

Pastor's Pen

Pointless!

Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds.
Ephesians 4:17

Paul spent the first three chapters in Ephesians focusing on the Gospel and what God has done through His Son Jesus Christ. He reminds the believers in Ephesus that, "when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit (Eph. 1:13). Since all Christians are transformed at their conversion (2 Cor.5:17) Paul exhorts believers to live a life differently than those who do not belong to Christ.

The church in Ephesus was surrounded by paganism and its connected immorality. Ephesus was a leading commercial and cultural city of the Roman Empire. It had the great pagan temple of Artemis or Diana, one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. But it was also a leading city in debauchery and sexual immorality. Some historians rank it as the most lascivious city of Asia Minor. Paul was reminding the Christians not to live a pointless life, one that was filled with sin and futility. The person that does not know Christ lives a life that is pointless as well as hopeless. Here are a few quotes from famous atheists as they neared death.

Thomas Payne- The leading atheistic writer in American colonies: "Stay with me, for God's sake; I cannot bear to be left alone, O Lord, help me! O God, what have I done to suffer so much? What will become of me hereafter? I would give worlds if I had them, that *The Age of Reason* had never been published. O Lord, help me! Christ, help me! No, don't leave; stay with me! Send even a child to stay with me; for I am on the edge of hell here alone. If ever the Devil had an agent, I have been that one."

Sir Thomas Scott—Chancellor of England: "Until this moment I thought there was neither a God nor a hell. Now I know and feel that there are both, and I am doomed to perdition by the just judgment of the Almighty."

Voltaire—famous anti-Christian atheist: "I have swallowed nothing but smoke. I have intoxicated myself with the incense that turned my head. I am abandoned by God and man."

He said to his physician, Dr. Fochin: "I will give you half of what I am worth if you will give me six months of life." When he was told this was not possible, he said "Then I shall die and go to hell!" His nurse said: "For all the money in Europe I wouldn't want to see another unbeliever die! All night long he cried for forgiveness." NAPOLEON BONAPARTE—French emperor who, like Adolf Hitler, brought death to millions to satisfy his greedy, power-mad, selfish ambitions for world conquest: "I die before my time, and my body will be given back to the earth. Such is the fate of him who has been called the great Napoleon. What an abyss between my deep misery and the eternal kingdom of Christ!

Paul expands on this pointless life of the unbeliever, They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. But that is not the way you learned Christ!— assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness (Eph. 4:18-24).

How is your walk Christian? The last thing it should be is pointless. We must live our lives not for ourselves but for the glory of God.

Your shepherd,
Pastor Mark

Quote of the Week

"If any man ascribes anything of salvation, even the very least thing, to the free will of man, he knows nothing of grace, and he has not learned Jesus Christ rightly"
— Martin Luther

Grace Gems

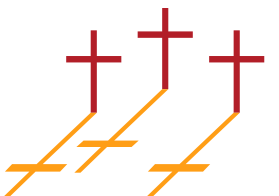
The Funeral
-Thomas Brooks

A Christian knows that death shall be the funeral of all . . . his sins, his sorrows, his afflictions, his temptations, his vexations, his oppressions, his persecutions.

He knows that death shall be the resurrection of all . . . his hopes, his joys, his delights, his comforts, his contentment's.

He knows that death shall bring him to a more clear, full, perfect, and constant enjoyment of God! This makes him sweetly and triumphantly to sing it out,

"O death! where is your sting? O grave! where is your victory?" 1 Corinthians 15:35-37



Weekly Gatherings



Bible Classes

New Testament
Sunday School
Sunday Morning @ 9-9:45 & 10-10:45



Weekday Meetings

Mondays | 7PM
Men's Zoom Bible Study



Job Study

Wednesdays @ 7PM
Teaching Series (Online Only)



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
AWANA @6:30PM-8PM



Service Times

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

Giving from service on 09/13/2020

General Offering	4,833.00
Building Fund	683.00
Uganda	130.00
Total	5,646.00

Attendance ...130 present

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
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Grace Harvest Baptist Church

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