

# Pastor's Pen

No Regrets!

***"Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord." 1 Cor. 15:58***

All of us have regrets in this life. You might have regretted relationships you have had, purchases you have made, jobs you have settled for, or decisions that have affected your health. But, there is one regret that a Christian will never have: living for Christ.

A dear friend of mine, John Riley, and I met at Benedictine High School in Richmond, Va (all-boy military school). Neither of us was a follower of Christ. However, if you had asked us, we would have said yes. When I was 24, I came to Christ, and John was one of the first people I shared this with. He thought that I was crazy for denying my faith in Roman Catholicism. Over the next five years, I would share Christ with John, and he would tolerate the conversations. Finally, God called John to be His. His life was transformed. He was a new creation, which was on full display when he attended an event for our high school reunion. I did not attend.

At this event, there was plenty of alcohol and a lot of back-slapping and telling war stories about when they were together in high school. At one point, a young woman came out and began to strip for the men. John stood up and spoke out that this was not right. He told them we have daughters the age of this young lady and should not participate in this. At this point, most men booed him and threw cups of beer at him. He left, but he did not leave alone. Two men left with him. They thanked John for making a stand and told him that he gave them the courage to leave.

Christians, we are called to take a stand for righteousness regardless of the consequences. As Paul instructed the Church in Corinth to be steadfast and always strive to do the Lord's work, we are called to do the same. You will never regret what you sacrificed for the cause of Christ. Even if, ultimately, it costs you friends, prestige, a job, or even your life. Paul, writing to Timothy, knew that he was facing execution for the cause of Christ. He had no regrets for serving Christ for 30 years. Let these be our words as we live for Christ, ***"For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. 7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith. 8 In the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved His appearing"*** (2 Tim 4:6-8).

Live a life of no regrets. Live for Christ.

Your shepherd,

Pastor Mark

## Quote of the Week

***"We must accept being despised, mocked, humiliated and rejected by others, because we then have the promise of being honored, prized, glorified and exalted at the judgment of God."***

- John Calvin

# Grace Gems

I love to trace there the footsteps of my Father!  
(John MacDuff, 1885)

**"The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of His hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge!" Psalm 19:1-2**

GOD IN NATURE! I love to trace there the footsteps of my Father!

His watchful stars look down kindly and lovingly from their heights.

There is a touch of beauty even in Alpine solitudes — the piles of driven snow like white mantles woven by angels; the translucent light of fairy grottoes, their roofs pendent with icicle, and distant or overhanging peaks gleaming with the gold of the morning, or with evening ruby.

That great and wide sea, with its dancing waves and troughs of chameleon hue.

The whisper of the forest and the sympathetic music of its million leaves.

The pastures clothed with flocks, the valleys also covered over with grain.

The sparkling rivulet winding its thread of silver, singing with gentle ripple, and taking its part in the blessing of Creation.

The Almighty has thus put His loving and creative thoughts into His world. We can devoutly say, "How precious also are Your thoughts unto me, O God; how great is the sum of them!"

Yes, with all this apparent to his vision — who can see and recognize the Great Ruler of all — only in mists and storms, the boom of the thunder, the flash of the lightning, the tremors of the earthquake, and the havoc of the avalanche? These are **the abnormal occurrences in His mighty sway** — a few exceptional notes in the great hymn and harmonies of eternal love.



# 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 01/07/2024

General Offering ..... 10,805.47  
Building Fund ..... 1,948.00  
Uganda Missions ..... 123.00

Total.....\$12,876.47  
Attendance ..... 229

## 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

Jan 14, 2024

Welcome