

Pastor's Pen

Words Have Meaning!

And both the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling, saying, "This man receives sinners and eats with them."
Luke 15:2

In the English language, one word can have many meanings. Take love, for example. I love pizza, my dogs, my kids, my wife, and God, but I don't love any of those the same way. Biblical Greek has seven different words for love to convey different meanings. The four most familiar words are as follows: 1. *Eros*, which refers to romantic or sexual love. From it we get the word erotic. 2. *Storge*. This refers to familial love, like that of a mother for her baby or of a brother and sister for each other. 3. *Philia*. This refers to friendship and comradery. This word is often translated as "friend" (one who is loved) in the New Testament. 4. *Agape*. This is used to speak of God's love that He has for the world and that Christians are supposed to emulate.

In Luke 15, we see that the religious Jewish leaders were attacking Jesus for receiving sinners. Here, we see a difference between English and Greek. The Greek word for receive is *dechomai*. It can carry the meaning to welcome, to put up with, or to tolerate. That is not the Greek word for received used in this passage. The word translated receives is from the Greek word *prosdexon*. It carries the meaning of welcoming someone with open arms, warmly, to look forward to.

When I receive or welcome a total stranger into my home, I will be friendly but cautious. However, when I welcomed my son Jacob home from Afghanistan after serving 15 months in combat, there was nothing but joy and happiness in receiving him. I stood and cried seeing my son walk off the plane with his fellow 82nd Airborne paratroopers. I gave him a hug that conveyed my love for him and total acceptance.

That is why the religious leaders were so upset. They could not believe Jesus received sinners in such a loving and accepted way. That is exactly how Jesus receives all of us that are His. He welcomes us with love and acceptance. He knows each of His children by name.

Your shepherd,

Pastor Mark

Grace Gems

Very precious (John Fawcett)

"Yes, He is very precious to you who believe!"
1 Peter 2:7

Jesus is precious to believers—as the bread of God coming down from heaven, and giving everlasting life to their souls. By Him they are really, constantly, and daily supported, fed and sustained. As bread is sweet and precious to a hungry man—so is Christ sweet and precious to those who live by Him. The entertainment that He gives to them—is a divine, a spiritual feast!

Jesus is precious to believers—as the Sun of Righteousness. The beams of His grace are healing, enlightening, cheering, and full of consolation. If natural light is sweet, if it is a pleasant thing to behold the sun—how much more pleasant to experience the irradiating influences of the Light of life!

Jesus is precious to believers—as the fountain where they bathe their weary souls, and in which they are cleansed from all sin and impurity. He is the tree of life, under the shadow of which, they sit with great delight, and His fruit is sweet to their taste. He is a rock, a strong tower, a hiding-place, where they find protection from every storm, and security from every foe. He was precious to the Psalmist under all these views—"I will love you, O Lord, my strength. The Lord is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer, my God, my strength in whom I trust; my shield, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower."

It is therefore the delight of their lives—to know Him, to love and honor Him with their whole hearts, and to aspire after conformity to His blessed image, and His holy will.

"O blessed Redeemer, I find in you all that my poor helpless soul stands in need of. Though I have the greatest reason for shame and humiliation, on account of what I am in myself—yet in You I behold everything to elevate my hopes, and to afford me relief and encouragement! May my soul magnify the Lord, and my spirit rejoice in God my Savior! The characters and relations in which You have revealed Yourself to me in Your Word—exhibit a balm for every wound, and a cordial for every fear.

If I am naked—You are the Lord my righteousness.

If I am soul-sick—You are my physician.

If I am weak and helpless—You are my strength.

If I am neglected and despised—You are my compassionate and faithful friend.

If I am ignorant—You are made unto me wisdom.

If I am polluted and enslaved—You are made unto me sanctification and redemption.

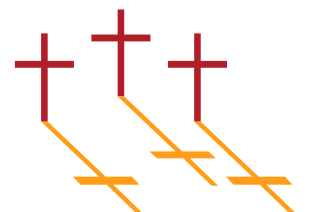
If I am nothing but emptiness and vanity—You are full of grace and truth."

"Yes, He is very precious to you who believe!" 1 Peter 2:7

Quote of the Week

"Be of good cheer, Christian, the time is near when God and you shall be as near as you can desire. You shall dwell in His family! You shall then have joy without sorrow — and rest without weariness!"

- Richard Baxter



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 03/03/2024

General Offering 10,416.08
Building Fund 2,418.00
Uganda Missions 130.00
G3 Offering 134.50

Total.....\$13,098.58
Attendance 201
Online.....27
G3 Foreign Missions\$589.50

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 BIBLE CHURCH

GO GATHER GROW GO

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Grace Harvest Bible Church

Mar 10, 2024

Welcome