

Pastor's Pen

He is Coming!

"But do not let this one fact escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day." 2 Peter 3:7

It has been 2000 years since Jesus Christ, the Son of God, walked this earth. He came as a fulfillment of scripture. God the Father sent Jesus to reconcile sinful men and women to Himself. On the night He was prepared, Jesus told His disciples, *"In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also* (John 14:2-3)." Jesus said He would come again, and every Christian should be looking forward to that day.

However, even the first century Christians were getting impatient. It had been over 30 years since Jesus had ascended to Heaven, so Peter, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, wrote in 2 Peter that they had no reason to doubt that Jesus would return. Peter told the early Christians *"that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day."* As mortal beings, we look at time as something that flies by, or we never have enough of, but God is not limited to time constraints.

Time is not an issue with God because He has an unlimited amount of it. Someone explained it this way. If the average person sees something in the store, it will make no difference whether it costs a penny or a dime, even though one is ten times more expensive. If a billionaire wanted to buy a property, it might make no difference to him whether it cost \$50,000 or \$500,000, or even \$5,000,000. This is the idea of the verse—both a day and a thousand years are such minuscule amounts of time to God that it really makes no difference to Him.

It has been almost two millennia since Jesus told us that He was coming back, or in God's perspective, two days. When we look at it like that, it helps us not be impatient. Christian, let us live each day as if Jesus is coming back today. May each of us eagerly await the return of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and as we do so, live for Him. Charles Spurgeon gave us the following wise counsel:

Oh, Beloved, let us try, every morning, to get up as if that were the morning in which Christ would come! And when we go up to bed at night, may we lie down with this thought, "Perhaps I shall be awakened by the ringing out of the silver trumpets heralding His coming. Before the sun arises, I may be startled from my dreams by the greatest of all cries, 'The Lord is come! The Lord is come!'" What a check, what an incentive, what a bridle, what a spur such thoughts as these would be to us! Take this for a guide of your whole life – act as if Jesus would come during the act in which you are engaged – and if you would not wish to be caught in that act by the Coming of the Lord, let it not be your act. ~ Charles Spurgeon

Your shepherd,
Pastor Mark

Quote of the Week

"Live in Christ, die in Christ,
and the flesh need not fear death."
— John Knox

Grace Gems

When surrounded by an ungodly society!
(J.R. Miller, 1890)

"In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah . . . and his wife Elizabeth . . . Both of them were upright in the sight of God, observing all the Lord's commandments and regulations blamelessly." Luke 1:5-6

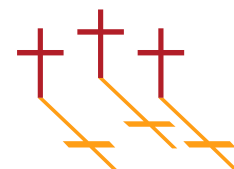
It makes a great deal of difference in what times and amid what circumstances and influences, a man lives. In days when godliness pervades society — it is not remarkable that one should live righteously. But when the times are ungodly, and the prevailing spirit is wickedness — the life which is holy and devout shines with rare splendor, like a lamp in the darkness!

Such were the times and the spirit of "the days of King Herod," and such were the lives of the blameless elderly people, who are here mentioned. Amid the almost universal corruption of the society and religious leaders — they lived in piety and godly simplicity!

The lesson is — that it is not necessary for us to be and live like other people — if other people are not holy. The prevailing standard of living ought not to satisfy us — if the prevailing standard is below Scripture. No matter how corrupt the times — we should strive to live righteous and godly lives!

Nor is this impossible. God is able and willing to give us all the grace we need, to enable us to live a true and holy life — in the most unfavorable circumstances! God makes no mistakes in planting His people in this world. He does not put any of us in a spiritual climate in which we cannot grow into spiritual beauty and strength; and wherever He plants us — He sends the streams of grace to refresh and nourish us.

So, whatever our circumstances may be — it is possible for us to live a godly life! The darker the night of sin around us — the clearer and steadier should the light which streams from our life and conduct be. Any Christian should be able to live godly — in the midst of friendly influences and favoring circumstances; but it is doubly important that we be loyal and true to Christ — when surrounded by an ungodly society!



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
every other week @ Chambers & Cox's
& @ Patrick's
Every Thursday @ 7pm @ Royall'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 4/24/2022

General Offering	7,611.57
Building Fund942.35
Uganda	1,100.00
Total.....	9,653.92

Attendance	230
Sunday School	144
Online.....	30

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



ghbcva.org | 804.561.3742
9821 South Redfield Drive, Amelia, VA 23002

Grace Harvest Baptist Church

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