

# Pastor's Pen

Fear Him!

***"Oh, fear Yahweh, you His saints; For there is no want to those who fear Him." Psalm 34:9***

At first, it seems uncharacteristic of God that He would command his followers to fear Him. We must understand what fearing God means. It does not mean being afraid of Him. All believers are called to fear Him, but we have no need to be afraid of Him. In fact, if you are afraid of God, you don't know Jesus as Lord and Savior.

A non-believer needs to be afraid of God, very afraid. Jesus warned, *"And do not fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell."* Those who deny Jesus as Savior will spend eternity in hell apart from God suffering without end. But, for all who will believe in His Son, the elect, we are not to be afraid but to fear Him.

The Bible repeatedly calls people to fear God. In Psalm 111:10, the psalmist declares that "the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom", while Proverbs 23:17 commands, "Live in the fear of the Lord always." A wise father counsels his son to "fear the Lord and the king" (Prov. 24:21), while Peter exhorted his readers to "Honor all people, love the brotherhood, fear God, honor the king" (1 Pet. 2:17).

What does it mean to fear God? John MacArthur gives his definition: "To fear God is to live in the reality of His holiness, His sovereignty, and His judgment of sin. It is to love God, respect Him, reverence Him, adore Him, hold Him in awe, and worship Him. And that can only be done by loving His Son the Savior (John 5:23)." Think about a godly father who raises his children. He loves them and supports them. He teaches them how to be a godly man. His children love him, but they are aware that if they disobey him, there will be consequences

They love him, respect him, and, yes, fear him. They are not afraid of him that he will harm them, but they understand that to fear him is to love him. We, as believers, love God but are not afraid of what will happen to us when we die. We know because we belong to Him, we will spend eternity with Him and every other believer who has ever lived.

Your shepherd,

Pastor Mark

## Grace Gems

'Chance' or 'blind fate' -Samuel Davies

**"The LORD reigns! Let the earth be glad!" Psalm 97:1**

We are exposed to numberless accidental and unforeseen dangers, which we can neither prevent nor counter. Sickness and death may proceed from a thousand unsuspected causes. Our friends, our estates, and, in short, all our earthly enjoyments — may be torn from us by a variety of accidents. We walk, as it were, in the dark, and may tread on remediless dangers before we are aware.

### Quote of the Week

"The fear of God is the death of every other fear; like a mighty lion, it chases all other fears before it."

— Charles H. Spurgeon

"But the LORD reigns! Let the earth be glad!" All contingent events are at His disposal and under His sovereign control. The smallest things are not beneath the notice of His providence, and the greatest are not above it! Those diseases and misfortunes which seem to happen 'by chance' — are commissioned by the Lord of all! And those which result evidently from 'natural causes' — are sent by His almighty will. He says to one, "Go!" and it goes; and to another, "Come!" and it comes!

He orders the devastations that are made by the most raging elements!

His flames lay our houses in ashes — they are kindled by His breath!

If hurricanes sweep through our land, and carry desolation along with them — they but perform His sovereign will, and can do nothing beyond it!

His hand hurls the lightning bolt, and directs it where to strike!

An arrow or a bullet shot at a venture in the heat of battle — is carried to its mark by divine direction!

How wretched a world would this be — were it not under the wise management of divine Providence! If 'chance' or 'blind fate' were its rulers — what desolation would crowd upon us every moment! We would soon be crushed in the ruins of a fallen world. Every wind that blows — might blast us with death! And fire and water would mingle in a blended chaos, and bury us in their destruction!

But so extensive is the care of Providence, that even the sparrows may find safety in it! And we cannot lose so much as a hair of our heads, without God's permission! Matthew 10:29-31. And how much more then, are we His redeemed children under His loving guardianship and direction!



# 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 01/14/2024

General Offering .....	6,679.71
Building Fund .....	2,070.00
Uganda Missions .....	131.00
Benevolence .....	150.00

Total.....\$9,030.71  
Attendance ..... 187

## 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  
go • gather • grow • go



ghbcva.org | 804.561.3742  
9821 South Redfield Drive, Amelia, VA 23002

# Grace Harvest Baptist Church

Jan 21, 2024

Welcome