

# Pastor's Pen

Slave

***Do you not know that when you go on presenting yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness? Romans 6:16***

As Americans, we are taught from a very young age that we are the freest nation this world has ever seen. The evil practice of slavery ended in our nation over 150 years ago. However, even today, every person that lives is a slave.

When Paul penned his letter to the Romans, he made it very clear through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit that each of us is a slave. We are either a slave to sin or we are a slave to righteousness. The lost think that they are free and are not in chains. As Christians, we have been freed from the bondage of sin and are now slaves to Christ.

Therefore, because we are His slaves freed from sin, we are truly free and have been granted the privilege of being called sons and daughters of God (John 1:12). When we understand that we are no longer slaves to sin, we have the power through the Holy Spirit to resist and refrain from habitual sin. When you did not belong to Christ, sin was your master. You were unable to resist it. But now, because you belong to Christ, "and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness" (Romans 6:18).

Christian, live in the freedom of your salvation, knowing that when you do sin, you have already been forgiven. This does not give us the freedom to continue sinning: "What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase? May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it?" (Romans 6:1-2). Our freedom from sin and death allows us to have joy in the midst of all the evil around us.

What say you? Whose slave are you? If you are a slave of righteousness, be encouraged by Paul's words:

"But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you obeyed from the heart that pattern of teaching to which you were given over, and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness. I am speaking in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness, leading to further lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness, leading to sanctification."  
Romans 6:17-19

Your shepherd,  
Pastor Mark

## Grace Gems

O the wonders couched in electing love!  
(James Smith, "God's Special Treasure" 1860)

**"For you are a holy people who belong to the Lord your God. Of all the people on earth, the Lord your God has chosen you to be His own special treasure!" Deuteronomy 7:6**

God highly prizes His people. Yes, it is impossible to say how highly He prizes them. Those are wondrous words, "For the Lord has chosen Jacob for Himself, Israel for His own special treasure!" Psalm 135:4

### Quote of the Week

"A time will come when instead of shepherds feeding the sheep, the church will have clowns entertaining the goats."— Charles H. Spurgeon

Did the shepherd prize his flock? God calls His people, "His flock, His beautiful flock." Does the miser prize his wealth? God says of His people, "You shall be a special treasure unto Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine." Does the prince prize his jewels? God says of His people, "They shall be Mine, in that day when I make up My jewels!" Does the bridegroom prize his beloved and dearly purchased bride? It is written, "As the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you!" Does the reigning monarch prize his crown? God has said, "You shall be a crown of glory in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God."

What wondrous love, such expressions as these represent! How precious must the Lord's people be to Him! Truly they are His special treasure! God chose them to be special unto Himself. He chose them out from among others. He chose them in preference to others. He chose them out from others, on purpose that they may be a special people unto Himself. And in so doing, He acted FREELY. It was not on account of anything He saw in them, or on account of anything He expected from them; but in the exercise of His most free and holy sovereignty, He chose them to participate in the glory of His Son!

In choosing them, He acted also DELIBERATELY. It was no hasty choice. His thoughts had been eternally filled with them. His heart had been eternally set upon them. Therefore He chose them in Christ before the foundation of the world!

In choosing them, He acted WISELY, as He really desired to have them. For each one of them is ready to confess that if God had not chosen them, that they would never have chosen Him! The nature regulates the choice; and as our nature is carnal and impure, we would never have chosen God who is spiritual and holy.

His choice was just an early expression of His LOVE. The love which chose them, would do anything for them, and give anything to them! Therefore God spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for them all; and in so doing, gave them the assurance that He will also freely give them all things in Christ.

O the wonders couched in electing love! This act of choosing such creatures as we are, to be a special people unto Himself, displays . . . such grace, such condescension, such infinite wisdom and love!



# 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 @ Brown's  
Other groups off for the summer



## Build the Body Teams

If you would like to serve on a BtB Team and need to sign up, please contact the team leader at the appropriate email address on the back of this bulletin.



## Youth Study

Wednesdays @6:30PM  
Youth Study & Surge!



## Service Times

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



Giving from service on 05/28/2023

General Offering .....	8,292.40
Building Fund .....	2,722.75
Uganda .....	450.00
Uganda Trip .....	200.00
Total.....	\$11,665.15
Attendance .....	248
Online.....	26

**Uganda Mission Trip Amount Needed.\$12,750.00**  
**Uganda Mission Trip Collected...\$11,557.00**

## 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



ghbcva.org | 804.561.3742  
9821 South Redfield Drive, Amelia, VA 23002

# Grace Harvest Baptist Church

June 04, 2023

Welcome