

Pastor's Pen

Priorities!

"If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God." Colossians 3:1

What makes you happy? What is it that drives you? Is it your family, job, hobbies, sports, children, grandchildren, or your next vacation? In the modern Christian culture, it seems to be that our happiness, contentment, joy, and peace come from people and material things instead of Christ. Scripture never tells us to put our hopes and desires in the very things that can become idols in our lives.

The modern Christian church has somehow come to the place that disregards the very teaching of Jesus Himself. We reason that Jesus really didn't mean, "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, even his own life, he cannot be my disciple." The passage from Luke 14:26 does not mean we actually hate those mentioned, but it means that none of the relationships can come before our love and obedience to Jesus. However, from the way that many people who claim to be Christians live their lives, they do not love Christ more than anything else.

So, ask yourself what are your priorities? What or who is most important in your life? If Jesus is not your first response, you may not belong to Christ, and if you are always focused on the pleasure of this world and never dwell on the things above, you might be self-deceived.

There is nothing wrong with enjoying relationships and things of this world that God has provided, but we must first focus on the things above to enjoy what God has given to us here on earth. John MacArthur puts it like this:

"Paul is not advocating a form of mysticism. Rather, he desires that the Colossians' preoccupation with heaven govern their earthly responses. To be preoccupied with heaven is to be preoccupied with the One who reigns there and His purposes, plans, provisions, and power. It is also to view the things, people, and events of this world through His eyes and with an eternal perspective. The things above refers to the heavenly realm and hones in on the spiritual values that characterize Christ, such as tenderness, kindness, meekness, patience, wisdom, forgiveness, strength, purity, and love. When believers focus on the realities of heaven, they can then truly enjoy the world their heavenly Father has created."

When a Pharisee asked Jesus what was the greatest command of the Law, Jesus said, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." (Matthew 22:37) Enjoy what God has provided but make sure that your number one priority and your first love is Jesus Christ.

Your shepherd,

Pastor Mark

Quote of the Week

"If Christ is not all to you He is nothing to you.
He will never go into partnership as a part Saviour of men.
If He be something, He must be everything,
and if He be not everything He is nothing to you."
-- Charles Spurgeon

Grace Gems

- Valley of Vision

LORD JESUS,
If I love thee my soul shall seek thee, but can I seek thee unless my love to thee is kept alive to this end? Do I love thee because thou art good, and canst alone do me good? It is fitting thou shouldst not regard me, for I am vile and selfish; yet I seek thee, and when I find thee there is no wrath to devour me, but only sweet love.

Thou dost stand as a rock between the scorching sun and my soul, and I live under the cool lee-side as one elect. When my mind acts without thee it spins nothing but deceit and delusion; When my affections act without thee nothing is seen but dead works.

O how I need thee to abide in me, for I have no natural eyes to see thee, but I live by faith in one whose face to me is brighter than a thousand suns! When I see that all sin is in me, all shame belongs to me; let me know that all good is in thee, all glory is thine.

Keep me from the error of thinking thou dost appear gloriously when some strange light fills my heart, as if that were the glorious activity of grace, but let me see that the truest revelation of thyself is when thou dost eclipse all my personal glory and all the honour, pleasure and good of this world.

The Son breaks out in glory when he shows himself as one who outshines all creation, makes men poor in spirit, and helps them to find their good in him. Grant that I may distrust myself, to see my all in thee.



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 08/08/2021

General Offering	8,336.04
Building Fund	720.00
Uganda	100.00
Total	\$9,156.04

Attendance	219
Sunday School	121
Online	17

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



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Grace Harvest Baptist Church

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