

# Pastor's Pen

**"For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain."  
Philippines 1:21**

What is your focus? What drives you? What motivates you? What is your first love? If you call yourself a Christian, the answer is the same for each question, Jesus. The problem for many people is what they pronounce with their lips does not match what their heart reveals through their actions.

Jesus Christ is our King (1 Timothy 6:15), our Lord and our Savior, and His Kingdom is not of this World. Paul writes to the Philippians, "*For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.*" With that in mind, we should be living lives that are Kingdom-focused and not Worldly focused.

By the time Paul had written the epistle to the Church in Philippi, he had been whipped, beaten, stoned, and left for dead. He was in prison when he wrote this letter. His main concern, apart from proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ, was to live his life to bring glory to God, and Paul had the assurance that, even in his suffering, he was accomplishing that goal ("to live is Christ"). However, Paul knew that even in death, he would bring glory to God. But, even better, it would bring him into the presence of the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords. On that day, he would live with his Savior forever ("to die is gain"). Paul longed for the day when death would bring him face to face with Jesus.

Christian, you should yearn for an eternity with Christ. Heaven will be far better than our earthly life, for we will be present with our Savior in a place devoid of sin, sickness, and death (2 Corinthians 5:8). Whatever a believer gives up in this life, they will gain in heaven. However, before death calls us home, our purpose on Earth is to be salt and light to a lost and dying world. We should deny ourselves, take up our cross daily and follow Him so that even our death will glorify Christ Jesus.

Your shepherd,  
Pastor Mark

# Grace Gems

Christians and Politics

God has above all else called the church to bring sinful people to salvation through Jesus Christ. Even as the apostle Paul described his mission to unbelievers, so it is the primary task of all Christians to reach out to the lost "to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me [Christ]" (Acts 26:18; cf. Ex. 19:6; 1 Pet. 2:5, 9).

If we do not evangelize the lost and make disciples of new converts, nothing else we do for people—no matter how beneficial it seems—is of any eternal consequence. Whether a person is an atheist or a theist, a criminal or a model citizen, sexually promiscuous and perverse or strictly moral and virtuous, a greedy materialist or a gracious philanthropist—if he does not have a saving relationship to Christ, he is going to hell. It makes no difference if an unsaved person is for or against abortion, a political liberal or a conservative, a prostitute or a police officer, he will spend eternity apart from God unless he repents and believes the gospel.

When the church takes a stance that emphasizes political activism and social moralizing, it always diverts energy and resources away from evangelization. Such an antagonistic position toward the established secular culture invariably leads believers to feel hostile not only to unsaved government leaders with whom they disagree, but also antagonistic toward the unsaved residents of that culture—neighbors and fellow citizens they ought to love, pray for, and share the gospel with. To me it is unthinkable that we become enemies of the very people we seek to win to Christ, our potential brothers and sisters in the Lord.

Author John Seel pens words that apply in principle to Christians everywhere and summarize well the believer's perspective on political involvement:

"A politicized faith not only blurs our priorities, but weakens our loyalties. Our primary citizenship is not on Earth but in heaven. ... Though few evangelicals would deny this truth in theory, the language of our spiritual citizenship frequently gets wrapped in the red, white and blue. Rather than acting as resident aliens of a heavenly kingdom, too often we sound [and act] like resident apologists for a Christian America. ... Unless we reject the false reliance on the illusion of Christian America, evangelicalism will continue to distort the gospel and thwart a genuine biblical identity....."

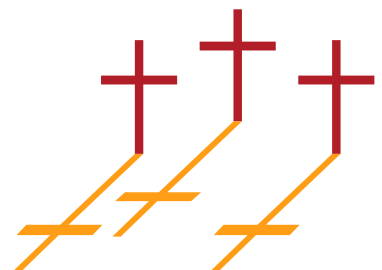
By means of faithful preaching and godly living, believers are to be the conscience of whatever nation they reside in. You can confront the culture not with the political and social activism of man's wisdom, but with the spiritual power of God's Word. Using temporal methods to promote legislative and judicial change, and resorting to external efforts of lobbying and intimidation to achieve some sort of "Christian morality" in society is not our calling—and has no eternal value. Only the gospel rescues sinners from sin, death, and hell.

-John MacArthur

## Quote of the Week

"For God's sake we are called to be model citizens. We are told to bend over backwards to honor the king or be obedient to the civil magistrates."

- R. C. Sproul



# 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 11/07/2021

General Offering .....	8,031.27
Building Fund .....	8,559.60
Uganda .....	150.00
Total .....	\$16,740.87

Attendance .....	254
Sunday School .....	123
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  
Baptist Church  
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# Grace Harvest Baptist Church

Nov 14, 2021

