

# Pastor's Pen

Praying For The Dead?

***And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment, Hebrews 9:27***

Is it biblical to pray for the dead? The short answer is no. As the writer of Hebrews points out, when we die, there are no more second chances. If you die in your sins, you don't get a second chance to become a follower of Christ. There are no do-overs nor mulligans.

Despite the clear biblical evidence that praying for the dead serves no purpose, some promote this false teaching. All of the Orthodox churches, as well as the Roman Catholic Church, teach that it is biblical to pray for the dead. The following is from a Roman Catholic source on praying for the dead:

“As the Bible and Catholic tradition point out, our prayers can help the heaven-bound souls in purgatory. Countless saints and mystics have defended these claims. Once in heaven, these purified souls, or saints, can intercede for others before the throne of God—making our prayers for the souls in purgatory even more meaningful in the long term. St. Pope John Paul II said that “praying for the souls in purgatory is the highest act of supernatural charity.”

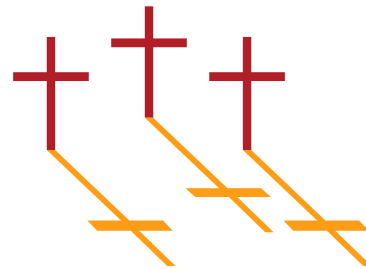
This false teaching leads people to a false sense of security, believing that it is not necessary to be a follower of Christ in this life. Purgatory (a made-up place where people go to pay for their sins so they can get to heaven) and praying for the dead are two lies straight out of the pit of Hell.

The truth is that once you die, you face your eternal consequences. For those who have made Jesus Lord and Savior, you are in the presence of the Lord (2 Cor. 5:8). For those who have rejected Christ, waiting for the final judgment that will cast them into the Lake of Fire forever (Rev 20:14-15).

Today is the day of your salvation. We don't get second chances once we die.

Your shepherd,

Pastor Mark



## Quote of the Week

“First, the vast number of carnal people who identify themselves with the church is the result of the unbiblical gospel preached from most evangelical pulpits.”

— Paul David Washer

# Grace Gems

The Breaker! (Charles Spurgeon)

**"The Breaker has gone up before them. He will bring you through the gates of your cities of captivity, back to your own land. Your King will lead you; the Lord Himself will guide you!" Micah 2:13**

Inasmuch as Jesus has gone before us, things do not remain as they would have been, had He never passed that way. He has conquered every foe which has obstructed the way. Cheer up O faint-hearted warrior. Not only has Christ traveled the road—but He has slain your enemies upon life's road!

Do you dread sin? He has nailed it to His cross!

Do you fear death? He has been the death of death!

Are you afraid of hell? He has barred the gates of hell from being entered by any of His children; they shall never see the gulf of perdition!

Whatever foes may be before the Christian—they are all overcome!

There are lions—but their teeth are broken!

There are serpents—but their fangs are extracted!

There are rivers—but they are bridged or fordable!

There are flames—but we wear that matchless garment which renders us invulnerable to fire!

The Breaker, Christ—has taken away all the power that anything can have to hurt us. Well then, you may go safely and joyously along your journey, for all your enemies are conquered beforehand! What shall you do—but march on to take the prey? They are beaten, they are vanquished; all you have to do is to divide the spoil. You shall, it is true, often engage in combat; but your fight shall be with a vanquished foe! His head is broken! He may attempt to injure you—but his strength shall not be sufficient for his malicious design. Your victory shall be sure—and your treasure shall be beyond all count!

"Proclaim aloud the Savior's fame, Who bears the Breaker's wondrous name; Sweet name; and it befits Him well, Who breaks down earth, sin, death, and hell!"

# 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; AWANA & Surge!



## Service Times

Sunday Services 8AM & 11:00AM  
Sunday School 9:30AM  
Children's Church @11:00AM



Giving from service on 03/31/2024

General Offering ..... 10,668.87  
Building Fund ..... 4,252.00  
Uganda Missions ..... 25.00  
G3 Offering ..... 320.00

Total.....\$15,265.87  
Attendance ..... 296  
Online.....30  
G3 Foreign Missions .....\$877.50

## 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

Apr 7, 2024



GRACE HARVEST BIBLE CHURCH

GO GATHER GROW GO

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