

Pastor's Pen

What does it cost?

And he said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me." Luke 9:23

If you have ever purchased a car or a home the first thing you had to do is to figure out what you could afford. You had to count the cost of ownership. If you have a budget of \$150,000 to buy a new home it wouldn't do you any good to have a real-estate agent show you homes that list for \$500,000. Jesus tells those that would follow Him to "count the cost." The problem for too many professing Christians is that they never counted the cost to become a disciple of Christ.

Jesus never used the term Christian when he described those who believed in Him. Jesus used the term disciple to refer to His followers. The Greek term for disciple in the New Testament is *mathetes*, which means more than just student or learner. A disciple is a follower, someone who adheres completely to the teachings of another, making them his rule of life and conduct.

Jesus makes it perfectly clear that following Him could cost you your life. He told the great crowd that if they wanted to follow Him they must deny themselves and take up their cross every day. They would have understood perfectly what taking up the cross meant. They were committing to follow Jesus even if it meant death. This is a far cry from those who would tell you that God has nothing but health, wealth and prosperity for those who come to Christ. That is the message of many churches today. Come to Jesus and all your problems will be solved, no more heartache, financial struggles or health issues. This sounds good but it is a lie straight from the pits of Hell.

When we come to Christ we are warned with Jesus' own words:

Now great crowds accompanied him, and he turned and said to them, "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple." Luke 14:25-27

It is always good to pay attention to what God tells us but when He repeats it we should pay close attention. In Luke 14:27 He repeats the command to be willing to die for Him. Following Him may cost you friendships, being estranged from family members, a job, criticism, persecution and yes, even death. Jesus tells you to count the cost (Luke 14: 28-33). He wants you to know what it takes to be His disciple, "So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple". What say you, have you counted the cost to be called a disciple of Jesus?

Your shepherd,

Pastor Mark

Quote of the Week

"If you want to hear God speak, read your Bible.
If you want to hear God speak audibly,
read your Bible out loud."
— Justin Peters

Grace Gems

Their photograph flatters them!
(J. R. Miller, "What God Thinks of Us" 1909)

One of the most important questions we can ask ourselves, is what God thinks of us. One has pointed out that in every man, there are four different men: the man whom the neighbors see, the man whom one's family sees, the man whom the person himself sees, and the man whom God sees.

The community knows us only in a general way, superficially. What people think of us, we sometimes call 'reputation'—what we are reputed to be. It is a composite made up of all that people know about us, gathered from our conduct, our acts, our dispositions, our words, the impressions of ourselves we give to others.

The knowledge the community has of a man, is only superficial. It is evident that the world's opinion about people is not infallible, is not complete, is not final. A person may be better than his reputation; his external manner may do him injustice. Some men, by reason of their shyness, their awkwardness, or some limitation in power of expression, fail to appear at their true value. The world knows only a man's outward life, and there may be good things in him which it does not know. Then some people, on the other hand, are worse than their reputation. Their photograph flatters them! What they pretend to be—exceeds the reality. They practice tricks which give a glamour to their lives, so that they pass in public for more than they are. They wear veils, which hide defects and faults in them, and thus they seem better than they are. Hence we cannot accept the judgment of the community, regarding anyone—as absolutely true, fair, and final.

But there is another man in us—the man GOD sees. And this is most important of all. We do not even know all the secret things of our own hearts. There is an Eye that sees deeper than ours! It is pleasant to have people commend us, when we have tried to do our duty. It gives us great joy to have the approval of our own hearts. But if we do not have the commendation of the Master, human praise and self-approval amount to nothing! "What does God think of me?" is always the final question. Men are cruel. They judge often harshly. They know only part of the truth concerning us. They are not patient with our infirmities. But we are safe in the hands of God. He knows the worst in us—but He also knows the best. We may trust our lives, therefore, to God's judgment, even if they are full of defects and flaws. He knows all, and will bring to light all the hidden things.



Weekly Gatherings



Bible Classes

New Testament
Sunday School
Sunday Morning @ 9AM-9:45AM



Weekday Meetings

Mondays | 7PM
Men's Zoom Bible Study
Tuesdays | 7PM
Women's Zoom Bible Study



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.



Youth Study

Wednesdays @6:30PM
Youth Study



Service Times

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

Giving from service on 07.12.20

General Offering7,403.44
Building Fund857.60
Uganda Missions 130.00
Foundations25.00
Benevolence 100.00

Total 8,516.04
Attendance ...159 present
Online...15

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



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

Grace Harvest Baptist Church

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