# Paston's Pen

Welcome!

For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save the lost. Luke 19:10

The message of the Gospel is the hope for the World; every believer should proclaim the message of God's grace and mercy. When people walk through the doors of Grace Harvest or any other Christian church, they should feel the love of God through the members. Every person, no matter what their spiritual condition, should feel welcomed. We do not and will not compromise God's truth, but we will share that truth in love.

Any LGBTQ individual should feel love when they walk through the doors of any Christian Church, especially ours. The church should be the most welcoming place for someone in sin. No one should feel like they are not good enough to walk into our church. Loving them means sharing the truth in love. Christian, do you show God's love to everyone that walks through the door, or are you the reason that people never come back? Because just as the apostle Paul told the church in Corinth every one of us was in the same place, dead in our sins until we were saved by God's grace, turning from our sin, and trusting Christ for our salvation.

Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, 10 nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God. 1 Cor 6:9-11

Your shepherd, Pastor Mark Grace Gems

Just the facts, please!

"Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated." Romans 9:15

There is a man up in the gallery there, that work as hard as he likes, he cannot earn more than fifteen shillings a week. And here is another man that gets a thousand a year. What is the reason for this? One is born in the palaces of kings, while another draws his first breath in a roofless hovel. What is the reason for this? God's providence! God puts one man in one position, and another man in another

Here is a man whose head cannot hold two thoughts together, do what you will with him. Here is another who can sit down and write a book, and dive into the deepest of questions. What is the reason of it? God has done it.

Do you not see the fact that God does not treat every man alike? He has made some eagles, and some worms. Some He has made lions, and some creeping lizards. He has made some men kings, and some are born beggars. Some are born with gigantic minds, and some on the verge of the idiot.

Why is this? Do you murmur at God for it? No. You say it is a fact, and there is no good in murmuring. What is the use of kicking against facts? It is only kicking against the pricks with naked feet, and you hurt yourself and not them. Well then, election is a positive fact. It is as clear as daylight—that God does, in matters of religion, give to one man more than to another. He gives to me opportunities of hearing the Word, which he does not give to the Hottentot. He gives to me parents who, from infancy, trained me in the fear of the Lord. He does not give that to many of you. He places me afterwards in situations where I am restrained from sin. Other men are cast into places where their sinful passions are developed.

Quote of the Week

"Whatever may be said about the doctrine of election, it is written in the Word of God as with an iron pen, and there is no getting rid of it."

- Charles Spurgeon

He gives to one man a disposition which keeps him back from some lust, and to another man He gives such impetuosity of spirit, and depravity turns that impetuosity so much, that the man runs headlong into sin. Again, He brings one man under the sound of a powerful ministry, while another sits and listens to a preacher whose drowsiness is only exceeded by that of his hearers. And even when they are hearing the gospel, the fact is, God works in one heart when He does not in another. Though, I believe to a degree, the Spirit works in the hearts of all who hear the Word, so that they are all without excuse—yet I am sure He works in some so powerfully, that they can no longer resist Him, but are constrained by His grace to cast themselves at His feet, and confess Him Lord of all. While others resist the grace that comes into their hearts; and it does not act with the same irresistible force that it does in the other case, and they perish in their sins, deservedly and justly condemned. Are not these things facts? Does any man deny them? Can any man deny them? What is the use of kicking against facts? What, then, is the use of our discussing any longer? We had better believe it, since it is an undeniable truth. You may alter an opinion, but you cannot alter a fact. You may change a mere doctrine, but you cannot possibly change a thing which actually exists. There it is—God does certainly deal with some men better than He does with others. I will not offer an apology for God. He can explain His own dealings—He needs no defense from me. There stands the fact. Before you begin to argue upon the doctrine—just recollect, that whatever you may think about it, you cannot alter it. And however much you may object to it, it is actually true that God did love Jacob, and did not love Esau. WHY did God love Jacob? Because of His sovereign grace! There was nothing in Jacob that could make God love him. There was everything about him, that might have made God hate him, as much as He did Esau, and a great deal more. But it was because God was infinitely gracious, that He loved Jacob, and because He was sovereign in His dispensation of this grace, that He chose Jacob as the object of that love. "He will have mercy on whom He will have mercy." And rest assured, the only reason why any of us can hope to be saved is this—the sovereign grace of God. There is no reason why I should be saved, or why you should be saved, but God's own merciful heart, and God's own omnipotent will.

"By the grace of God I am what I am!" 1 Corinthians 15:10

-Charles Spurgeon



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 and beginning 6/23 @ the Brown'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 6/19/2022

 General Offering
 8,429.00

 Building Fund
 760.00

 Uganda
 100.00

 Total
 9,289.00

Attendance ........... 201 Sunday School ...... 133 Online ........ 28

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
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