

# Pastor's Pen

True peace!

**"I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world." John 16:33**

Well, here we are in the New Year. As you look back at the beginning of 2020, none of us would have imagined all that has occurred this year. We have experienced a worldwide pandemic that has taken many lives, businesses ruined by lockdowns, churches fined for refusing to shut their doors, civil and racial unrest, and the rise of socialism within our country's young.

I was a boy in the 1960s during the antiwar protest and the civil rights marches. I was a teenager during the 70's oil embargo. I was a young husband and father in the early '80s when the average interest rate to buy a home was 16%. The '90s and 00's brought us Islamic terrorism, two wars that still have Americans dying in Afghanistan. There has always been and will continue to be hardships in this life. We are yet told that people are basically good and that man is not evil by nature. They preach that all we need to do is just love and accept everyone for who they are. We are told there is no absolute right and wrong. If we would give peace a chance, take the wealth away from the rich, and give it to the poor, everything would be perfect. There is one problem with all of this; it is not correct. The Bible has a different view of men and women, and it goes like this:

-The Lord looks down from heaven on the children of man, to see if there are any who understand, who seek after God. They have all turned aside; together they have become corrupt; there is none who does good, not even one. Psalm 14:2-3

- The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it? Jeremiah 17:19

-The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. Genesis 6:5

- For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot.

Romans 8:7

- This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil. John 3:19

So, if humanity cannot achieve peace independently, how can one attain peace in their own lives? There is only one way and one person that can bring us peace. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, came to bring peace to all that will make Him Lord and Savior of their life. Jesus reminds us that even those who belong to Him will live with worldwide pandemics, civil and racial unrest, wars, and persecution of the Church. Through it all, a child of God can experience peace because he lives within you and brings you real peace that the unbelieving world can only fantasize about.

Your shepherd,

Pastor Mark

## Quote of the Week

"New Year's Day is a good time to fix one's eyes on the only One who knows what the year is to hold."

-Elizabeth Elliot

## My Prayer for You

As we enter the new year I wanted to share with you four prayers from Gods Word I have for you.

... that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, Ephesians 1:17-19a

... that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.. Ephesians 3:16-19

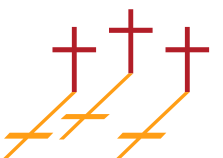
And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God. Philippians 1:9-11

... asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, 10 so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; 11 being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy; 12 giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. Colossians 1:9b-12

May the Lord bless you and keep you; may you be used up for His glory.

Your shepherd,

Pastor Mark



# 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 12/27/2020

General Offering .....	26,754.77
Building Fund .....	5,371.35
Lottie Moon .....	2,075.00
Uganda .....	40.00
Benevolence .....	200.00
Total .....	\$34,441.12
Attendance .....	148
Online .....	27
Lottie Moon .....	5,819.00
Goal .....	5,500.00

### 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



Grace Harvest  
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# Grace Harvest Baptist Church

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