

Pastor's Pen

Christ and Him Crucified!

"For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified." 1 Corinthians 2:2

As a pastor, I learned very quickly that shepherding a church is impossible to do if God has not called you to serve His people. As a Christian you know it is impossible to follow Christ without the Holy Spirit that dwells in you.

This week I communicated to the men that I disciple, a lesson that we learn from the Apostle Paul in Romans 7. Paul admits his struggles with being obedient to God's commands; "Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good. So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out." But, praise God it doesn't end there. We read in 7:24-25, "Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!" Jesus is the one that gives us the ability to be obedient. Each one of us who are His has been filled with the Holy Spirit. God Himself dwells inside of you. Let that sink in for a moment. So, when you start making excuses that you can't always do the right thing remember you have the ability because God is the one that works in us to do His will.

Paul understood that he was nothing without Christ and that it was God working through him that gave him the ability to preach God's word. He didn't try to impress people with his speech or wisdom. Look what he writes further in 1 Corinthians 2:3-5; "And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God."

Christian, everyone of us is called to proclaim Christ and Him crucified. You are to be a witness to a lost world about what Christ has done. You are called to be salt and light. You are called to obey His commands. But, He didn't expect you to do it on your own. Remember that the God who saved you will keep you and that He lives in you through the Holy Spirit. Be courageous Christian and live a life that reflects the one who saved us.

Your shepherd,
Pastor Mark

Grace Gems

He died — and where then?
Thomas Doolittle (1633)

"If any man does not love the Lord Jesus Christ — let him be accursed ." 1 Corinthians 16:22

Must they be cursed who do not love Christ? Then know that worldly prosperity may co-exist with the curse of God. A man might be prospering in this world — and cursed in the world to come! Do you see many whose lives declare they have no sincere love to Christ in their hearts — thrive and abound in outward enjoyments? They do not love Christ — and yet are strong and healthy! They do not love Christ — and yet are rich! They do not love Christ — and yet are honored!

What then? Might not a man be in health — and yet be a cursed man? Nay, the more strength he has, the more able he is to serve the devil — and so his strength is a curse unto him. The more worldly trinkets a man has to love — the more he enjoys of the world — and the more he loves it. And so his enjoyments are a curse unto him, when they keep him from placing his love upon Jesus Christ.

God threatens to curse wicked men's blessings: "I will send a curse upon you, and I will curse your blessings. Yes, I have already cursed them!" Malachi 2:2 Many are apt to call the proud — happy, "But now we call the arrogant, blessed. Certainly the evildoers prosper, and even those who challenge God escape!" Malachi 3:15. The rich, though evil — are thought by many to be blessed. This is a great mistake! All men can see their outward blessings — but they have no eyes to behold the inward curses which lie under those outward blessings.

Is it not a curse to have riches — without saving grace? Is it not a curse to have our portion and blessings — all in this life? Is it not a curse to prosper in the world — and to be every moment in danger of falling into Hell? Do you look upon it to be happiness — to have all for the body, and nothing for the soul? to have much of earth — and nothing of Heaven?

You read of some who "have their portion in this life" — and you read that their portion on earth is a cursed portion! It was so with the rich man spoken of in the gospel — who while on earth had his purple robes, and fine linen, and sumptuous costly dishes every day!

Oh, happy man! But wait until you hear the end. He died — and where then? To Hell! Where is now your happy man? What is his condition there? What! There he finds more pain — than all the fleeting pleasures he had while on earth! There he feels more torment and terror — than he had pleasure and delight all his days on earth! "Abraham said: Son, remember that in your life-time you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted, and you are tormented!" Luke 16:25

Remember that your pleasures were short and sweet — but Hell is long and bitter!

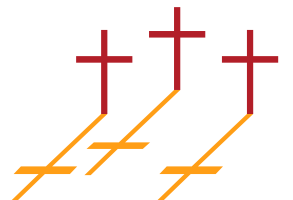
Remember that Lazarus is now blessed — and you are now cursed!

Remember that he is eternally happy — and you are eternally miserable!

Behold the change! The world's blessed man — is now God's cursed man! And he who was the miserable man in the esteem of the world — is now the blessed man!

Quote of the Week

"Before the work of grace the heart is 'stony.' It can do no more than a stone can do to please God."
— John Owen



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 09/20/2020

General Offering	10,558.78
Building Fund	1,551.80
Uganda	100.00
Total	12,210.58

Attendance ...159 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
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Grace Harvest Baptist Church

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