

Pastor's Pen

Do you love Jesus?

"If anyone has no love for the Lord, let him be accursed." 1 Corinthians 16:22

At first glance this seems pretty harsh coming from the Apostle Paul. Doesn't God love everyone? The answer to that is yes and no. There is a sense in which God loves everyone in the whole world (John 3:16; 1 John 2:2; Romans 5:8). This love is not conditional—it is rooted in God's character and based on the fact that He is a God of love (1 John 4:8, 16). God's love for everyone could be thought of as His "merciful love," since it results in the fact that God does not immediately punish people for their sins (Romans 3:23; 6:23). "Your Father in heaven . . . causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous" (Matthew 5:45). This is another example of God's love for everyone—His merciful love, His benevolence extended to everyone, not just to Christians. However, some take this love to be unconditional and believe that God loves everyone the same and taken to the logical end God must save everyone if He loves them. How could He send anyone to hell? That is why you have false teachers like Joel Osteen that won't preach on hell. Asked why he doesn't preach on hell he gave the flowing explanation in 2016:

"[People] already feel guilty enough. They're not doing what they should, raising their kids—we can all find reasons. So I want them to come to Lakewood or our meetings and be lifted up, to say, 'You know what? I may not be perfect, but I'm moving forward. I'm doing better.' And I think that motivates you to do better."

R. C Sproul gives us an understanding of God's love. "God's word is clear, those who do not trust in Him, reject His Son, and die in their sins, are cast into hell. But rather when the Scriptures indicate the love of complacency, it's that special love that God has for His Son, and all of those who are in His Son, and who are adopted into His family.

And if we talk about the love of God in His terms of the love of complacency and talk about it universally, that's blasphemy because God does not love the whole world in the love of complacency. In fact, the Scriptures tell us that there are many ways in which God is at enmity with the world. He hates the world, He hates those who are swift to shed blood, and we have to take that into account. When I hear preachers stand up and say that 'God loves everybody unconditionally,' I want to scream and say, 'Wait a minute. Then why does He call us to repent? Why does He call us to come to the cross? Why does He call us to come to Christ?' If God loves everybody unconditionally, then you can do whatever you want and believe whatever you think. And it's just not true that God loves us unconditionally. He's placed an absolute condition by which He requires—He doesn't just invite people to come to His Son—He commands all men everywhere to repent of their sins and to come to Christ. And if you want to enjoy the love of complacency you have to be in Christ."

So, when Paul writes that those who don't love God should be accursed; what does that mean? Accursed is used only six times in the Bible and it means to be eternally condemned. Each of us should ask ourselves, do we love our Lord Jesus Christ? Do we seek to obey His Word? Do we love our brothers and sisters in Christ? Just like we saw in Matthew 8:23-27 it cost you to follow Christ. Have you counted the cost?

Your shepherd,
Pastor Mark

Quote of the Week

"You mark my words, and it won't be long ... when persecution begins in this country [USA], and it strips everything from you, and most of the evangelical church goes totally apostate, and little groups are left to be berated, THEN you will see that Christ is enough."

-- Paul Washer

Grace Gems

Be diligent!

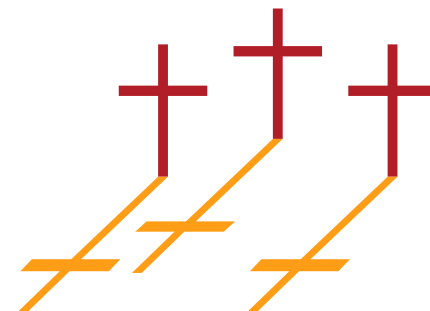
**"...make your CALLING and ELECTION sure."
2 Peter 1:10**

Be diligent in your faith. Take care that your faith is of the right kind - that it is not a creed but a credence - that it is not a mere belief of doctrine, but a reception of doctrine into your heart, and the practical light of the doctrine in your soul.

No man has any right to believe himself elect of God, unless he has been renewed by God; no man has any right to believe himself called, unless his life be in the main consistent with his calling, and he walk worthy of that whereunto he is called. Out upon an election that lets you live in sin! Away with it! away with it!

The true Christian desires that day by day he may grow more holy; that hour by hour he may be more thoroughly renewed, until conformed to the image of Christ, he may enter into bliss eternal.

-Charles Spurgeon



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 10/11/2020

General Offering	5,119.89
Building Fund666.20
Uganda	70.00
Benevolence	50.00

Total	5,906.09
Attendance	142

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
Security-security@ghbcva.org



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Grace Harvest Baptist Church

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