

Pastor's Pen

We Will Persevere!

We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies
2 Corinthians 4: 8-10

To say the least this has been a difficult year for many of us. I don't think any one of us would have imagined how 2020 has turned out. We have had to deal with a worldwide pandemic that has affected every one of us in some form or fashion. If that was not bad enough we then experienced social unrest that has not been seen in this country since the 1960's. As of this writing the 2020 presidential race has not been decided. In addition to all of this, we still deal with the daily struggles of living our lives for Christ in a world that hates believers. At this point you might feel afflicted, crushed, perplexed, despair, forsaken, and struck down.

In 2 Corinthians 4:6-7 Paul has described the knowledge of God's glory revealed in Christ as a treasure and a light. God has shone this light into his heart and given him the mission of carrying this the gospel to the world. However, Paul has said that the vessels for carrying this treasure, himself and his co-workers, are fragile clay jars. This passage describes exactly how fragile Paul and his co-workers really are. They carry the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to a lost and dying world, but they carry it in the fragile containers of their own lives.

God allows them to suffer along the way, but he keeps them from ever fully being destroyed. Paul adds that he and his co-laborers are persecuted. They have been besieged by the enemies of Christ to be mistreated and abused. This included the Jewish religious leaders, pagan mobs, and Roman authorities. However, Paul insists, that even in their most severe persecution, God has never forsaken them. God has always been with them through the worst, keeping them from being crushed or totally despairing.

Paul adds that they have even been struck down under persecution and God had not yet allowed Paul to die because his work was not done. So, Paul continues the mission to carry the treasure of the gospel to all who will receive it.

Remember Christian, God has called you before the foundation of the world (Eph. 1:4) to be His and He has prepared good works for you to perform (Eph. 2:10). So, just like Paul we must take heart knowing that... *We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies.*

Your shepherd,
Pastor Mark

Grace Gems

The book of life!

(Thomas Brooks, "Paradise Opened" 1675)

**"And another book was opened, which is the book of life."
Revelation 20:12**

The names of the elect are written in the book of life. They do not obtain salvation by chance, but were elected by God to eternal life and happiness before the foundation of the world. Now their names being once written in the book of life, they shall never, never be blotted out of that book! In the book of predestination there is not one blot to be found; the salvation of the elect is most sure and certain! "I will never blot out his name from the book of life."
Revelation 3:5

The book of life is the book of all those who were elected and redeemed to life, through Jesus Christ. This book of life contains a register of such particular persons in whose salvation, God from all eternity determined to have His mercy glorified; and for whom Christ merited faith, repentance, and perseverance—that they should repent, believe, and be finally saved.

"The book of life shall be opened;" that is to say, the decrees of God will be then published and made known, which now are sealed up in His bosom and locked up in His archives. Then it will be seen whom are appointed to eternal life—for the glorifying of God's free, rich, and sovereign grace; and whom He purposed to leave in their sins, and to perish forever—for the exaltation of His justice. "Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life."
Revelation 21:27

Quote of the Week

"There is no one who is insignificant in the purpose of God."

- Alistair Begg

The book of life shall be opened in the great day, because then it shall be shown . . .

who were elect—and who were reprobates;

who truly believed in Christ—and who did not;

who worshiped God in spirit and in truth—and who did not;

who walked with God as Noah did—and who did not;

who truly revered God—and who did not;

who followed the Lamb wherever He went—and who did not;

who were sincere—and who were not;

who are sheep—and who are goats;

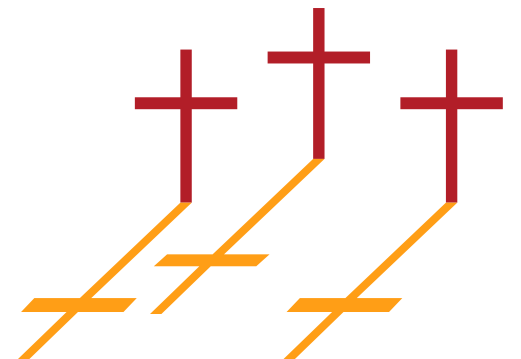
who are sons of God—and who are slaves of Satan;

who have mourned for their sins—and who have made a sport of sin;

who preferred Christ above ten thousand worlds—and who did not;

who preferred their farms, and their oxen, and their swine; yes, their very lusts—before a Savior, a Redeemer!

"If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire!" Revelation 20:15



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 11/01/2020

General Offering	5,431.60
Building Fund	2,108.60
Uganda	140.00
Total	7,680.20

Attendance.....138
Online.....22

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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