

# Pastor's Pen

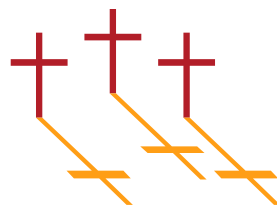
He Lives!

***"Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, is never to die again; death no longer is master over Him" (Romans 6:8-9).***

Welcome to Grace Harvest Bible church. If you are visiting today, we are grateful you chose to worship with us as we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Even though we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord every Sunday, today is a day that Christians remember, focus on, and celebrate Jesus' victory over death.

Paul reminds us that we died with Christ. God credits us with His righteousness and accepts His death as payment for our sins. We died with Christ on a spiritual level and were resurrected to a new spiritual life. Paul tells us in Romans 6:6 that ***"our old man was crucified with Him."*** Because He died and rose again, all who are born again will live with Him for eternity. We rejoice today because we can cry out with every believer, ***"O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting (1 Cor. 15:55)?"***

Your shepherd,  
Pastor Mark



# Grace Gems

From Sadness to Gladness

***"He showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord."***  
John 20:20

The first Easter did not look like a typical Easter celebration.

Before Jesus' resurrection was discovered, the day was marked by tears, devastation, and bewilderment—not joy, hope, and praise. The disciples were gathered out of fear, to protect one another, not to sing ***"Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!"***[1] They sat in sadness; their story had come to a grinding halt, with the next page blank.

Or so they thought.

The Bible does not attempt to deny or idealize the grief felt by Christ's followers after His crucifixion. They didn't understand what had happened, and they certainly didn't know what would happen next. Their sadness reveals humanity's limitations in knowing the bigger picture. Despite the Old Testament prophecies and Jesus' own foretelling of His death (Mark 8:31; 9:31; 10:33-34), John's Gospel tells us that they ***"as yet did not understand the Scripture, that he must rise from the dead" (John 20:9).*** They didn't understand that when Jesus said from the cross, ***"It is finished" (19:30),*** He was not expressing defeat but declaring victory.

## Quote of the Week

***"A Christian is not a skeptic. A Christian is a person with a burning heart, a heart set aflame with certainty of the resurrection."***

-R. C. Sproul

This victory meant resurrection. And as the resurrected Savior came to the disciples in their darkness, fear, and sadness, He brought transformation. Their unbelief turned to belief and their sadness to gladness. That gladness was rooted in the fact that they understood that Jesus had risen from the dead. Their faith and their future returned and were rooted in this wonderful reality. The darkness of their despair made the light of the resurrection all the more glorious.

If you are looking for a god that will just make you glad, you shouldn't look for the God of the Bible. He does make us glad—more so than anyone or anything else—but He often starts by making us sad. We are saddened by this broken world, saddened by our own sin, saddened that on the cross Jesus died for our wickedness, disobedience, and disinterest. It is only through truly feeling such sorrow that we can fully understand the gladness that comes with our account being settled, our debt being paid, and our wrongs being forgiven.

We can know the gladness of a love that loves us even though we are not worthy of it—that loves us when we don't want to listen. What kind of love is this? It is the love of God for men and women, for you and me! Today, look away from yourself and look at Him. This is love, and when we know we are loved in this way, we are able to see the healing in the harm and that sadness can be the soil in which eternal gladness grows. About which part of your life—perhaps a part full of pain, or regret, or anxiety—do you need to hear this today? Remember that whatever you are walking through, it remains true that Christ the Lord is risen. Hallelujah!

# 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 04/13/2025

General Offering .....	\$10,757.23
Building Fund .....	\$717.00
Uganda .....	\$160.00
Benevolence .....	\$70.00
G3 .....	\$375.00
Total .....	\$12,079.23
Attendance .....	260

G3 so far ..... \$1276.00 ..... 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

April 20, 2025

Welcome