

Pastor's Pen

Be Warned Christian!

Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. 2 Timothy 3:12

As the days become more evil, every Christian should understand that the world's hatred against us is nothing new. There hardly is a day that we don't see those who hate us try to stop the spread of the Gospel. Just this past week, it took less than sixty seconds of standing on a sidewalk for Damon Atkins to be placed in handcuffs and arrested for quoting a portion of a Bible verse. I watched the video and could not believe what happened. This occurred on Saturday, June 3, in Reading Pa during a PRIDE rally to promote and support perversion. On the arrest complaint, the arresting officer wrote, "Despite being warned by police just moments prior, (Damon Atkins) yelled derogatory comments at an organization that was holding a permitted event." Do you know what those derogatory comments were? Atkins hollered from across the street, "God is not.." He was cut off when a police Sergeant moved quickly towards him and placed him under arrest for disorderly. The verse he quoted was 1 Cor. 14:33, "God is not a God of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints." So, it would appear that in some parts of our country, it is against the law to tell people the Gospel and that quoting scripture is now considered Disorderly Conduct.

However, we should not be surprised at all. The problem for most of us is that we never expected to see it occur in our lifetime or our kid's or grandchildren's time. It seems to have happened overnight, but that is not the case. We can see the decline occurring when our nation was more concerned about individual freedom than the Word of God. The sexual liberation of the 60s and 70s was a rebellion against God's Word on marriage. It has led to generations of children growing up in single-parent homes. The freedom of the sexual revolution led to an increase in STDs. It brought about the murder of over 50 million babies starting in 1973 with the legalization of the murder of the unborn. While that has been curtailed, it has not stopped. There are only 14 states that have made abortion illegal. However, it is legal up to birth in 22 states. The rest have limits from 6 weeks to 22 weeks. In the late 70's the, personal freedom led to the AIDS epidemic. Acceptance and the promotion of the homosexual lifestyle have led to the delusion that a man can be transformed into a woman and a woman into a man because they believe they were born into the wrong body.

We have each been saved by God for this particular time. We are the Kings' ambassadors. His messengers and the message we deliver is the Gospel of Jesus Christ. But, unlike any other time in our nation's history, you are despised and hated. It will only worsen, but do not fear Christian because He who called you before the world's foundation will never leave or forsake you. Take comfort in the words of Paul to the church in Rome, "And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose. Because those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brothers; and those whom He predestined, He also called; and those whom He called, He also justified; and those whom He justified, He also glorified. What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who indeed did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him graciously give us all things? Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies; who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction, or turmoil, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? Just as it is written, "For Your sake we are being put to death all day long; We were counted as sheep for the slaughter." But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 8:28-39).

Your shepherd,
Pastor Mark

Quote of the Week

"Persecution is simply the clash between two irreconcilable value-systems."

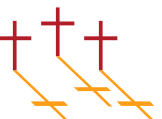
- John Stott

Grace Gems

Coming Persecution

The church in America is going to suffer so terribly. And we laugh now but they will come after us and they will come after our children. They will close the net around us when we are playing soccer mom and soccer dad, while we are arguing over so many little things and mesmerized by so many trinkets, the net even now is closing around you and your children and your grandchildren and it does not cause you to fear. You will be isolated from society as is already happened. Anyone who tries to run for office who actually believes the Bible will be considered a lunatic until finally we are silenced. We will be called things that we're not and persecuted not for being followers of Christ but for being radical fundamentalists who do not know the true way of Christ which of course is love and tolerance. You'll go down as the greatest bigots and haters of mankind in history. They've already come after your children and for most of you they got them. They got them through the public schools and indoctrination and universities and indoctrination... and you wonder why your children come out not serving the Lord. It's because you fed them, right into the devil's mouth. So little by little the net is closing around and then its not little by little. Look how fast things are going downhill just in a matter of weeks. But at the same time know this. Persecution is always meant for evil, but God always means it for good. And is it not better to suffer in this life to have an extra weight of glory in heaven. You must settle this in your mind. This is the one thing I want to say over and over. Down through history you have a wrong idea of martyrdom and persecution. You think that these men were persecuted and martyred for their sincere faith in Jesus Christ. That was the real reason but no one heard that publicly. They were martyred and they were persecuted as enemies of the state, as bigots, as narrow minded stupid people who had fallen for a rouse and could contribute nothing to society. Your suffering will not be noble. So your mind must be filled with the Word of God when all people persecute you and turn on you. This is no game. You want revival and awakening but know this, for the most part great awakening have come only proceeding great national catastrophe and the persecution of the church. I believe God is bringing a great awakening but I believe that he is raising up young men (and women) who are strong and trust in the providence of God to be able to wade through the hell that's gonna break loose on us. And it will be on us, before we even recognize it. Unless...unless in God's providence, He is not done. He is not done."

— Paul Washer



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 06/04/2023

General Offering 12,540.53
Building Fund1,827.00
Uganda95.00
Uganda Trip 1,170.00
Benevolence300.00

Total.....\$15,932.53
Attendance 260
Online.....25

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
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Grace Harvest Baptist Church

June 11, 2023

Welcome