

# Pastor's Pen

Who Do You Serve?

*...but as for me and my house, we will serve Yahweh.*  
Joshua 24:15

When Joshua was at the end of his life, he went before the people of Israel (Joshua 24) and spoke for God. God spoke through the prophet and said, "I gave you a land on which you had not labored and cities which you had not built, and you have lived in them; you are eating of vineyards and olive groves which you did not plant." God reminded the people of Israel of all the things He had done for them, from the calling of Abraham to the conquering of the promised land.

Joshua challenged the people, "*So now, fear Yahweh and serve Him in integrity and truth; and put away the gods which your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve Yahweh. If it is evil in your sight to serve Yahweh, choose for yourselves today whom you will serve: whether the gods which your fathers served which were beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living* (Joshua 24:14-15)." Joshua answered his question before the people responded, "*but as for me and my house, we will serve Yahweh.*"

How do you answer that question? We aren't the Israelites or under the Covenants God made with the Israelites, but that does not mean this passage does not have application in our lives. It is a simple question, "who do you serve." If you are a follower of Christ, there is only one correct answer, Jesus. He is the Lord and Savior of every professing Christian. If He is your Lord and Savior, you should be serving and obeying His commands.

The problem is that in modern progressive Christianity, we have been led to believe that you can be a Christian without serving Jesus. Do you find you and your family seem to be more occupied with the things of the World than you do with the things of God? Do your actions agree with your lips if you say you love God and will serve Him?

Let's start by answering a few questions. Do you regularly attend Sunday morning worship and only miss when providentially hindered or scheduled vacations? Do you find yourself missing Church regularly for any number of reasons? Do you allow your children to be involved in sports that take you away from worship on Sunday mornings? Do you decide to miss Church because you have had a long week and you need to rest? Do you miss Church because you need "me" time?

It is hard to claim to be a follower of Christ and not love and participate in worship on Sunday mornings. How can one claim to love Christ and yet not love what He loves, the Church? The universal Church (all Christians) gathers at the local Church on Sundays to worship. That worship includes prayer, fellowship, singing of hymns and praise, giving our first fruits, and preaching His Word.

Too many so-called Christians have expressed with their lips that they will follow Christ, yet their actions speak differently. We are called to be transformed by the renewing of our minds and not to be conformed to the World. Our minds are renewed by studying God's Word, praying, hearing God's Word preached and taught, and serving and fellowshiping with other Christians. We are conformed to the World when the things of God take second place in our lives. So, ask yourself, do you serve Yahweh or the gods of your own making?

Your shepherd,

Pastor Mark

# Grace Gems

Not markedly different  
(J. A. James, "The Christian Professor" 1837)

When I look into the New Testament, and read what a Christian should be, and then look into the church of God, and see what Christians are-- I am painfully affected by observing the dissimilarity!

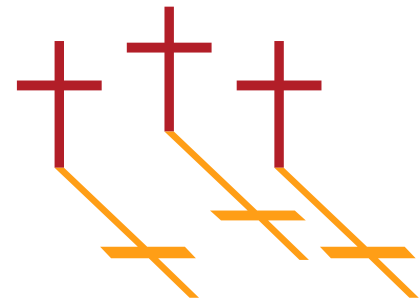
That worldly spirit to which our age of growing selfishness and luxury gives rise, is exceedingly adverse to Christianity, whose elements are faith, hope, love.

The church of Christ at present, is sadly mixed up with both the spirit of the world, and many of its customs. The great bulk of professing Christians are not markedly different from the 'followers of pleasure' and the 'worshippers of Mammon'.

## Quote of the Week

"If a person professes faith in Christ and yet falls away or makes no progress in godliness, it does not mean that he has lost his salvation. It reveals that he was never truly converted."

— Paul Washer



# Weekly Gatherings

## Bible Classes

Old & New Testament Classes  
Ladies Class  
Young Adults    Young Parents  
Youth            Surge  
Sunday Morning @ 9:30AM



## Weekday Meetings

Mondays | 7PM  
Men's Bible Study  
1st and 3rd Saturday  
Women of Grace | 9AM



## Family Groups

Thursdays @ 7PM  
every other week @ Chambers, Cox's,  
Patrick's, Brown's and 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 and AWANA!



## Service Times

Sunday Services 8AM & 11:00AM  
Sunday School 9:30AM  
Children's Church @11:00AM



Giving from service on 10/16/2022

General Offering .....5,544.00  
Building Fund ..... 340.00  
Total.....5,884.00

Attendance ..... 232  
Sunday School ..... 161  
Online.....20

## 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

Oct 23, 2022

Welcome