

# Pastor's Pen

The Five Solas: SOLA FIDA

***Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, Romans 5:1***

We are saved by grace alone through faith alone. Sola fide or faith alone is crucial in understanding the Gospel. It separates biblical Christianity from progressive Christianity, universalism, and all false religions and teachings. It is a major doctrine that separates Biblical Christianity from the false religion of Roman Catholicism. The Roman Catholic church teaches that an individual is saved by faith and works.

Roman Catholic teaching on salvation states to be saved, a person must receive Christ as Savior by faith, be baptized, observe the Catholic sacraments, especially the Eucharist, and then die without any unconfessed mortal sins. If one accomplishes the above, he or she will be saved and granted entrance into heaven. If they die without confession they will be sent to purgatory to be punished for their sins.

Roman Catholicism teaches another Gospel than the one that Jesus proclaimed, and the Apostles preached. There is nothing that anyone can do to earn their salvation. Martin Luther said that justification by faith alone is the article upon which the church stands or falls. It is by faith alone and not your works.

Knowing that it by Grace alone through Grace in Christ alone gives a believer the peace of knowing that since I had nothing to do with my salvation (it is all of God) then I cannot lose my salvation because it begins and ends with Christ.

This does not mean that we live our lives anyway we want or that we are not commanded to do good works. We do good works because we are saved, not to be saved.

Your shepherd,

Pastor Mark

## Grace Gems

I suppose they like to choose their own wives!-  
(Charles Spurgeon)

"He chose us in Him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in His sight. In love He predestined us to be adopted as His sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with His pleasure and will." Ephesians 1:4-5  
Whatever may be said about the doctrine of election, it is written in the Word of God as with an iron pen, and there is no getting rid of it — there it stands!

Long before time had begun, God loved His chosen ones, and predestined them unto eternal life. I can never understand why a man should cavil at another's being chosen — when he himself does not himself wish to be saved! Some men cannot endure to hear the doctrine of election. I suppose they like to choose their own wives — but they are not willing that Christ should select His bride, the Church!

### Quote of the Week

"Religion is that which a man does with his own solitude."  
— D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones

Those who cavil at the doctrine of election should answer this question: "Why is it that God has left devils without hope — and yet has sent His Son to redeem mankind? Is not divine sovereignty manifested here?" Answer me, you that deny God's sovereignty, and hate His election — how is it that angels are condemned to everlasting fire — while to you, the fallen children of Adam, the gospel of Christ is freely preached? The only answer that can possibly be given is this: God wills to do it.

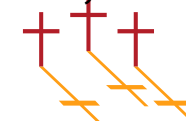
If the Lord should choose to show mercy to only one man in the world — He has the perfect right to do so. If He chooses to show mercy to a few, or if He chooses to show mercy to all — He has the right to do so.

How is it that some of us who were once drunkards, swearers, and the like — are now sitting here to praise God this day? Was there anything good in us which moved the heart of God to save us? God forbid that we should indulge the blasphemous thought! I never met with any Christian who ever thought that he deserved to be chosen unto salvation; the very fact of the choice, proves that it must have been all of grace.

Electing love has selected some of the worst — to be made the best! I shall never understand, even in Heaven — why the Lord Jesus should ever have loved me! There is no more humbling doctrine in Scripture than that of election — none more promoting of gratitude, and, consequently, none more sanctifying. To me, election is one of the sweetest and most blessed truths in the whole of Revelation — it is one of the highest notes of heavenly music!

The man who is not willing to submit to the electing love and sovereign grace of God, has great reason to question whether he is a Christian at all — for the spirit that kicks against election is the spirit of the devil, and the spirit of the unhumiliated, unrenowned heart.

"We ought always to thank God for you, brothers loved by the Lord, because from the beginning God chose you to be saved." 2 Thessalonians 2:13



# 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 11/26/2023

General Offering .....	6,917.16
Building Fund .....	4,197.75
Uganda Missions .....	221.00
Benevolence .....	25.00

Total.....\$11,360.91  
Attendance ..... 131

## 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

Dec 03, 2023

Welcome