

Pastor's Pen

Christian Love!

There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love. 1 John 4:18

When you were saved, God transformed you. You no longer were a slave to sin; you were made a slave of righteousness (Romans 6). In his Gospel, John recorded the following about what our Lord said about abiding in Him:

I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch and dries up; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire and they are burned. If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples. Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; abide in My love (John 15:5-9).

To abide in Christ means to live, continue, or remain in Him. In Romans 8:1, all Christians are described as "in Christ." The difference between abiding in Christ and not is between being saved or lost. Because we are in Christ, Paul tells us there is no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus. In other words Christian, God has shown you mercy because of the sacrifice of His Son on the cross. You are free from the curse of death and hell. That is the love God showed to you, yet while you were a sinner, the righteous One died in your place.

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Therefore, there is nothing for us to fear because God's perfect love sets aside all our fears. Because there is no fear of punishment, we can live without fearing what happens to us when we die. Now we must all live lives that reflect that we abide in Christ Jesus. When we live a life that remains in Christ, we will bear much fruit because we are merely the branches, but Jesus is the vine that gives us our ability to bear fruit. If you are not bearing the fruit of a believer, is it possible you are not His? If so, you will be gathered with all the other dried branches and cast into the fire. If you don't know Him today, cry out to God to acknowledge you are a sinner in need of a Savior. Fear is a tool of Satan, but love comes from God. Come to Christ, and He will give you peace amid any storm.

Your shepherd,

Pastor Mark

Quote of the Week

"The remarkable thing about God is that when you fear God, you fear nothing else, whereas if you do not fear God, you fear everything else."

-Oswald Chambers

Grace Gems

True excellency! -Jonathan Edwards

Worldly men imagine that there is true excellency and true happiness in those things which they are pursuing. They think that if they could but obtain them, that they would be happy. But when they obtain them, and cannot find happiness—then they look for happiness in something else, and are still upon the futile pursuit.

There is a transcendent glory, and an ineffable sweetness in Christ. Jesus Christ has true excellency, and so great an excellency that when you come to truly see Him, you look no further, but your mind rests there.

You see that you had been pursuing shadows, but now you have found the substance. You realize that you had been seeking happiness in the stream, but now you have found the ocean.

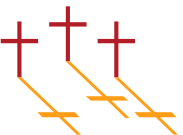
The excellency of Christ is an object adequate to the natural cravings of the soul, and is sufficient to fill its capacity. Christ has an infinite excellency, such as the mind desires, in which it can find no bounds. The more the mind contemplates Him, the more excellent does He appear.

Each new discovery of Christ makes His beauty appear more ravishing, and the mind can see no end to His excellency. There is room enough for the mind to go deeper and deeper, and never come to the bottom.

Christ's excellency is always fresh and new, and will as much delight us after we have beheld Him a thousand or ten thousand years—as when we have seen Him the first moment. The soul is exceedingly ravished when it first looks on the beauty of Christ. It is never weary of Him.

"His mouth is most sweet, Yes, He is altogether lovely. This is my Beloved, and this is my Friend!" Song of Songs 5:16

"Put the beauty of ten thousand worlds of paradises, like the Garden of Eden in one; put all trees, all flowers, all fragrances, all colors, all tastes, all joys, all loveliness, all sweetness in one. O what a lovely and excellent thing would that be! And yet it would be less compared to our dearest well-beloved Christ—than one drop of rain compared to the whole seas, rivers, and lakes of ten thousand earths." Samuel Rutherford



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 02/26/2023

General Offering 8,498.96
Building Fund 7,393.75
Uganda Missions 325.00
Uganda Mission Trip 315.00

Total.....16,532.71
Attendance 274
Online.....35

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

Mar 5, 2023

Welcome