

Pastor's Pen

Fear or Joy?

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!
Philippians 4:4

When Paul wrote his letter to the Church in Philippi, he was in prison and did not know whether he would live much longer. In Philippians 3:10, he wrote these words: *that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death*, (Philippians 3:10). He had suffered a great deal for the cause of Christ, and in this verse, Paul revealed that his present suffering was so great that he fully embraced the thought of sharing in Christ's sufferings and death. In Philippians 1:20, Paul explained his perspective in this way, *according to my earnest expectation and hope, that I will not be put to shame in anything, but that with all boldness, Christ will even now, as always, be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death* (Philippians 1:20). Paul expressed his hope that he would gain courage as he suffered. His concern was to honor Christ without shame, whether he lived or died. Then immediately after this, in verses 21-23, Paul expressed the possibility of death with these words, *For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. 22 But if I am to live on in the flesh, this will mean fruitful labor for me; and I do not know what I will choose. 23 But I am hard-pressed between the two, having the desire to depart and be with Christ, for that is very much better*, (Philippians 1:21-23).

As we can see in this passage, Paul was torn between two longings. He wanted to continue to live in this world to serve Christ and his kingdom. But he also desired to die to experience the glory of life with Christ in heaven after death.

We, too, face a dilemma. However, although we are not currently suffering as Paul suffered for Christ, ours is one of fear of what might happen instead of the joy we should have of what will happen. Christians, we live in unprecedented times. Far too many Christians are living in fear of what might happen. Will the government take away my right to protect myself? Will there be food shortages, power outages, take over of personal property by a socialist government, or the breakdown of society where anarchy is the rule of the land? Christians, we are not to live a life of fear of what might be but are called to live a life of joy in the hope of our salvation. Where do we find that hope? I find them in the very words of our Savior, *Are not two sparrows sold for an penny? And yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So do not fear; you are more valuable than many sparrows* (Matthew 10:29). Nothing will ever happen to me unless God allows it. In addition, we also have these words from Jesus, *Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful. 28 You heard that I said to you, 'I go away, and I will come to you.' If you loved Me, you would have rejoiced because I go to the Father, for the Father is greater than I* (John 14:27-28).

If you are a Christian, you are a Child of God and co-heirs of Christ. You have no reason to fear but every reason to rejoice.

Your shepherd,

Pastor Mark

Quote of the Week

"The enjoyment of God is the only happiness with which our souls can be satisfied. To go to heaven, fully to enjoy God, is infinitely better than the most pleasant accommodations here."

- Jonathan Edwards

Grace Gems

The compass-needle!

-Charles Spurgeon

"The compass-needle may be shaken and agitated, but it never rests until it turns toward the pole!"

Thus our heart's affections, when once magnetized by the love of Christ, find no rest unless we turn to Him. The cares and labors of the day may carry our thoughts to other objects, even as a finger may turn the compass-needle to the east or west. But no sooner is the pressure removed, than our thoughts fly to the Well-beloved, just as the needle moves to its place.

We are unable to rest anywhere but in Jesus. The new birth has disqualified us for contentment with the world — and hence we have no choice but to find our all in Christ. Blessed necessity!

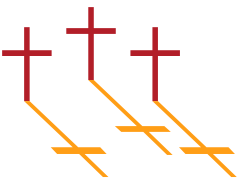
We are driven to Jesus, by an unrest which finds no remedy elsewhere!

We are drawn to Jesus, by an impulse which we have no desire to resist!

We mourn that we are subject to many deflections and disturbances; but you know, O Lord, that our inmost soul seeks after Yourself!

"As the deer longs for streams of water, so I long for You, O God. I thirst for God, the living God!"
Psalm 42:1-2

"O God, You are my God, earnestly I seek You. My soul thirsts for You, my body longs for You, in a dry and weary land where there is no water!" Psalm 63:1



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 02/12/2023

General Offering 9,663.17
Building Fund 630.60
Uganda Missions 225.00
Conference 50.00
Uganda Mission Trip 185.00

Total.....10,753.77
Attendance 241
Online.....41

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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Welcome