Paston's Pen

Walk With God!

#### "Enoch walked with God;" Genesis 5:21b

Three men are recorded to have walked with God: Enoch, Noah, and Moses. What does it mean to have walked with God? When Cathy and I were in our thirties and had all five Children under ten, we didn't have much free time or money. But, we made one thing a priority in our lives. We walked together almost every day. We would walk up and down the road between two cul-de-sacs. The kids would ride their bikes or play in the front yard. When we walked with each other, we talked, laughed, planned, and dreamed about what our future would look like. In other words, we shared our hearts and minds with each other. We had and still have a deep, intimate relationship with each other. Nobody knows me as well as my wife.

Similarly, when we walk with God, we have a deep, intimate relationship with Him. When we are born again, we enter into an intimate relationship with God through faith in His Son (Hebrews 10:22). We walk with God and hear His voice when we read His Word. We share our hearts with Him when we pray and seek to please Him by living lives obedient to His Word.

When we walk with God, no one or anything takes priority. He becomes everything to us. Meeting with Him is not an activity reserved for Sunday morning. We live to fellowship with Him. A. W. Tozer states that the goal of every Christian should be to "live in a state of unbroken worship." This is only possible when we walk with God.

Your shepherd, Pastor Mark

# Grace Gems

Only the blood of Christ can soften it!
-Thomas Watson, "The Beatitudes" 1660

"I will take away their hearts of stone and give them tender hearts!" Ezekiel 11:19

Oh the misery of a hard heart!

A heart of stone is insensible. A stone is not sensible of anything. Lay a heavy weight upon it; or grind it to powder—it does not feel. So it is with a hard heart, it is insensible to both its own sin and God's wrath. The stone in the kidneys is felt, but not the stone in the heart. "Having lost all sensitivity." Ephesians 4:19

A heart of stone is inflexible. A stone will not bend. Just so, the hard heart will not comply with God's command. It will not stoop to Christ's scepter. A heart of stone will sooner break, than bend by repentance. It is so far from yielding to God, that like the anvil, it beats back the hammer. A heart of stone will "always resist the Holy Spirit." Acts 7:51

Quote of the Week

"He that hath slight thoughts of sin never had great thoughts of God."

— John Owen

A hard heart is void of all grace. While the wax is hard, it will not take the impression of the seal. Just so, the heart, while it is hard, will not take the stamp of grace. It must first be made tender and melting. The plough of the Word will not penetrate a hard heart!

A hard heart is good for nothing, but to make fuel for Hellfire! "Because of your hardness and unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath!" Romans 2:5

Hell is full of hard hearts! There is not one soft heart there! There is much weeping there, but no softness. We read of "vessels of wrath, prepared for destruction." Romans 9:22. Hardness of heart, fits these vessels for Hell, and makes them like withered wood, which is fit only to burn!

Hardness of heart makes a man's condition worse than all his other sins besides. If one is guilty of great sins, yet if he can mourn, there is hope. But hardness of heart binds guilt fast upon the soul. It seals a man under wrath. It is not heinousness of sin, but hardness of heart—which damns!

Oh the misery of a hard heart!

A stony heart is the worst heart. If it were bronze, it might be melted in the furnace; or it might be bent with the hammer. But a stony heart is such, that only the arm of God can break it, and only the blood of Christ can soften it!

"I will take out your stony heart of sin and give you a new, obedient heart." Ezekiel 36:26

## Weekly Gatherings



#### **Bible Classes**

Old & New Testament Classes
Ladies Class
Young Adults Young Parents
Youth Surge
Sunday Morning @ 9:00AM



#### **Weekday Meetings**

Mondays | 7PM Men's Book Study Fridays | 6AM Men's Book Study Wednesdays | 6:30PM AWANA



#### Family Groups

Thursdays @ 7PM
Please see website for locations



#### **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 School 9:00AM Children's Church 10:30AM Sunday Services 10:30AM 

 Giving from service on 01/05/20245

 General Offering
 \$11,460.24

 Building Fund
 \$3,358.00

 Uganda
 \$1,071.00

 Benevolence
 \$270.00

Total......\$16,159.24 Attendance......196

### 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
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GRACE HARVEST BIBLE CHURCH

GO GATHER GROW GO

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Jan 12, 2025

