

# Pastor's Pen

How do you know?

***"If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love;" John 15:10***

Two weeks before I was saved, I heard a pastor say at the end of a service, "If you know you are saved and know beyond a shadow of a doubt that you are going to Heaven, raise your hand". I looked to the left and right and saw people raise their hands. I thought to myself, there is no way you can know for sure if you are going to Heaven. Two weeks later, I was born again. God removed the scales from my eyes and turned a heart of stone into a heart of flesh.

How do you know that you are saved? Let me ask you three questions.

First question. Do you love Jesus?  
*If anyone does not love the Lord, he is to be accursed.*  
1 Cor 16:22

Second question. Do you obey His commands?  
*And by this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; but whoever keeps His word, truly in him the love of God has been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him: the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.* 1 John 2:3-6

Third question. Do you love fellow believers?  
*We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. The one who does not love abides in death. Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. By this we have known love, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. But whoever has the world's goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him?* 1 John 3:14-17

If you did not answer yes to all three questions, you are not a follower of Jesus Christ. This is not my opinion or the opinion of others but is the declared truth from Scripture. Understand that as mere men and women, we will never be able to keep all of His commandments all the time, but there is the desire to keep them and repentance when we don't. If you say you love Jesus but not the church (other believers), you don't know the Jesus of Scripture. People who claim to be believers but don't belong to a local body so they can serve God and His followers are self-deceived. Why would any Christian not want to be a part of what Jesus loves, His bride, the Church? The truth is if we love Jesus, we will love the Church, and we will obey His commands. When you are a Christian, you will bear the fruit of a believer. A Christian will produce fruit that represents their faith in Christ, not the fruit of an unbeliever.

Your shepherd,  
Pastor Mark

## Quote of the Week

"God forbid that I should travel with anybody a quarter of an hour without speaking of Christ to them."

-George Whitefield

# Grace Gems

When I grumble about the weather!  
- J.R. Miller

**"The Lord has heard all your grumbings against Him!"  
Exodus 16:8**

Does God really hear every discontented word which I ever speak? Does He hear when I grumble about the weather . . . about the hard winter, about the late spring, about the dry summer, about the wet harvest?

Does He hear when I grumble . . . about the frosts, about the drought, about the high winds, about the storms? Does He hear when I grumble . . . about my circumstances, about the hardness of my lot, about my losses and disappointments?

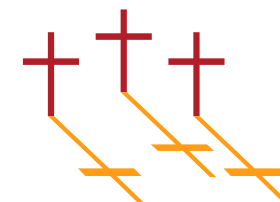
If we could get into our heart, and keep there continually, the consciousness that God hears every word we speak—would we murmur and complain so much as we now do? We are careful never to speak words which would give pain to the hearts of those we love. Are we as careful not to say anything that will grieve our heavenly Father?

"I tell you this—that you must give an account on judgment day of every idle word you speak!" Matthew 12:36

"He who complains of the weather—complains of the God who ordains the weather!" William Law

Something to ponder:

"Never have I been so sensible of how vain a creature man is, what a leaf driven by the wind, what dry stubble, what poor dust, a bubble, a shadow, a nothing, and more vain than nothing! And never have I been so sensible of what a vain and vile and helpless creature I am—and how much I need God's help in everything." Jonathan Edwards



# 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 08/06/2023

General Offering ..... 7,856.98  
Building Fund ..... 3,618.00  
Uganda Missions ..... 107.00

Total.....\$11,581.98  
Attendance ..... 230  
Online.....21

## 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  
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# Grace Harvest Baptist Church

Aug 13, 2023

Welcome