

Pastor's Pen

His Yoke!

"Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls." Matthew 11:29

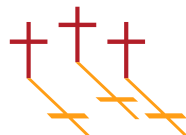
A yoke is a wooden crosspiece fastened over the necks of two animals and attached to a plow or cart. A yoke allows two animals to share a load and pull together. Yokes were used in Bible times primarily with bulls or oxen to plow fields and pull wagons. The animals yoked together needed to be close in size and weight for the cart or plow to pull evenly. In the Old Testament, the word "yoke" is often used metaphorically to represent a burden, obligation, or slavery.

Jesus has declared that He knows God the Father and that He can reveal God to whomever He chooses (Matthew 11:25-27). He now invites His listeners (The Elect) to come to Him and take His yoke upon them. Every true believer will submit to Him and put themselves under His authority. This is not a yoke of burden as described in the Old Testament, but one that will lead to rest as we serve Him in this life.

The implication is to allow Jesus to put His own yoke on us like a farmer would put one on his livestock. It means giving Jesus control and letting Him direct our efforts. The work He has will not be difficult, Jesus says. He wants us to learn from Him. Unlike the Pharisees, Jesus insists that He is gentle. He is lowly in heart (Philippians 2:6-7). He has not come to add to our burden but to give us true peace that only Christians can obtain.

As we begin our study of Romans 12, ask yourself, have you put His yoke upon you? Have you submitted to His authority? Have you set aside your pride, humbled yourself before the Lord and desire His will be done in your life?

Your shepherd,
Pastor Mark



Grace Gems

Is this pleasing to God? -(James Smith, "The Proper Aim of a Christian's Life" 1856)

"Finally, brothers, we instructed you how to live in order to please God, as in fact you are living. Now we ask you and urge you in the Lord Jesus, to do this more and more!" 1 Thessalonians 4:1

In every place, in every circumstance, in every undertaking, the Christian should ask, "Is this pleasing to God?"

God is pleased or displeased . . . with every thought we think, with every word we speak, with every action we perform, with every emotion we feel.

Perhaps we do not sufficiently realize this. We think, speak, feel, and act—without ever considering whether we are pleasing God, or not. But this ought not to be, for He . . . gave us our being, redeemed us from sin and damnation, called us by His grace, and has blessed us with innumerable and interminable blessings, and all that we may glorify Him! And how can we glorify Him, but by habitually aiming to please Him? If we forget or lose sight of this, we forget and lose sight of the principal end of our being, and well-being.

For instance, the manner in which I employ my spare time—the amount of time I give to recreation or entertainment. Many Christians seem never to think whether the way in which they spend their time, is pleasing to God or not.

Quote of the Week

"How unspeakably wonderful it is, to know that all our concerns are held in those hands which bled for us!"
- John Newton

If they did, would they ever go to some entertainments, or indulge in certain pleasures? Would the world have so much of their time, and the prayer-closet so little? How much time is wasted in frivolous ways, which are neither conducive to the health of the body, nor calculated to promote the spirituality of the mind.

Also, how many squander their money on dress, ornaments, or delicacies for the body—who never relieve the poor, or contribute to establish God's cause in the world. Or if they do so at all, it is not in due proportion to their means. The pence are given to the Lord, the pounds are spent in the gratification of SELF! If, when I am going to lay out money in ornaments or dress, or indulgences for the table, I was to ask, "Is this pleasing to God?", would it not check my lavish expenditure? Would it not often change the course in which my money flows?

"And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please Him in every way." Colossians 1:10

My object in everything I do, should be to please God. The one grand end of my life, the grand thing I am to aim at—is to please my Heavenly Father. I have . . . nothing to dread, but His frown; nothing to fear, but His displeasure; nothing to seek, but His approbation. If my Heavenly Father is pleased with me, it is enough. What a comfort it is to know that my God is easily pleased; that it is not the amount of what I do, but the motive from which I do it, which He looks at! He is pleased with my poorest performances, with my most imperfect services, with only a cup of cold water given to one of His children—if my object is to please Him! In everything I do, I should ask, "Is this pleasing to God?" If so, all is well.

"So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do—do it all for the glory of God!" 1 Corinthians 10:31. This is the rule, and we should walk by it.

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
Thursdays | 10AM Ladies Bible Study

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 01/26/2025

General Offering	\$9,145.66
Building Fund	\$2,242.75
Uganda	\$210.00
Benevolence	\$50.00

Total.....\$11,648.41
Attendance 223

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

Feb 02, 2025

Welcome