

Pastor's Pen

The Mark of Christians!

And they were told not to hurt the grass of the earth, nor any green thing, nor any tree, but only the men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads. Rev. 9:4

God has always known who His people are. Jesus said, *I am the good shepherd, and I know My own and My own know Me* (John 10:14), and *My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me;* (John 10:27).

In Revelation 9, we are told that during the fifth trumpet, God will unleash what John describes as locusts that sting like scorpions. However, these are not actually locusts but demons. John MacArthur writes:

"But these were not ordinary locusts, but demons, who, like locusts, bring swarming destruction. Describing them in the form of locusts symbolizes their uncountable numbers and massive destructive capabilities. The fact that three times in the passage (vv. 3, 5, 10) their power to inflict pain is compared to that of scorpions indicates they are not actual locusts, since locusts have no stinging tail as scorpions do."

These demons will not hurt Christians during this time because they have been marked by God. This is not the first time we have seen this mark in scripture. God always protects those who belong to Him in times of judgment. When the Babylonians were ready to take Jerusalem, God commanded an angel to go through Jerusalem and put a mark on those who belonged to Him. Those who did not have that mark were subject to death when the city fell to the Babylonians.

Yahweh said to him, "Go through the midst of the city, even through the midst of Jerusalem, and put a mark on the foreheads of the men who sigh and groan over all the abominations which are being done in its midst." 5 But to the others He said in my hearing, "Go through the city after him and strike; do not let your eye have pity and do not spare. 6 Kill to utter destruction old men, chosen men, virgins, little ones, and women, but do not touch any man on whom is the mark; and you shall start from My sanctuary." Ezekiel 9:4-7

This is comforting news for all of us who are His. Nothing can ever harm us outside of God, allowing it to happen. Even if He allows us to die for Him, we never have to fear death. God, who called you to be His before the foundation of the World, has marked you as His. Paul nails this for us, *In Him, you also, after listening to the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, 14 who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, unto the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory* (Eph. 1:13-14). GLORY!!!

Your shepherd,

Pastor Mark

Quote of the Week

"Truth carries with it confrontation. Truth demands confrontation; loving confrontation, but confrontation nevertheless."
-Francis Schaeffer

Grace Gems

How ravishing is the thought!

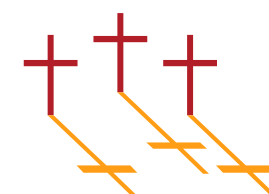
"A Song Concerning Lovingkindness"
- C. H. Spurgeon

**"Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love!
Therefore with loving kindness have I drawn you."
Jeremiah 31:3**

How ravishing is the thought of eternal love! Try to drink it in--if you are a believer in Christ you were loved before time began its cycles; in that old eternity, before the earth was born, you were beloved of the Lord!

You were dear to Jehovah's heart when this great world--the sun, the moon, the stars, slept in the mind of God--like unborn forests in an acorn-cup. He loved you with an everlasting and infinite love. Rejoice in this and let your souls be glad. Never forget that the special electing love of God is the source of every blessing.

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Therefore with loving kindness have I drawn you."
Jeremiah 31:3**



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 03/12/2023

General Offering 8,935.00
Building Fund 1,125.00
Uganda Missions 175.00

Total.....10,235.00
Attendance 239
Online.....37

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