's Ministry-[men@ghbcva.org](mailto:men@ghbcva.org)  
Children's Ministry-[children@ghbcva.org](mailto:children@ghbcva.org)  
Youth Ministry-[youth@ghbcva.org](mailto:youth@ghbcva.org)  
Prayer Team-[prayer@ghbcva.org](mailto:prayer@ghbcva.org)  
Maintenance-[maintenance@ghbcva.org](mailto:maintenance@ghbcva.org)  
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Baptist Church  
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# Grace Harvest Baptist Church

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