

Pastor's Pen

"When Hearts Are Heavy"

"Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me." John 14:1

Solomon, renowned for his wisdom and wealth, describes in Ecclesiastes how achieving knowledge, riches, power, pleasure, and success left him unfulfilled. He reflects on the emptiness he experienced despite having everything he desired.

That's the journey Solomon shares in Ecclesiastes. As the wisest and wealthiest man of his time, Solomon had everything people dream of: knowledge, riches, power, pleasure, and success. Yet as he reflects in the opening chapters of Ecclesiastes, it all left him feeling empty. **"I said in my heart, 'Come now, I will test you with gladness, so that you shall see good things. And behold, it too was vanity.'**" (Ecclesiastes 2:1). He tried laughter, wine, grand projects, music, and romance. Still, he found himself asking: **"What does it profit a man?"** (Ecclesiastes. 1:3; 3:9)

When life becomes overwhelming and our burdens seem too much to bear, Jesus reminds us to trust deeply—both in God and in his own words of comfort. Sometimes our hearts grow weary, weighed down by circumstances beyond our control, yet the invitation remains: hold on to faith, even when clarity is elusive. When he found himself asking: **"What does it profit a man?"** (Ecclesiastes. 1:3; 3:9), Solomon wasn't being cynical—he was being honest. Life **"under the sun"** (a phrase he uses repeatedly) feels like chasing the wind. We work hard, strive for more, and still feel like something is missing. Why? Because we were never meant to find ultimate meaning in the things of this world.

John 14 is a profoundly comforting and powerful chapter in the Gospel of John. It is part of Jesus' farewell discourse to His disciples, spoken on the night before His crucifixion. Amidst life's struggles, Christians can be assured that God cares for them, regardless of the valley they are going through, because Jesus gives peace to all who believe in Him.

Every one of us has experienced the death of someone we love. There is much grief when we lose someone we love. However, we know that one day all who die in Christ will worship God forever in the New Jerusalem. How do we know this? Is this just wishful thinking? Absolutely not. In one of the most beautiful passages in Scripture, Jesus declared, **"In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you"** (John 14:2-3). Jesus, the one who died for you, has already prepared a place for you in His Father's house. Be at peace, Christian, even in the worst of times, for our God cares for you and awaits the time when you join Him forever.

Your shepherd,

Pastor Mark

Quote of the Week

"The most tremendous judgment of God in this world is the hardening of the hearts of men."

John Owen

Grace Gems

No hissing serpent!- Thomas Boston

Believers shall be made completely happy in the kingdom of Heaven. They shall be fully freed from sin, which of all evils, is the worst.

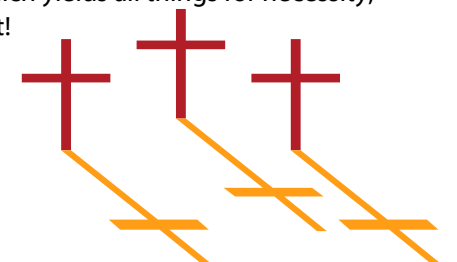
They shall be free from all temptation to sin. Satan can have no access to tempt them any more, by himself, or by his agents. No hissing serpent can come into the paradise above! No snare or trap can be laid there, to catch the feet of the saints. They may walk there without fear, for they can be in no hazard in the promised land. They shall be set beyond the possibility of sinning, for they shall be confirmed in holiness.

The guilt and the reigning power of sin are then taken away. The corrupt nature will be fully removed, and no vestiges of it left in their souls. Their nature shall be altogether pure and sinless. There shall be no darkness in their minds; but the understanding will be as a globe of pure and unmixed light. There shall not be the least aversion to good, nor the least inclination to evil, in their wills. They will be brought to a perfect conformity to the will of God - blessed with angelic purity, and fixed therein. Their affections shall not be liable to the least disorder or irregularity. They will get such a fixed habit of purity, as they can never lose. They will be so refined from all earthly dross, as never more to savor of anything but of Heaven. Their graces shall then be fully perfected.

There will be no more ground for complaints . . . of weakness of grace, or of an evil heart, or a corrupt nature.

And they shall be freed from all the effects of sin: **"God will remove all of their sorrows, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. For the old world and its evils are gone forever!"** (Revelation 21:4)

In Heaven they find the completion and satisfaction of all their desires - having the full enjoyment of God, and uninterrupted communion with Him. In the heavenly Canaan, Immanuel's land - nothing is lacking to complete the happiness of the inhabitants. This is the holy and happy country - blessed with a perpetual spring, and which yields all things for necessity, convenience, and delight!



Weekly Gatherings



Sunday Bible Classes

Elders- Old Testament (Sanctuary A)
Bereans- New Testament (Sanctuary B)
Ladies- (Downstairs B, Gray Room)
Young Adults- (Downstairs B, Red Rm.)
Youth and Surge (5th-6th)- (Upstairs C)
Children & Nursery (Downstairs C)



Weekday Meetings



Family Groups

All Family Groups on hiatus until September



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 & Surge!



Service Times

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

Giving from service on 07/06/2025

General Offering	\$8,980.43
Building Fund	\$2,205.25
Uganda	\$357.00
Benevolence	\$150.00

Total.....\$11,692.68
Attendance..... 200

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

ghbcva.org | 804.561.3742
9821 South Redfield Drive, Amelia, VA 23002

Grace Harvest Bible Church

July 13, 2025

Welcome