

Pastor's Pen

Donkeys!

"But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong," 1 Cor. 2:27

In 1st century Rome, the wealthy and noble class were called Patricians, which comprised a tiny percentage of the population, estimated to be around 1-5%. The majority of the population were called plebeians (the common people). In addition, the slaves in the city of Rome made up 20-30% of its population. This population makeup was indicative all over the empire, including Corinth. We have examples of wealthy people becoming Christians. Philemon owned slaves, and Lydia was a successful business owner. However, most Christians did not fall into the upper 5%. This caused many to consider the early Christians as being foolish and weak.

In his letter to the church in Corinth, Paul explained how Jesus' death on the cross was foolish to the Greeks and a stumbling block to the Jews. The Jews viewed the cross as a stumbling block because they believed the Messiah would overthrow the Romans and establish His kingdom on earth. How could Jesus be the Messiah if He died on a tree? The Scriptures taught in Deuteronomy 21:23 that a man hanged on a tree was cursed. The cross was foolish to the Greeks because they believed their gods would never die for them. They think that any god who could or would die on a cross to save people would be foolish and weak. Therefore, anyone who would believe such a thing would be foolish and weak. The term used for "foolishness" here is the same one behind the English word moron.

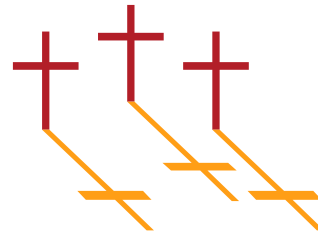
Paul is not saying that the believers in Corinth are truly foolish and weak. The world sees them as idiots and losers because they occupy service positions, are not well-educated, or do not have money, rank, or social standing.

Even more so, the world sees them as fools for believing in Jesus. In truth, though, by God's grace, these believers are the only ones who see clearly enough to receive what is actually wise and strong.

Remembering that God uses the weak and foolish for His glory is good because we don't have to be among the rich and famous to be used by God. However, we must not think pridefully about God using us for His glory. Remember, God even used a donkey to speak (Numbers 22:21-39).

Your shepherd,

Pastor Mark



Quote of the Week

"Christ's lordship is a blessed hope for some & a terrifying nightmare for others. Regardless of our response, it is an unalterable reality."
— Paul Washer

Grace Gems

God's most hated attribute! - Charles Spurgeon

"Our God is in the heavens; He does whatever He pleases!" Psalm 115:3

"The Lord does whatever pleases Him, throughout all heaven and earth, and on the seas and in their depths!" Psalm 135:6
"All the peoples of the earth are regarded as nothing. He does as He pleases with the powers of heaven and the peoples of the earth." Daniel 4:35

On the other hand, there is no doctrine more hated by worldlings, as the great, stupendous—but yet most certain doctrine of the Sovereignty of the infinite Jehovah! Men will allow God to be everywhere except on His throne! They will allow Him to be in His workshop to fashion worlds and make stars. They will allow Him to be in His almonry to dispense His alms and bestow His bounties. They will allow Him to sustain the earth and bear up the pillars thereof, or light the lamps of Heaven, or rule the waves of the ever-moving ocean.

But when God ascends His throne—then His creatures then gnash their teeth! And when we proclaim an enthroned God, and His right to do as He wills with His own, to dispose of His creatures as He thinks well, without consulting them in the matter—then it is that we are hissed and execrated, and then it is that men turn a deaf ear to us—for God on His throne, is not the God they love!

No doctrine in the whole Word of God has more excited the hatred of mankind, than the truth of the absolute sovereignty of God! Opposition to divine sovereignty is essentially atheism—and were it not for sovereign grace, none of us would ever have followed the path to Heaven. I am daily more and more convinced that the difference between one man and another, is not the difference between his use of his will—but the difference of grace that has been bestowed upon him.

"Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns!" Revelation 19:6
Stephen Charnock: "The great controversy between God and man has been, whether He or they shall be God; whether His reason or theirs, His will or theirs, shall be the guiding principle. If anything could frustrate God's will—then it would be superior to Him, God would not be omnipotent, and so would lose the perfection of the Deity, and consequently the Deity itself; for that which did wholly defeat God's will, would be more powerful than He. To be God and yet inferior to another, is a contradiction!"

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 Bible 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 Services 10:30AM
Sunday School 9:00AM
Children's Church @11:00AM

Giving from service on 10/20/2024

General Offering	\$5,063.90
Building Fund	\$1,075.00
Uganda Missions	\$230.00
Benevolence	\$50.00

Total.....	\$6,418.90
Attendance	233
Online.....	28

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

Oct 27, 2024

Welcome