

Pastor's Pen

Is that what he really said?

Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which Yahweh God had made. And he said to the woman, "Indeed, has God said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden'?" Gen. 3:1

Have you ever been in a situation where someone told you something, and you thought they meant one thing, and they really meant something totally different? Sometimes, that can just be a little embarrassing or even humorous. However, when it comes to scripture, it can have eternal consequences. Not interpreting scripture properly has led to cults such as the Jehovah's Witness, Mormonism, and Roman Catholicism. It has also led to the Progressive Christianity and the Prosperity Gospel movements.

How is it possible for people to be so deceived that they would believe the lies that Satan spreads through all of these false religions? The Bible answers that question for us. Jesus said this about Satan, "*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*" (John 8:44).

How can we defend against the lies of Satan? One sure way is to understand the difference between exegesis and eisegesis. Exegesis and eisegesis are two conflicting approaches to Bible study. Exegesis is the exposition or explanation of a text based on careful, objective analysis. The word exegesis literally means "to lead out of." That means that the interpreter is led to his conclusions by following the text. The opposite approach to Scripture is eisegesis, which is the interpretation of a passage based on a subjective, non-analytical reading. The word eisegesis literally means "to lead into," which means the interpreter injects his own ideas into the text, making it mean whatever he wants.

When interpreting Scripture, our first goal is to exegesis the passage by using proper hermeneutics. Biblical hermeneutics is the study of the principles and methods of interpreting the text of the Bible. The most important law of biblical hermeneutics is that the Bible should be interpreted literally. When God said he created the world in six days, then He created it in six days. We don't strike out the word days and put in its place millions of years.

A second crucial law of biblical hermeneutics is that passages must be interpreted historically, grammatically, and contextually. Interpreting historically means we must understand the background, culture, and situation regarding the text. A third law of biblical hermeneutics is that Scripture is always the best interpreter of Scripture. For this reason, we always compare Scripture with Scripture when trying to determine the meaning of a passage.

When we study scripture, we don't study a verse as a stand-alone verse. We study the verses around it, the chapter, and the book it is in, and then we make sure that it does not contradict other scripture. An example of this is the following passage, "*For where two or three have gathered together in My name, I am there in their midst*" (Matthew 18:21)". You have probably heard someone pray this at a prayer meeting or other gathering. However, it has nothing to do with Jesus being there when two believers meet. Think about it for a moment. Is Jesus not with the persecuted Christian alone in a cell somewhere or a Christian being tortured or killed because of their faith? Of course not; the bible makes it clear that all believers have Christ in us through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. The verse has everything to do with church discipline. Jesus is telling us, the church, that if the church agrees on the matter of church discipline, He is there in agreement. The reason we have so many cults and false religions in the world today is that people want to eisegesis scripture instead of proper exegesis of Scripture.

Your shepherd,
Pastor Mark

Quote of the Week

"Expository preaching consists in the explanation and application of a passage of Scripture. Without explanation it is not expository; without application it is not preaching."
- Steve Lawson

Grace Gems

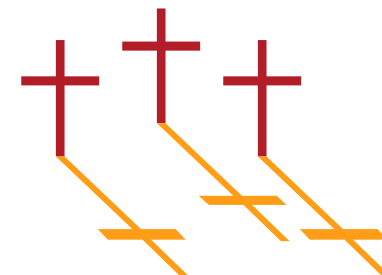
This is what damns men!
("The Vanity of the World!" Ezekiel Hopkins, 1663)

"For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses his soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" Matthew 16:26

What senseless folly it is to purchase a vain and fleeting world, with the loss of our precious eternal souls! Oh, think what great losers they must be, who lose their souls to gain this poor world; and must at last lose the world too, together with their souls!

This is what damns men: they prefer the pleasures, honors, profits, and pitiful nothings of the world—before their precious and immortal souls, which are worth more than ten thousand worlds!

Think how dreadful and tormenting will be the reflections of worldlings in Hell, to consider that there they must lie and burn to eternity for their inordinate love to that world, of which they have nothing left to them, besides the bitter remembrance! What will it then avail them, that they have lived here in ease and delights—when all their mirth shall be turned into groans and howlings? What will the remembrance of all their earthly treasures and riches then avail them, but to increase their torment?



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
Wednesdays | 6:30PM AWANA

Family Groups

Thursdays @ 7PM
Please check church website
for start date and directions to each

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 08/13/2023

General Offering 10,763.70
Building Fund 1,285.00

Total.....\$12,048.70
Attendance 259
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



Grace Harvest
Baptist Church
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Grace Harvest Baptist Church

Aug 20, 2023

Welcome