

Pastor's Pen

Wailing and Gnashing!

"The Son of Man will send forth His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all stumbling blocks, and those who commit lawlessness, and will throw them into the fiery furnace; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth (Matthew 13:41-42)."

Everyone born of woman will live for eternity. Those who believe in Jesus Christ for their salvation will spend eternity in the new heaven and earth, worshiping God. All others will spend eternity in hell. All the agnostics, atheists, Mormons, Jehovah's Witnesses, Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus, progressive Christians, pagans, and anyone that rejects salvation by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone.

Hell is a real place that Christ Himself warned would be a place of punishment and suffering.

- **"And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire" (Rev. 20:15).**
- **"And if your eye causes you to stumble, gouge it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye, than, having two eyes, to be cast into hell, 48 where their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched." (Mark 9:47-48).**
- **"And throw out the worthless slave into the outer darkness; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth" (Matthew 25:30).**
- **"In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, but yourselves being cast out" (Luke 13:28).**

Those in hell will weep over their rejection of Christ. They will weep over their suffering in the lake of fire. They will weep in outer darkness because the light of God that will illuminate the new earth will not be present in hell.

However, there will also be the gnashing of teeth. This is not just a reference to suffering in hell but to those who will be angry at God. In scripture, gnashing of teeth represents anger.

Because of what Stephen had preached, the religious leaders were furious. **"Now when they heard this, they became furious in their hearts, and they began gnashing their teeth at him (Acts 7:54)."** The psalmist writes, **"The wicked schemes against the righteous And gnashes at him with his teeth (Ps.37:12)."**

For all my fellow believers, take comfort in knowing that the only hell you will experience is in this life. If you do not know Christ this life will be the only heaven you will experience. Before it is too late, turn from your sin, cry out to God, and accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior. You still have time, but do not tarry; you never know when God will take you from this world.

Your shepherd,
Pastor Mark

Grace Gems

Quit Your Hurrying
-Alistair Begg

"This God—his way is perfect; the word of the Lord proves true." Psalm 18:30

God is never in a hurry. He's never late. His timing is always perfect. Yet so many of us spend so much of our lives hurrying from place to place, anxious to make things happen when we think they should happen. Consider Esther 6 as an example. There's a lot of hurry-up in this one chapter. It's not the hurry-up of God, though, but the hurry-up of humanity.

Quote of the Week

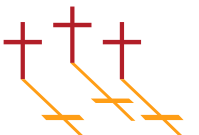
"Wicked men will hereafter earnestly wish to be turned to nothing and forever cease to be that they may escape the wrath of God."
-Johnathan Edwards

Haman woke up and hurried off to see the king about hanging Mordecai (Esther 6:4). When King Ahasuerus requested that he hurry with the king's robes to exalt the person the king delighted to honor (v 10), it was no problem for Haman to do so, assuming that the honor was intended for himself. Later we see Haman hurrying once more—but this time it is to his house in shame (v 12), embarrassed at being ordered to honor his most hated enemy, Mordecai. He didn't want anyone to see him. He covered his head, like an arrested criminal trying to shield himself from the gaze of the TV cameras. He was a picture of disappointment and pain.

Mordecai, however, was not in a hurry. He had been overlooked. His warning of an assassination plot had been significant, yet apparently nobody cared about it, not least the very king who was the beneficiary of what he had done. Four or five years had passed without any honor or recognition (Esther 6:3), and still Mordecai patiently and faithfully continued to do what was right. He trusted in God and His timing. He knew that "this God—his way is perfect."

Derek Kidner writes, " 'all God's delays are maturings, either of the time ... or of the man.' [1] The psalmist says, **"Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I keep your word" (Psalm 119:67).** Like the psalmist, our default is to just do our own thing and wander any way we want. But when God in His providence makes us wait longer than we might like or even brings disappointment, pain, and heartache into our lives, we are given the opportunity to pay attention to His words and to trust that His plan is unfolding perfectly.

We are called to believe that God's way is perfect and His word is true—not just when His favor is evident but when the wheels are falling off and the good that we've done, which is deserving of honor and acclaim, is largely ignored. Do you believe that? Remember that even God's ultimate plan of salvation did not require hurry: **"For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly" (Romans 5:6, emphasis added).** God's ways are perfect and His timing impeccable. Set aside your hurry, then, and give up your anxiety, learning instead to trust God to do His work at the right time.



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 03/16/2025

General Offering	\$14,725.34
Building Fund	\$1,105.00
Uganda	\$140.00
Benevolence	\$50.00
G3	\$85.00
Total	\$16,105.34
Attendance	231

G3 so far \$656.00 Goal is \$2,000

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

March 23, 2025

Welcome