

# Pastor's Pen

Above all!

***And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.***

**Colossians 3:14-15**

If there is one characteristic that every believer should display, it is love. Jesus is the prime example of sacrificial love. Paul writes, "but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). The believer's love for other believers is not optional. We are commanded to love one another by Jesus Christ Himself, "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this, all people will know that you are my disciples if you have love for one another" (John 13:34-35).

There is no place in our hearts, not to love our brothers and sisters in Christ. James puts it this way, "Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love" (1 John 4:7-8).

John MacArthur says the following about loving fellow believers:

"Love is the most important moral quality in the believer's life, for it is the very glue that produces unity in the church. Believers will never enjoy mutual fellowship through compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, or patience; they will not bear with each other or forgive each other unless they love one another."

When we love one another at Grace Harvest, we are more than just obedient to the Lord's commands. When we love the way God wants us to love, we will avoid many of the issues that cause division within a Church. The Apostle Paul writes of what the love of a follower of Christ looks like in 1 Corinthians 13. I would encourage you to join me as I teach on this wonderful passage during the Saturday morning discipleship classes.

May the love that the Lord Jesus Christ showed towards us when He died for us be visible in our lives as we serve Him and the body at Grace Harvest.

Your shepherd,

Pastor Mark

# Grace Gems

An old-fashioned, narrow-minded, fossilized person!  
(J.C. Ryle, "Needs of the Times!" 1879)

There is a common complaint in these days, that there is a lack of power in Christianity, and that the church does not shake the world as it did in former years. Shall I tell you what the reason is, in plain words? It is the low tone of life which is so sadly prevalent among professing believers. I believe we fall far short in our standard of Christian practice. The times require a higher standard of personal holiness, and an increased attention to practical religion in daily life.

I must honestly declare my conviction, that there never has been . . . so much profession of religion — without practice, so much talking about God — without walking with Him, so much hearing God's Words — without doing them, as there is at this present date! Never were there so many empty tubs and tinkling cymbals! Never was there so much formality — and so little reality! The whole tone of men's minds on what constitutes practical Christianity seems lowered. The old golden standard of the behavior which befits a Christian, appears debased and degenerated. You may see scores of religious people (so-called) continually doing things which in days gone by, would have been thought utterly inconsistent with vital Christianity! They see no harm in such things as theater-going, dancing, incessant novel reading — and they cannot in the least understand what you mean by objecting to them! The ancient tenderness of conscience about such things seems dying away and becoming extinct, like the dodo-bird. And when you venture to remonstrate with those who indulge in them, they only stare at you as an old-fashioned, narrow-minded, fossilized person, and say, "What is the harm?" In short, laxity and levity are the common characteristics of the rising generation of professors.

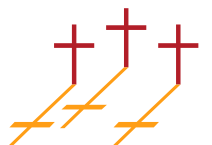
Where is . . . the self-denial, the redemption of time, the absence of luxury and self-indulgence, the unmistakable separation from earthly things, the manifest air of being always about our Master's business, the singleness of eye, the simplicity of home life, the high tone of conversation in society, the patience, the humility, the universal love - which marked Christians seventy or eighty years ago? Yes, where is it indeed? We have inherited their principles — but I fear we have not inherited their practice!

The Holy Spirit sees it — and is grieved! The world sees it — and despises us. The world sees it — and cares little for our testimony. It is life, life — a heavenly, godly, Christ-like life — depend on it, which influences the world!

## Quote of the Week

"There are ministers who never speak of repentance or self-denial. Naturally they are popular, but they are false prophets."

J. I. Packer



# 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 01/10/2020

General Offering .....	4,371.32
Building Fund .....	1,702.60
Lottie Moon .....	50.00
Uganda .....	100.00
Benevolence .....	25.00
AWANA .....	40.00
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$6,288.92</b>
Attendance .....	151
Online .....	33

### 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



ghbcva.org | 804.561.3742  
9821 South Redfield Drive, Amelia, VA 23002

# Grace Harvest Baptist Church

Jan 17, 2021

