

# Pastor's Pen

Our Sovereign King!

**"The Lord Reigns" (Psalm 97:1).**

**"Our God is in the heavens; he does all that he pleases." (Psalm 115:3)**

Why is it so hard for men and women to struggle with the sovereignty of God? The short answer is man's rebellion against God. However, we are not the only ones. Even the angels, led by Lucifer, rebelled against God's Sovereignty. God used the Apostle Paul in His writings to the Romans to address His Sovereignty over everything. In chapter 9 of Romans, Paul lays out the argument that God is even sovereign in whom He will show mercy.

When we as believers grasp the sovereignty of God, we can live a life of peace, hope, and joy. Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson understood this peace. He was once asked by General Imboden during the Civil war, "General, how is that you can keep so cool and appear so utterly insensible to danger in such a storm of shells and bullets as this?" His reply, "My religious belief teaches me to feel as safe in battle as in bed. God has fixed the time for my death. I do not concern myself about that, but to always be ready, no matter when it may overtake me. That is the way all men should live, and then all men would be equally brave."

Do you rest in the sovereignty of God, knowing that He chose you in Him before the foundation of the World (Eph. 1:4), that He has numbered your days (Ps. 139:16), and that He has prepared for you good works to perform (Eph. 2:10). Knowing that our Lord reigns and that He is sovereign should bring you peace that passes all understanding (Phi. 4:7) and the hope of eternal life with Him because He holds you securely in His hands (Jn.10:28-29).

Your shepherd,

Pastor Mark

# Grace Gems

Searching for Truth- John MacArthur

**The twelve apostles included "Bartholomew [Nathanael]" (Matt. 10:3)**

God knows your heart and will honor your search for truth.

Despite Nathanael's prejudice, Jesus knew he was an honest, sincere, Jewish believer in whom there was no religious hypocrisy or deceit (John 1:47). He truly sought after God and looked forward to the Messiah's coming.

Most of the Jewish people of Jesus' day believed that every circumcised descendent of Abraham was a true Jew and a beneficiary of the Abrahamic covenant. But in Romans 2:28-29 Paul explains that salvation is an issue of the heart, not of national origin: "He is not a Jew who is one outwardly; neither is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh. But he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that which is of the heart." Nathanael was such a man.

He was shocked when Jesus described him as "an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile" (John 1:47) because they had never met before. He was equally shocked when Jesus said He saw him under a fig tree because Jesus was nowhere near that tree. Nathanael immediately realized that Jesus was omniscient—He knew everything! That's why he exclaimed, "Rabbi, You are the Son of God; You are the King of Israel" (v. 49). He had found the Messiah for whom he had searched so long!

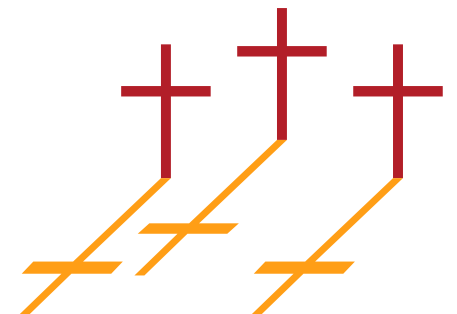
The Lord's mention of the fig tree is significant. In that region, fig trees were commonly used as a source of shade and outdoor shelter. Many of the houses in Palestine had only one room, so fig trees became a place to be alone for prayer and meditation on the Scriptures. Quite possibly Nathanael was under the fig tree searching the Scriptures and communing with God when Jesus saw his open heart and his desire to find the Messiah. Jesus personally answered Nathanael's prayer.

When Jesus looks into your heart, does He see a true believer in whom there is no hypocrisy? Nathanael wasn't perfect, but he loved God and was a diligent student of the Word. The Lord did great things through him. I pray that is true of you as well.

## Quote of the Week

"Praying and sinning will never live together in the same heart. Prayer will consume sin, or sin will choke prayer."

— J.C. Ryle



# 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 05/16/2021

General Offering .....	5,285.60
Building Fund .....	145.60
Uganda .....	100.00
Benevolence .....	100.00
Total .....	\$5,631.20
Attendance .....	184
Sunday School .....	116
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

May 23, 2021

