

Pastor's Pen

He has Risen....GLORY!

**Why do you seek the living One among the dead?
6 He is not here, but He has risen. Luke 24:5-6**

Why is it such a big deal to celebrate Easter Sunday? As a boy, Easter was about one thing and one thing only, the Easter Bunny. At the same time, I looked forward to the candy I dreaded having to get dressed up for Easter Mass. There was no point in my life that I did not consider myself a Christian as I grew up in the Roman Catholic Church. I won't say that I hated going to mass, but there was nothing I took away from being there. As far as I was concerned, being Roman Catholic had nothing to do with living a life for Christ and was all about just keeping out of hell and purgatory. When Cathy and I first married, we would attend mass occasionally for the first three years of our marriage—only going because not going was a sin in the eyes of the Catholic Church. All that changed when I came to saving faith in the winter of 1980. I still remember that First Easter service as a Christian. The joy I felt knowing that Christ died for me, a shy, insecure individual, a nobody, was nothing I had ever experienced before. At that Easter service on April 9, 1980, Steve Martin (not the comedian), a member of Open Door Baptist, sang the song "He's Alive". I remember weeping as he sang that song. The song tells the story of the resurrection from the viewpoint of Peter. I hung on every word. These are the final two stanzas,

Something strange had happened there but what I did not know, John believed a miracle but I just turned to go, Circumstance and speculation couldn't lift me very high, Cause I'd seen them crucify him and then I'd watched him die, Back inside the house again all the guilt and anguish came, Everything I'd promised him just added to my shame, when at last it came to choices I denied I knew his name, Even If he was alive it wouldn't be the same.

But suddenly the air was filled with a strange and sweet perfume, Light that came from everywhere drove shadows from the room, Jesus stood before me with his arms held open wide, And I fell down on my knees and clung to him and cried, He raised me to my feet and as I looked into his eyes, Love was shining out from him like sunlight from the skies, Guilt and my confusion disappeared in sweet release, And every fear I'd ever had just melted into peace.

He's alive, He's alive, He's alive and I'm forgiven,
Heavens gates are open wide.

For the first time, I celebrated the resurrection of my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Because He has risen from the grave, everyone that has made Jesus Lord and Savior can cry out, He has risen, He's alive, and I'm forgiven, Heavens gates are open wide. GLORY!

Your shepherd,

Pastor Mark

Quote of the Week

"The resurrection of Jesus Christ was the ultimate vindication that His death was a full and final payment for our sins."
-Steve Lawson

Grace Gems

THE PEACE OF GOD by Archibald Alexander

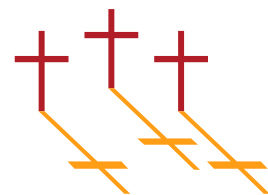
There are three words, pregnant with precious and important meaning, commonly used by the apostles in their salutations and benedictions, GRACE, MERCY, and PEACE. These words include everything which man needs or can desire.

Peace is the legacy which Christ gave to his disciples: "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you." And after his resurrection, the first time he met with his disciples when assembled together, he said, "Peace be unto you." He gives peace not as the world gives. He is the PRINCE OF PEACE, and his gospel is the "gospel of peace." It is called "the peace of God," because he is its author. It is a sweet and gentle stream which flows from the fountain of life beneath his throne. Happy is he who has received this heavenly gift; it will, in the midst of external storms and troubles, preserve his mind in a tranquil state. It is independent of external circumstances. It is most exquisitely enjoyed in times of affliction and persecution. "In the world you shall have tribulation; but these things have I spoken unto you, that in me you might have peace." It is a fruit of the Spirit: "love, joy, peace." It includes reconciliation with God. "Being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."

Peace of conscience is a fruit of reconciliation with God. The blood which reconciles, when sprinkled on the conscience, produces a sweet peace which can be obtained in no other way. If the atonement of Christ satisfies the law which condemned us, and we are assured that this atonement is accepted for us, conscience, which before condemned, as being the echo of the law, is now pacified.

The peace of God also includes freedom from jarring, discordant passions of the mind. The wicked, however prosperous externally, can have no true peace within. Their ambition and pride and avarice, and love of ease and carnal indulgence, can never be harmonized. One may be the master-passion, but the others will arise and create disturbance and turmoil within.

The only passion which effectually harmonizes the discordant passions of human nature, is the love of God. Wherever this is introduced, it will not only be predominant, but bring all other desires into willing subjection. The peace of God is not a mere negative blessing, consisting in exemption from the misery of discord; it is a positive enjoyment of the purest, sweetest kind. It is a foretaste of the bliss of heaven. Nothing on earth is so delightful. It is therefore said to "pass understanding." No one could have thought man's miserable soul could possess such enjoyment in this world. But why is so little known of the peace of God--in the experience of professing Christians? I leave everyone to answer for himself.



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 04/02/2023

General Offering 11,693.76
Building Fund 3,231.00
Uganda Missions 120.00
Uganda Mission Trip 700.00

Total.....15,744.76
Attendance 259
Online.....22

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

Apr 09, 2023

Welcome