

Pastor's Pen

He Knows Your Name!

Jesus said to her, "Mary."

-John 20:16

Have you ever wondered who will remember you once you go home to be with the Lord? I was speaking to a member of our church family on the phone when I was sitting at my desk wondering what I would write about in this week's Pastor's Pen. He said that he had read in the Gospel of John about the resurrection of Jesus this morning when he came upon John 20:16. He said he was overcome with emotion with the thought that when he sees Jesus for the first time, He will know His name. Glory!

My father, Sidney Wells, died when he was 95 years old, and his father, Thomas Wells, died in 1921 at the age of 22. No one will remember who Thomas, Sidney, and Mark Wells were in just a generation or two. However, because I am a child of God and co-heir with Christ, it does not matter if anyone remembers me once I'm gone. I, along with every other believer, will be in the presence of our Savior forever, and He knows my name. All believer's names were written in the Book of Life before the foundation of the World (Eph. 1:3-6, Rev. 3:5, Rev. 20:15). One day Jesus will call each of us by name. What a glorious day that will be.

Do you look forward to that day when you will finally be with your Savior forever? I was visiting with brother Chuck, and I read part of John MacArthur's book, *The Glory of Heaven*. John MacArthur writes the following about Heaven:

In reality, Everything that is truly precious to us as Christians is in Heaven. The Father is there, and that's why Jesus taught us to pray, "Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name" (Matt. 6:9). Jesus Himself is at the Father's right hand. Hebrews 9:24 says, "Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us." So our Savior is also in Heaven, where He intercedes on our behalf (Heb. 7:25). Many brothers and sisters in Christ are there, too. Hebrews 12:23 says that in turning to God we have come "to the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect." Our departed loved ones in the faith are there. Every Old and New Testament believer who has died is now in Heaven.

Our names are recorded there. In Luke 10:20 Christ tells His disciples, who were casting out demons, "Rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven." And by saying that our names are written in Heaven, Christ assures us that we have a title deed to property there. This is our inheritance. First Peter 1:4 says we are begotten in Christ "to an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you."

"Our citizenship is in heaven," according to Philippians 3:20 (NASB). In other words, Heaven is where we belong. We're just "strangers and exiles on the earth" (Heb. 11:13). Our goals therefore should not include the accumulation of possessions here. Our real wealth—our eternal reward—is in Heaven (Matt. 5:12). In Matthew 6:19–21, Jesus says that the only treasure we will possess throughout eternity is there. In other words, Everything we should love everlastingly, Everything we rightly value, Everything of any eternal worth is in Heaven.

One day each of us who have made Jesus Lord and Savior of our life will hear Jesus call us by name just as He called out Mary's name and say, "Well done, my good and faithful servant."

Your shepherd,
Pastor Mark

Quote of the Week



"The nearer a man gets to God,
the greater he sees his sin."
- Martyn Lloyd-Jones

Grace Gems

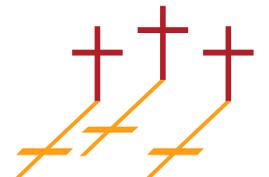
My Father's home!- James Smith

"Do not be troubled. There are many rooms in my Father's home, and I am going to prepare a place for you. When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with Me where I am!" John 14:1-3

How familiar with Heaven—how well acquainted with that "better land" must Jesus be! He calls it "My Father's home!" Sweet view of our eternal residence! Dying is but 'going home!' Going home to our Father! Going to our Father's home! And shall we fear this? Fear it! Can we do anything other than eagerly desire it? Do we not wish to go home and see our Father? We shall not be strangers there—so many of our Christian friends have gone home before us. And even if some of our loved ones are not there—we could not possibly feel unhappy where JESUS is!

"I am leaving the world," said Jesus, "and am going to My Father!" Such should be our language in the prospect of death. O that, with child-like simplicity, we could receive into our minds the testimony of God's Word! O that we could view death and Heaven—just as the Scriptures represent them! Where would our doubts and fears be then? What would become of our reluctance to leave the world then? Then, if we spoke of departed Christian loved ones—we would use similar language to that of Judah in reference to his younger brother Benjamin, "He is this day with our Father!" We would no longer talk of losing friends or relatives. Oh no! we should speak of them as being in our Father's home, or of being with our Father! My soul, I charge you in future to look to Heaven, simply as your Father's home!

"Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal!"
2 Corinthians 4:16-18



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



Service Times

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

Giving from service on 07/18/2021

| | |
|------------------------|------------|
| General Offering | 5,240.50 |
| Building Fund | 787.60 |
| Uganda | 100.00 |
| Total | \$6,128.10 |

| | |
|---------------------|-----|
| Attendance | 217 |
| Sunday School | 110 |
| 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
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Grace Harvest Baptist Church

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