

Pastor's Pen

Evil!

Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.
Romans 12:21

What we have heard and seen on the news and social media about the atrocities in Israel has shocked the world. It is hard to imagine the evil that would cause someone to kill babies, burn women and children alive, rape women, and murder them. But what seems incomprehensible to me is how anyone would attempt to justify these heinous acts.

I have had difficulty seeing any living thing suffer since I was a young boy. I have hunted a handful of times in my entire life. I have never shot and killed anything larger than a squirrel. Even as a police officer when there was an injured deer in the road, I would call other officers to shoot the animal. Over my career in law enforcement, I saw man's inhumanity to man. There are images to this day that I wish I had never seen. There were times when I wept over the evil that I saw.

When I became a Pastor, I was repeatedly asked why I would become a preacher after experiencing and seeing all the evil. My answer was simple. God sent His Son to die for the very people who committed the evil I saw, and there is no difference between the unregenerate heart of someone who commits evil acts and a so-called good person. Without Christ as Savior, the one who commits no evil in man's view will spend eternity in hell, just like the one who commits what the world would say is evil.

It is easy for me to hate Hamas for what they have done to innocent women and children. However, no man or woman has done anything that would prevent God from showing them mercy and grace if they repented of their sins and made Jesus Lord and Savior. I was convicted as I prayed for Israel for God to use this tragedy to bring the lost to salvation. I realized that while I was praying for the salvation of the Jews, I only wanted God's wrath to be poured out on Hamas. God died for all that would accept Him, not just who I want Him to accept.

Your shepherd,
Pastor Mark

Grace Gems

God has three hands!
- Matthew Mead

"It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God!"
Hebrews 10:31

What is meant by God's hands?

1. There is God's protecting hand, which is sweet and comfortable.
2. There is God's chastening hand, which is bitter, but profitable.
3. There is God's revenging hand, which is neither comfortable nor profitable, but astonishing and fearful. This is the hand of God's wrath, by which He executes judgment on unrepentant sinners, without remedy, and without mercy. This is the hand which the text points at: "It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God!"

Now men go on in their sins securely—and God is quiet and lets them alone. Now they speak peace to themselves in the midst of their sin and rebellion. But when God's hand takes hold of them in judgment—then He will repay sinners for all the wrongs they have done Him all their lives long, "As surely as I live forever, when I sharpen My flashing sword and My hand grasps it in judgment—I will take vengeance on My adversaries and repay those who hate Me!" Deuteronomy 32:41

God being the living God, is matter of great terror to those who hate Him—as it is of comfort to those who love and fear Him!

He is the living God, and if you fall into His hands—then you must be the eternal prisoner of His wrath! As long as God lives—you will be miserable, and damned and undone! He is the living God, and as long as He lives—so the sinner shall live under the weight of His wrath and vengeance. The unrepentant sinner will bear His wrath as long as He is the living God!

Quote of the Week

"How easy it is to read the Scriptures and give a kind of nominal assent to the truth and yet never to appropriate what it tells us!"
— D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones

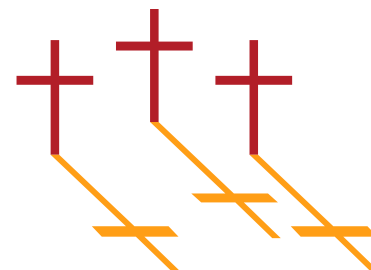
God lives forever, and therefore, the believer's Heaven shall be forever! And because God lives forever—the sinner's Hell shall be forever!

The life of God is eternal, and therefore He can punish us eternally. So Christ says: "Do not be afraid of those who kill the body and after that can do no more. But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear Him who, after the killing of the body, has power to throw you into Hell. Yes, I tell you, fear Him!" Luke 12:4-5

O! that you would seriously consider that God is a living God! Think of this when you are about to sin: "This sin is done in the sight of the living God! I must give an account of this sin before the living God!"

It would be an awakening thing if we would but let this thought dwell in our minds—that God is a living God, and that I must have to deal with this living God forever, either in Heaven or Hell!

Nothing is so dreadful to a soul under wrath, as to consider that God lives forever. It is that which puts a terror into all those attributes of God which are engaged against the lost soul. The justice of God and the wrath of God are terrible—and the power of God is that which makes them so. God's wrath is made even more terrible, by its being eternal. It is His power that makes His justice terrible—and eternity that makes His power dreadful. The eternity of Hell, makes Hell more dreadful than His power; His power makes it sharp and painful—His life makes it everlasting—and everlastingness is the sharpest sting in Hell's misery!



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 10/15/2023

General Offering 9,4512.72
Building Fund 1,054.00
Uganda Missions 125.00

Total.....\$10,630.72
Attendance 218
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
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Grace Harvest Baptist Church

Oct 22, 2023

Welcome