

# Pastor's Pen

To Be His!

**See how great a love the Father has given to us, that we would be called children of God. 1 John 3:1**

How often have you heard someone say that everyone is a child of God? It goes something like this, "Everyone is a child of God. Whether you believe in God or not, you are a child of God." The fact is that not everyone is a child of God.

Everyone born of women is created in the image of God (Gen.1:27). We are His creation, but we are not all children of God. Jesus made this perfectly clear in John 8:33-47. The false teachers and leaders of Israel told Jesus that they were children of God because they were Jews and they all had the same spiritual father, Abraham. In John 8:39, they responded to Jesus' teachings that "*Abraham is our father.*" However, they were not children of God just because they were Jews. *Jesus said to them, "If you are Abraham's children, you would do the deeds of Abraham. But now you are seeking to kill Me, a man who has told you the truth, which I heard from God. This Abraham did not do. You are doing the deeds of your father (John 8:40-41)." The father Jesus was referring to is the devil. Jesus said, You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies. 45 But because I speak the truth, you do not believe Me. 46 Which one of you convicts Me of sin? If I speak truth, why do you not believe Me? 47 He who is of God hears the words of God; for this reason, you do not hear them, because you are not of God (John 8:44-47)."*

When you become born again believer in Jesus Christ, you become a child of God. To be His means you are His child forever. You are co-heirs with Christ. If a person does not know Jesus as Lord and Savior, they are not children of God but children of the devil.

Your shepherd,  
Pastor Mark

# Grace Gems

My Shepherd! (Frank Hall)

"The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want!" Psalm 23:1

The Lord Jesus is everything to my needy soul! He is my majestic King, the imperial one who graciously rules my heart and my life with His sovereign scepter of righteousness.

He is my Prophet, the one who effectually teaches God's Word to my soul. He is my great High Priest, my Mediator, the one who intercedes with God on my behalf. And He is Jehovah-Rohi, the LORD my Shepherd! My glorious Shepherd is He who graciously forces my soul to lie down and rest in the green pastures of God's goodness and love. He ever leads my soul beside the still waters of satisfaction, peace, and prosperity.

When, in selfishness, carnality and sin, my flesh is smitten with desire for the poisonous fodder of this decaying world, and I wander from Him — He does not cast me off. Rather, He faithfully corrects my sin and graciously restores my soul to Himself. He perpetually leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake. All this and more, my merciful Shepherd does for me freely by His grace! My Shepherd surpasses, in every way and at all times, all the would-be shepherds of this world.

## Quote of the Week

"It's not convincing to say you are a child of God if you have none of the characteristics of your Father."

- Kevin DeYoung

Never slumbering, He protects me perfectly from all harm with His omnipotent hand of sovereign power! He feeds, sustains, and fills my hungering soul out of the abundance of His infinite store! Though . . . the way is rough and long, the path winding and narrow, the days dark and dismal, the valleys bleak and dreary — He gently leads me in infinite mercy and unfailing wisdom, ever guiding me to that land above that abounds with milk and honey! Brothers and sisters, our Shepherd will stop at nothing to bring every one of His beloved sheep home to Heaven. He says of Himself, "I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd gives His life for the sheep." Oh precious revelation of grace!

Sheep of His fold, I urge you to pause and consider the death of the good Shepherd! Behold with wonder the sacrifice of your Shepherd! He died — that you might live forever! He esteems us more precious than His own life! Oh blessed Shepherd, thank You for taking our sins to Yourself and putting them away by Your own precious blood. Children of God, let us ever sing with brother David, "The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want!"

Christ's sheep lack nothing for time and eternity — because He is their all sufficient Shepherd. "For from His fullness we have all received, grace upon grace!" The Lord our Shepherd will withhold no good thing from the sheep of His pasture. In Him we have all the fullness of God's free salvation, which can never be lost.

"We shall not want!" We receive the fullness of His grace in time, because we possessed that very same fullness in Him from the foundation of the world. We are the possessors of . . . everlasting life, perfect righteousness, eternal redemption, pardon from all our sin, impeccable holiness, unending peace, and unalterable acceptance with God our Father!

We lack nothing, because in Him we have all things. His boundless provision for our souls has no end. His provision is perfect, infinite, and everlasting. God help us to depend on Him . . . His fullness, His mercy, His grace, His power, is all -sufficiency as the Lord our Shepherd.

"My God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory by Jesus Christ!"

"Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need!"



# 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 07/09/2023

General Offering ..... 7,136.03  
Building Fund ..... 2,123.00  
Uganda Missions ..... 145.00  
Uganda Mission Trip ..... 125.00

Total.....\$9,529.03  
Attendance ..... 253  
Online.....28

## 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



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# Grace Harvest Baptist Church

July 16, 2023

Welcome