

Pastor's Pen

You Are Not The Majority!

"Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you and revile you and spurn your name as evil, on account of the Son of Man! Luke 6:22

It has been made abundantly clear during the past 12 months that our freedom to worship is not guaranteed. It has taken one full year for the people in California to worship in their buildings without fear of prosecution by state officials. Up until Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg died last September, the liberal Supreme Court sided with the state's restrictions on churches' in-person attendance. Her replacement by conservative Justice Amy Coney Barrett has changed the court's position. However, the latest decision, a 5-4 ruling, should cause deep concern for every Christian. Four of the nine justices argue that the first amendment, which states: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof," does not apply during what the states deem as an emergency. If just one more justice had agreed with the liberal justices, states could close church doors throughout this county, and every Christian who chose to defy the government could be subject to imprisonment.

But do not lose heart, Christian. You were never in the majority anyway. Only by God's providence have we as Americans been able to worship for the past 245 years freely. Jesus warned us 2,000 years ago that people will hate us, exclude us, and speak evil of us just because we follow Christ. We should not be surprised at the events occurring against the church in our country and worldwide. Peter warned us in 1 Peter 4:12-14; "Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you."

So what now? How should we respond to what might happen in the future? The answer is quite simple, keep living for Christ. Love your enemies, do not repay evil for evil, share the Gospel. As a Christian, you will never be in the majority in this world. Those who belong to their father, the devil, far outnumber the children of God. But, as long as God gives us a day to live, we should use it for His glory. What say, you Christian? Will you live this day and every day He gives you for Him and His glory?

Your shepherd,

Pastor Mark

Quote of the Week

"Leave the broken, irreversible past in God's hands, and step out into the invincible future with Him."

-Oswald Chambers

Grace Gems

Gather your manna fresh every morning!
(J.C. Ryle 1816-1900)

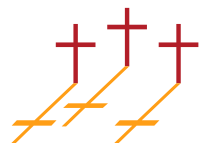
**"Oh, how I love Your law! I meditate on it all day long!"
Psalm 119:97**

The Bible in the pulpit, must never supersede the Bible at home. Let us read our Bibles in private more, and with more pains and diligence. There is less private Bible reading than there was fifty years ago. I never would have believed that so many men and women would have been tossed to and fro with every wind of doctrine, some falling into skepticism, some rushing into the wildest and narrowest fanaticism, and some going over to the Roman church. With many, there was a habit developed of lazy, superficial and careless reading of God's Word. Read the Bible daily. Make it part of your everyday business to read and meditate on some portion of God's Word. Gather your manna fresh every morning! Choose your own seasons and hours. Do not scramble over and hurry your reading. Give your Bible the best, and not the worst, part of your time. But whatever plan you pursue, let it be a rule of your life to visit the throne of grace and the Bible every day. Next to praying there is nothing so important in practical religion as Bible reading. By reading that Book we may learn . . .

what to believe,
what to be,
what to do,
how to live with comfort,
and how to die in peace.

Happy is that man who possesses a Bible!
Happier still is he who reads it!
Happiest of all is he who not only reads it, but obeys it, and makes it the rule of his faith and practice!

**"All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness—that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."
2 Timothy 3:16-17**



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 04/11/2021

| | |
|------------------------|------------|
| General Offering | 5,687.19 |
| Building Fund | 1,415.60 |
| Annie Armstrong | 150.00 |
| Total | \$7,252.79 |

Annie Armstrong Goal: \$1750. Donated: \$1300.

Attendance.....202
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
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Security-security@ghbcva.org



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Grace Harvest Baptist Church

April 18, 2021

