

Pastor's Pen

Called to Preach

Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and teaching. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths. 2 Timothy 4:2-4

Today I am deviating from the sermon series in Matthew to answer the call from Pastor John MacArthur. He has called on Pastors from all over the United States and worldwide to join our Canadian brothers as they take to the pulpits this Sunday to challenge their government. The Canadian government passed a law that is so vague that a Pastor could be jailed for up to two years if he preaches that homosexuality is a sin. I answered the call along with hundreds of other Pastors to preach this Sunday on Biblical sexual morality. My text this morning will be from Romans 1.

Please be in prayer for our brothers and sisters in Canada, as the power of darkness is overshadowing the light of the Gospel. However, do not fear as Christ's church will prevail. Even when the persecution comes, and it will come, God's Word will be proclaimed by faithful Pastors. May Grace Harvest stand with all other Bible Believing Churches to reveal God's truth in the weeks, months, and years to come.

Blessed are you when men hate you, and exclude you, and insult you, and scorn your name as evil, for the sake of the Son of Man. Luke 6:22

For I am not ashamed of the Gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. Romans 1:16

Your shepherd,
Pastor Mark

Grace Gems

Feeding Sheep, or Amusing Goats?

Archibald Brown, "The Devil's Mission of Amusement" 1889

An evil is in the 'professed' camp of the Lord, so gross in its impudence, that the most shortsighted Christian can hardly fail to notice it. During the past few years this evil has developed at an alarming rate. It has worked like leaven until the whole lump ferments! The devil has seldom done a more clever thing, than hinting to the Church that part of their mission is to provide entertainment for the people, with a view to winning them. From speaking out the gospel, the Church has gradually toned down her testimony, then winked at and excused the frivolities of the day. Then she tolerated them in her borders. Now she has adopted them under the plea of reaching the masses!

My first contention is that providing amusement for the people is nowhere spoken of in the Scriptures as a function of the Church. If it is a Christian work why did not Christ speak of it? 'Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature, and provide amusement for those who do not relish the gospel'. No such words, however, are to be found. It did not seem to occur to Him. Where do entertainers come in? The Holy Spirit is silent concerning them. Were the prophets persecuted because they amused the people, or because they confronted them? The 'concert' has no martyr roll.

Quote of the Week

"If Jesus Christ isn't strong enough to motivate you to live biblically, you don't know Him at all."
-- Paul Washer

Again, providing amusement is in direct antagonism to the teaching and life of Christ and all His apostles. What was the attitude of the apostolic Church to the world? "You are the salt of the world", not the sugar candy; something the world will spit out, not swallow. Had Jesus introduced more of the bright and pleasant elements into His teaching, He would have been more popular. When "many of His disciples turned back and no longer followed Him," I do not hear Him say, 'Run after these people, Peter, and tell them we will have a different style of service tomorrow; something short and attractive with little preaching. We will have a pleasant evening for the people. Tell them they will be sure to enjoy it! Be quick, Peter, we must get the people somehow!'

No! Jesus pitied sinners, sighed and wept over them, but never sought to amuse them!

In vain will the epistles be searched to find any trace of the 'gospel of amusement'. Their message is, "Therefore, come out from them and separate yourselves from them... Don't touch their filthy things..." Anything approaching amusement is conspicuous by its absence. They had boundless confidence in the gospel and employed no other weapon. After Peter and John were locked up for preaching, the Church had a prayer meeting, but they did not pray, 'Lord, grant unto your servants that by a wise and discriminating use of innocent recreation we may show these people how happy we are'.

No! They did not cease from preaching Christ. They had no time for arranging entertainments. Scattered by persecution they went everywhere preaching the gospel. They turned the world upside down; that is the only difference from today's church. Lastly, amusement fails to effect the end desired. Let the heavy laden who found peace through the concert not keep silent! Let the drunkard to whom the dramatic entertainment had been God's link in the chain of their conversion, stand up! There are none to answer! The mission of amusement produces no converts! The need of the hour for today's ministry is earnest spirituality joined with Biblical doctrine, so understood and felt, that it sets men on fire.

Lord, clear the Church of all the rot and rubbish the devil has imposed on her, and bring us back to apostolic methods!



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 1/09/2022

General Offering 5,095.00
Building Fund 1,675.00
Uganda 140.00
Total \$6,910.00

Attendance 180
Sunday School 108
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
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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