

Pastor's Pen

Hyper-Grace

"All things are lawful," but not all things are helpful. "All things are lawful," but not all things build up.
1 Corinthians 10:23

When you became a Christian, you were forgiven of all your past, present, and future sins when it comes to your salvation. However, we are still commanded to seek God's forgiveness when we sin. Unconfessed sin in a believer's life is a serious matter. It affects our relationship to God (1 Peter 3:7), our relationships to others (Galatians 5:15), and at times even our physical health (1 Corinthians 11:29–30; James 5:16).

Some today believe in the false teaching of hyper-grace. This is the doctrine that believes if all my sin is forgiven, and I am not under the law of Moses, I must be free to do anything I please. Therefore, there is never a need to repent, and I can do anything I want. In the book of Revelation, Jesus' words to the seven churches strongly contradict the idea that Christians never need to repent. To the church at Ephesus, Jesus said, "Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place" (Revelation 2:4). Jesus rebukes five of the seven churches and demands repentance from them (Revelation 2:4, 6, 20; 3:3, 15–19). Far from believers being unaccountable for their sin, they must answer to Jesus for their disobedience (see also 2 Corinthians 5:10).

Preachers of hyper-grace doctrine discount the Old Testament and the Ten Commandments as irrelevant to New Testament believers. They even teach that Jesus' words spoken before His resurrection are part of the Old Covenant and no longer applicable to born-again believers.

Some will even cite 1 Corinthians 10:23 as evidence of hyper-grace. But, this is a false assumption. Paul had already stated earlier in that letter that his use of that phrase about Christian liberty means all things not explicitly identified in Scripture as sinful. Before he first mentions that "all things are lawful" (6:12), he says explicitly that "the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God" and proceeds to give an extensive list of sins that characterize the unrighteous (6:9–10). His use of all things are lawful always refers to questionable practices, the gray areas of Christian living that are not specifically forbidden in the Bible.

Our faith in Christ has set us free from the penalty of sin, which is an eternity in Hell. But, because we are His, we no longer live for ourselves, and our desire should be to "build up" our spiritual life.

John MacArthur list four tools to grow in Him:

First is His Word. In his counsel to the Ephesian elders who had come to Miletus to see him for the last time, Paul said, "And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified" (Acts 20:32). God's Word is His supreme means of building us up (cf. 2 Tim. 3:16–17).

Second is preaching and teaching. Later in this letter to the Corinthians Paul tells them that, rather than being so concerned about speaking in tongues, they should focus on prophesying, or preaching, which "speaks to men for edification and exhortation and consolation." The "one who prophesies edifies the church" (1 Cor. 14:3–4).

Third is love. Knowledge tends to make us proud and arrogant, whereas "love edifies" (1 Cor. 8:1).

Fourth is obedient service. The purpose of the Christian ministry is to equip "the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ" (Eph. 4:12).

As we live our Christian faith, our desire should be to live for Christ, put others before ourselves, repent our sins, never use our Christian liberty to justify our sin, and grow in Him. What say you, Christian?

Your shepherd,

Pastor Mark

Quote of the Week

"It is not enough to ask yourself, "Does God's Word permit me to use these good things of the world?" You must also inquire, "Will it serve the glory of God?" and, "Will it edify my fellow Christians?"
-Walter Chantry

Grace Gems

GOD IN NATURE!

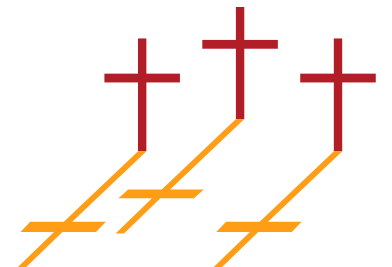
- John MacDuff

"The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of His hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge!" Psalm 19:1-2

I love to trace there the footsteps of my Father! His watchful stars look down kindly and lovingly from their heights. There is a touch of beauty even in Alpine solitudes — the piles of driven snow like white mantles woven by angels; the translucent light of fairy grottoes, their roofs pendent with icicle, and distant or overhanging peaks gleaming with the gold of the morning, or with evening ruby.

That great and wide sea, with its dancing waves and troughs of chameleon hue. The whisper of the forest and the sympathetic music of its million leaves. The pastures clothed with flocks, the valleys also covered over with grain. The sparkling rivulet winding its thread of silver, singing with gentle ripple, and taking its part in the blessing of Creation. The Almighty has thus put His loving and creative thoughts into His world. We can devoutly say, "How precious also are Your thoughts unto me, O God; how great is the sum of them!"

Yes, with all this apparent to his vision — who can see and recognize the Great Ruler of all — only in mists and storms, the boom of the thunder, the flash of the lightning, the tremors of the earthquake, and the havoc of the avalanche? These are the abnormal occurrences in His mighty sway — a few exceptional notes in the great hymn and harmonies of eternal love.



Weekly Gatherings



Bible Classes

New Testament
Sunday School
Sunday Morning @ 9AM



Weekday Meetings

Mondays | 7PM
Men's Bible Study



Family Groups

Thursdays @ 7PM @ Royall's
Every other Thursday @7PM
@ Patrick's & Cox's



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 10:30AM
Children's Church @10:30AM

Giving from service on 04/04/2021

General Offering	11,020.00
Building Fund	1,168.00
Uganda	100.00
Annie Armstrong	200.00
Total	\$12,488.00

Annie Armstrong Goal: \$1750. Donated: \$1150.

Attendance264
Online.....25

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

April 11, 2021

