

Pastor's Pen

The Five Solas: SOLA CHRISTUS

For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.

1 Timothy 2:5

This is the most important of the Five Solas. It is the cornerstone of all of our theology. The book of Isaiah has many references to the Messiah to come. In several places in the Old Testament, the coming Messiah is called "the cornerstone." In the Book of Isaiah, the prophet wrote, "Therefore thus says Lord Yahweh, *"Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a tested stone, A costly cornerstone for the foundation, firmly placed. He who believes in it will not be disturbed."* (Isaiah 28:16–17). The apostle Paul, writing to the church in Ephesus, encouraged Christians to understand who they were in Christ, *"So then you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household, 20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone, 21 in whom the whole building, being joined together, is growing into a holy sanctuary in the Lord,"* (Ephesians 2:19– 21). Furthermore, in 1 Peter 2:6, what Isaiah said centuries before is affirmed in exactly the same words. For this is contained in Scripture, *"Behold, I lay in Zion a choice stone, a precious corner stone, And he who believes upon Him will not be put to shame."* Without Christ's death, burial, and resurrection, there is no salvation. If Jesus had not shed His blood for the forgiveness of our sins, there would be no salvation for us. It is by Grace alone, through Faith alone, in Christ alone.

Your shepherd,

Pastor Mark

Grace Gems

Glorify God in the fire!

- George Whitefield

"Every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit!" John 15:2

**"I have refined you in the furnace of suffering!"
Isaiah 48:10**

Fire not only burns and purges, but it separates one thing from another. God Almighty knows that we are often purged more in one hour by a good sound trial — than by a thousand manifestations of His love. It is a fine thing to come purified, to come pardoned out of the furnace of affliction. The furnace is intended to purge us to separate the precious from the vile, the chaff from the wheat. And God, in order to do this, is pleased to put us into one fire after another.

There are some roads which are finely paved and smooth — but the King's road to Heaven is strewn with crosses and afflictions! My brethren, we need to be purged! How apt are we to want to go to Heaven upon a featherbed. But many go lying upon beds of pain and languishing, which is the King's highway there. God will not put us into the fire — if there was not something to be purged away. The grand thing, is to learn to glorify God in the fire.

Quote of the Week

"Salvation is a work of God to show His glory.
That's why He's not going to let it fail."
— Paul Washer

We glorify God in the fire, when we quietly endure it as a chastisement, and when we bear it patiently. It is a dreadful thing when we are saying with Cain, "My punishment is greater than I can bear!" But the language of a soul that glorifies God in the fire is this, "Shall I, Lord, shall I a sinful man, complain for the punishment of my sins?"

We glorify God in the fire, when, though we feel pain and anguish, we at the same time say, "Lord, we deserve this and ten thousands times more!"

We glorify God in the fire also, when we are really and fully persuaded that God will put us in the furnace only for our good, and His own glory.

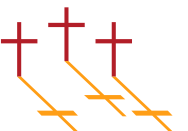
We glorify God in the fire when we say, "Lord don't let the fire go out until it has purged away all my dross!"

We glorify God in the fire when the soul can say, "Here I am, my God, do with me as seems good in Your sight! I know that I shall not have one unnecessary stroke!"

We glorify God in the fire when we are not grumbling, but humbly submitting to His will. When that awful message was brought to Eli, what does he say? "It is the LORD; let Him do what seems good to Him." Let my children be killed, whatever is done, it is the Lord's doing!

We glorify God in the fire when we rejoice in Him — when we can thank God for striking us — when we can thank Him for whipping us!

Happy are you who have got into Christ's fire!



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 12/03/2023

General Offering 13,712.00
Building Fund 9,352.00
Uganda Missions 1,331.00

Total.....\$24,395.00
Attendance 203

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
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Grace Harvest
Baptist Church
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Grace Harvest Baptist Church

Dec 10, 2023

Welcome