

Pastor's Pen

When Love is Wrong!

Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 1 John 2:15

At first glance, it seems strange to think that God would not want us to love the things of this world. However, we need to understand the context of this passage. We know that scripture tells us that the god of this world is the devil, Satan himself (2 Corinthians 4:4). John details in 1 John 2:16 precisely what Satan's world system promotes: the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the boastful pride of life. When you stop and think about it, every sin can be summed up in those three evils.

When you came to saving faith in Jesus Christ, you were transformed from a slave to sin to a slave of righteousness. You are no longer a citizen of the kingdom of darkness. You became a citizen of the kingdom of God, Jesus became your King, and you became an ambassador for your King in this world. The things of the world that God hates, we should hate.

As followers of Christ, we need to evaluate our walk in this world. What occupies your energy, time, money, and your love. If your first answer is anything other than Jesus Christ, you might love the world and the things of the world more than you love God. If this is the case, you will do well to heed the warning of John, "*Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him*".

Your shepherd,

Pastor Mark

Grace Gems

Oh, how dreadful the thought — to go to Hell through the church of God! (James Smith)

"A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it — but did not find any. So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard: For three years now, I've been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree — and haven't found any. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil!" Luke 13:6-7

Let us look at Christ's figure a little: A fig-tree — or a professor of the religion of Christ. A fruitless fig-tree — or a barren, useless professor. A fig-tree with leaves of profession — but not the fruit of holiness.

No place is as dangerous for an unconverted person — as the church of God! It is to be feared that many join the church before they are truly converted; and yet very, very few are ever converted after. Once under a profession — God expects you to live up to that profession. If you are planted in His vineyard — God expects you to bring forth fruit. The owner of the vineyard comes and seeks fruit; He comes again, and again; and if He find none, He passes this solemn sentence, "Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil!" Concerning every fruitless professor God says, "Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil! It drains the ground of its nourishment, for no good purpose. Labor is but lost upon it; expectation is disappointed by it; therefore, Cut it down! My patience and forbearance are worn out; I have come three years seeking fruit — and find none; so, Cut it down!"

Quote of the Week

If your repentance has not changed your life,
you need to repent of your repentance."

-Steven J Lawson

It is a fearful sentence! God gives the command to some disease — He says, "Go, cut that barren professor down!" He sends death, like the woodsman with his sharpened axe — at length he strikes the fatal blow; and then the fruitless professor falls! This command of God is fearful — it is full of terror — it includes utter destruction! This command is irresistible — we cannot evade it — we cannot brave it out — the boldest heart fails — the strongest body yields to God's "Cut it down!" This command is final! There is all that is dreadful wrapped up in it — even a certain, fearful expectation of God's judgment, and the raging fire that will consume His enemies! The fruitless professor is to be cut down and committed to the eternal flames of Hell!

Here is wrath — fearful wrath!

Here is justice — inflexible justice!

Here is vengeance — the vengeance of an infinite God!

O fruitless professor. . .

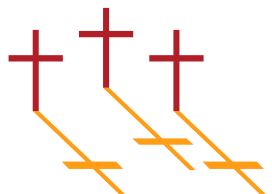
Consider!

Fear!

Tremble!

Repent!

God looks for fruit from every professor. He will certainly punish — if there is no fruit. Fruitless professor — where will you be soon? The axe lies at your root, even now! The executioner is only awaiting the command! Divine mercy will soon urge her last plea; the year of reprieve will soon expire — and then, "Cut it down!" is all that remains! Oh, how dreadful the thought — to go to Hell through the church of God! To profess that you are traveling to Heaven — when in reality you are going with the lost multitude to eternal perdition!



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 7/24/2022

General Offering	5,748.32
Building Fund	6,216.35
Uganda	125.00
Total.....	12,089.67

Attendance	216
Sunday School	158
Online.....	25

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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Grace Harvest Baptist Church

Jul 31 , 2022

Welcome