

Pastor's Pen

Victory!

"His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence," 2 Peter 1:3

We sing the song Victory in Jesus. The following is the first stanza: "I heard an old, old story How a Savior came from glory How He gave His life on Calvary To save a wretch like me I heard about His groaning Of His precious blood's atoning Then I repented of my sins And won the victory." Most of us think of our salvation as our victory over death, and that is true. However, too many Christians believe that they cannot have victory over sin in their lives on this side of Heaven. I am not suggesting that you will be able to a life free of sin, but I am telling you that God has provided us everything we need to live holy and pleasing lives. Peter writes, *"but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, 'You shall be holy, for I am holy'"* (1 Peter 1:15-16). God would not command us to do something impossible. In Peter's second epistle, God reminds us that he has given us everything we need to live Holy lives and have victory over sin in our lives. Because of the promises made by God, we *"may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire (v4)"*. How do we accomplish this? Peter does not leave us in the dark. By Divine revelation, he gives us all we need,

"For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

Christian, you should be striving to live a life filled with the seven qualities (David Walls and Max Anders, I & II Peter, I, II & III John, Jude, vol. 11, Holman New Testament Commentary (Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1999), 110.

Goodness (virtue)- can be understood in a general sense, referring to moral excellence, or in a more restricted sense, referring to moral courage or strength.

Knowledge- refers to the divine truth that is the foundation of spiritual discernment and wisdom, and the truth is properly understood and applied. Which is having one's mind accurately enlightened about the truth of Scripture

Self-control- describes the inner strength to control one's desires and cravings. The believer, through the enabling power of the Holy Spirit, is not to be a prisoner to any sinful desire or craving.

Steadfastness- in its most literal rendering means "to walk under the load." This refers to the courage to deal with the difficult times in life, perhaps a veiled reference to the dominant theme of suffering in 1 Peter.

Godliness- means reverence and obedience to God.

Brotherly affection- translates one Greek word, philadelphia, a common word used to describe relationships of love with a family. Brotherly kindness involves "bearing one another's burdens, and so fulfilling the law of Christ. It means guarding that Spirit given unity from destruction by gossip, prejudice, narrowness and the refusal to accept a brother Christian who is what.

Love (agape) is a deliberate desire for the highest good of the person loved. It demonstrates itself in sacrificial action for that person's good.

Your shepherd,
Pastor Mark

Quote of the Week

"As followers of Christ, our greatest delight will always be found in our obedience to His Word."
-Voddie Baucham

Grace Gems

Mourning for Sin
-Alistair Begg

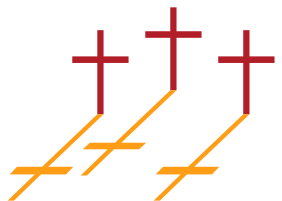
**Godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation.
2 Corinthians 7:10**

Genuine, spiritual mourning for sin is the work of the Spirit of God. Repentance is too rare a flower to grow in nature's garden. Pearls grow naturally in oysters, but penitence never shows up in sinners except when divine grace produces it in them. If you have one particle of real hatred for sin, God must have given it to you, for human nature's thorns never produced a single fig. "That which is born of the flesh is flesh."

True repentance is tied directly to the Savior. When we repent of sin, we must have one eye upon sin and the other upon the cross; or it will be even better if we fix both our eyes on Christ and see our transgressions only in the light of His love.

True sorrow for sin is eminently practical. No man can say he hates sin if he lives in it. Repentance makes us see the evil of sin not merely as a theory but experimentally [experientially]—as a burn victim dreads fire. We will be as afraid of it as a man who has recently been robbed is afraid of the thief on the highway; and we will shun it—shun it in everything—not only in large matters, but in small things, as men avoid little vipers as well as great snakes. True mourning for sin will make us very careful with our tongue in case it should say a wrong word; we will be very watchful over our daily actions in case in anything we offend, and each night we will end the day with painful confessions of shortcomings, and each morning awaken with earnest prayers that God would today hold us up so that we may not sin against Him.

Sincere repentance is continual. Believers repent until their dying day. This is not something we do only once at the beginning of our Christian lives. Nor is it an intermittent exercise. Every other sorrow passes with time, but this dear sorrow grows as we grow, and it is such sweet bitterness that we thank God He permits us to enjoy and to suffer it until we enter our eternal rest.



Weekly Gatherings



Bible Classes

Old Testament
New Testament
Young Parents
Young Adults
Sunday Morning @ 9AM



Weekday Meetings

Mondays | 7PM
Men's Bible Study
Every other Saturday:
Women of Grace | 9am



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



Service Times

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

Giving from service on 10/10/2021

General Offering	11,441.83
Building Fund	1,203.60
Uganda	10.00
Total	\$12,655.43

Attendance	230
Sunday School	115
Online	22

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



Grace Harvest
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Grace Harvest Baptist Church

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