

# Pastor's Pen

Death!

**"O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" 1 Cor. 15:55**

You can't run from it, you can't hide, you can't make a deal with death, it will find you. It will come for all of us. Christian and non-Christian. Rich or poor, young or old, no one is immune from the power of death.

However, there is a gap as wide as the deepest ocean between what happens to those who belong to Christ and those who have rejected Him. Paul, writing to the Corinthians, drilled that point home, *"Now the sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law; but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ! 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. 56-58).* We who belong to God are promised victory over death. There is no need to fear. There is no need to wring your hands worrying about what happens to you when you die if you belong to Christ. During the American Civil War, Gen. "Stonewall" Jackson was asked if he feared death on the battlefield. This was his reply, *"My religious belief teaches me to feel as safe in battle as in bed. God has fixed the time for my death. I do not concern myself about that, but to be always ready, no matter when it may overtake me. That is the way all men should live, and then all would be equally brave."*

What great wisdom, Christians, to understand that God called you before the foundation of the world (Eph. 1:4) and prepared good works for you to do for His glory (Eph. 2:10). Do you realize as Gen. Jackson did that God will keep you here as long as He needs you here. What peace should that bring to a believer's heart knowing God will hold you fast.

We should live our lives as Paul did. Paul declared, *"For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain" (Phil. 1:21).* When we live for Christ, we have no regrets, no matter what trials and tribulations come our way we know that Christ will see us through the deepest valleys (Ps.23). Then when the hourglass of our lives runs out we can say as Paul declared, *"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course."* When that day comes, we will declare, *"O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?"*

Your shepherd,

Pastor Mark

## Grace Gems

Where are you going? (Charles Orr, "How to Live a Holy Life")

We have only one life to live—only one! Think of this for a moment. Here we are in this world of time, making the journey of life. Each day we are farther from the cradle, and nearer to the grave! Solemn thought! See the mighty concourse of human lives; hear their heavy tread in their onward march. Some are just beginning life's journey, some are midway up the hill, some have reached the top, and some are midway down the western slope. But where are we all going?

Listen, and you will hear but one answer, "Eternity!" Beyond the fading, dying gleams of the sunset of life—lies a boundless, endless ocean called Eternity! There, you and I are daily traveling. Time is like a great wheel going its round. On and on it goes. Some are stepping on, and some are stepping off. But where are these latter stepping? Into eternity!

### Quote of the Week

"When the time comes for you to die, you need not be afraid, because death cannot separate you from God's love."

— Charles H. Spurgeon

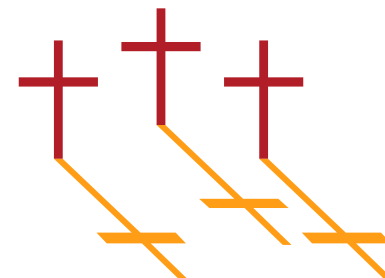
See that old man with bent form, snow-white locks, and tottering steps—his has been a long round, but he has reached his end at last. See the middle-aged man—his round has not been so long, but he must also step off. See the youth—he has been on only a little while, but he is brought to the stepping-off place. He thought his round would be much longer. He supposed that he was just getting started—when that icy hand was laid upon him and the usher said, "Come, you have made your round, and you must go!" The infant that gave its first faint cry this morning, may utter its last feeble wail tonight! And thus they go. But where? Oh, where? ETERNITY!

If you were to start today and ask each person you met the question, "Where are you going?" and, if possible, you were to travel the world over and ask each one of earth's inhabitants—there could be but one correct answer, "Eternity!"

"Oh, eternity, Long eternity! Hear the solemn footsteps of eternity!" Only one life to live! Only one life—and then we must face vast, endless eternity! We shall pass along the pathway of life but once. Every step we take, is a step that can never be taken again. This world is not a play-ground—or a place to trifle with time.

Life is not given us to squander nor fritter away. To trifle away time, is indeed, to be the greatest of spendthrifts. If you squander a dollar, you may regain it; but a moment wasted, can never be regained. God gives us all the time we need to accomplish all that He purposes us to accomplish—but He does not give us one moment to trifle away. We have only one life to live—only one!

**"So teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom." Psalm 90:12**



# 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 01/28/2024

General Offering ..... 12,721.21  
Building Fund ..... 1,134.00  
Uganda Missions ..... 153.50

Total.....\$14,008.71  
Attendance ..... 233  
Online.....34

## 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

Feb 04, 2024

Welcome