

Pastor's Pen

Stealing God's Glory!

***"Then God said to him in the dream, 'Indeed, I know that in the integrity of your heart you have done this, and I also held you back from sinning against Me; therefore I did not let you touch her.'"* Gen 20:6**

In Genesis 20, Abraham moves his household from the region around Mamre south toward the border of the land of Canaan. Scripture does not tell us the reason for this move. He settles his people in Gerar, between Kadesh and Shur. Gerar was south of Gaza, near the coast of the Mediterranean Sea, and within the borders of the Promised Land. It was the land of the Philistines.

While there, Abraham again does what he did when he went to Egypt. In Genesis 12, we see that Abraham had moved his household into Egypt because he was forced out of Canaan by famine in the land. At that time, he was afraid someone would notice his wife's incredible beauty and kill him to get her (Genesis 12:12). So again, he asked Sarah to tell a half-lie for him: Say you are my sister. She was, in fact, his half-sister. They shared the same father but different mothers (Genesis 20:12), so now we see the mere man Abraham acting out of fear and lacking faith in God. Abimelech then took Sarah to be his wife.

However, God steps in so Sarah does not become the wife of Abimelech: ***"But God came to Abimelech in a dream of the night and said to him, 'Behold, you are a dead man because of the woman whom you have taken, for she is married.'"***(Now Abimelech had not come near her.) ***Then he said, 'Lord, will You kill a nation, even though righteous? Did he not himself say to me, 'She is my sister'? And she herself also said, 'He is my brother.' 'In the integrity of my heart and the innocence of my hands I have done this. (Gen.20:3-5)."***

Notice that Abimelech takes credit for his innocence but pay attention to how God responds to him: ***"Then God said to him in the dream, 'Indeed, I know that in the integrity of your heart you have done this, and I also held you back from sinning against Me; therefore I did not let you touch her (Gen. 20:6)."*** God, not Abimelech, prevented him from sinning.

Have you ever overcome the temptation to sin and praised yourself for not yielding to it? As He did with Abimelech, God is the one who delivers us from our temptations. If we believe we do this alone, it can lead to spiritual pride and the idea that somehow we are more spiritual than others. The fact is that we are stealing God's glory when we take credit for resisting temptation. In everything, we are to give God all the glory and honor.

***"Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power, for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created."* Rev. 4:11**

Your shepherd,
Pastor Mark

Grace Gems

I love to trace there the footsteps of my Father!
(John MacDuff, "Ripples in the Twilight" 1885)

"The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of His hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge!" Psalm 19:1-2

GOD IN NATURE! I love to trace there the footsteps of my Father!

Quote of the Week

"The Christian is not a good man. He is a vile wretch who has been saved by the grace of God!"
-Martyn Lloyd Jones

His watchful stars look down kindly and lovingly from their heights.

There is a touch of beauty even in Alpine solitudes — the piles of driven snow like white mantles woven by angels; the translucent light of fairy grottoes, their roofs pendent with icicle, and distant or overhanging peaks gleaming with the gold of the morning, or with evening ruby.

That great and wide sea, with its dancing waves and troughs of chameleon hue.

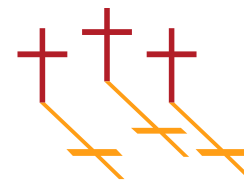
The whisper of the forest and the sympathetic music of its million leaves.

The pastures clothed with flocks, the valleys also covered over with grain.

The sparkling rivulet winding its thread of silver, singing with gentle ripple, and taking its part in the blessing of Creation.

The Almighty has thus put His loving and creative thoughts into His world. We can devoutly say, ***"How precious also are Your thoughts unto me, O God; how great is the sum of them!"***

Yes, with all this apparent to his vision — who can see and recognize the Great Ruler of all — only in mists and storms, the boom of the thunder, the flash of the lightning, the tremors of the earthquake, and the havoc of the avalanche? These are the abnormal occurrences in His mighty sway — a few exceptional notes in the great hymn and harmonies of eternal love.



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 01/12/2025

General Offering	\$12,611.98
Building Fund	\$910.00
Uganda	\$163.00
Benevolence	\$3.00

Total.....\$13,687.98
Attendance..... 173

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

Jan 19, 2025

Welcome