

Pastor's Pen

The God Who Will Not Share His Glory

"You shall not worship them or serve them; for I, Yahweh your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate Me,"

- Exodus 20:5

Many will look at this verse and say God is unfair. How can He hold the father's sin against his great-great-grandchildren? The truth is, He does not. The Prophet Ezekiel writes, ***"The soul who sins will die. The son will not bear the iniquity of the father, nor will the father bear the iniquity of the son;"*** (Ezekiel 18:20). So, wait, is Moses wrong or is Ezekiel wrong? The answer is neither.

When Exodus describes God as "a jealous God," it's not petty envy — it's holy zeal for His people's exclusive devotion. God's jealousy comes from His covenant love; He will not tolerate idols that enslave His people's hearts. His jealousy protects His glory and our well-being.

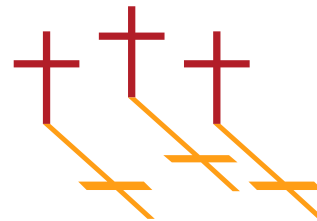
Exodus 20:5 doesn't mean that God holds innocent children guilty for their parents' sins. Instead, it shows that sin has ripple effects. When parents reject God, they often lead their children to do the same. The "visiting" of iniquity describes the tragic consequences of learned rebellion, not a transfer of guilt. In other words, sin has consequences for those who did not commit that sin.

John MacArthur explains it this way, "What this says is when you have a corrupt generation, it will take three or four generations with the best conditions to change that. So here it is: you're not going to fix it; don't try. Neither will your children, neither will your grandchildren, and probably neither will your great-grandchildren. This is your world, and their world, and the next world, and the next world. And it may be the last one; Jesus may come. But you're not going to change it, so stop trying. You can't change it politically, can't change it financially, it's how it is."

So what do we do? You love God, you love your neighbor (even your enemies), you love fellow believers. How do we show love to our enemies? Your enemy, your neighbors, they are your mission field. God did not save you to save this world. He called you to be His ambassador in a kingdom that is not our home. The world will hate you for belonging to Christ, but we must respond by sharing the truth of the Gospel.

John MacArthur, in his sermon, Hope For A Doomed Nation, said, "Your enemy is your mission field. Your enemy is your mission field. The world of enemies was God's mission field. God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son. Don't hate the enemy; love the enemy as God loves the enemy and sent His Son for their salvation." <https://www.gty.org/sermons/80-424/hope-for-a-doomed-nation>.

Your Shepherd
Pastor Mark



Quote of the Week

"This life is but a traveler's inn, where we take a lodging for a night or two, and are gone. The world is not our home, but our passage."

— Thomas Watson

Grace Gems

In the Father's eternal dwelling! By Spurgeon

John 14:1-3, ***"Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many dwelling places . . . I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with Me, that you may be where I am!"***

In these comforting words from Jesus, the Christian finds a profound reassurance for his troubled heart.

The Savior acknowledges the very real anxieties and fears that can weigh us down, but He responds with a call to unwavering faith. "You believe in God," He says, "believe also in Me!" This is an invitation to place our trust in the Son of God who has come to redeem His people from their sins. For in the Father's eternal home, Jesus declares, there are many dwelling places.

This is a promise of the glorious eternity that awaits all who follow Him. This is no mere earthly abode, but a heavenly home where the redeemed will dwell with their Lord forever.

And though Jesus has gone to prepare this glorious home for us, He assures us that He will return to receive us unto Himself.

What a profound and life-changing hope—that where Christ is, there we shall be forever!

In the midst of our troubled hearts, these words of Jesus offer the peace that surpasses all understanding. They remind us that our eternal destiny is secure in Him, and that the difficulties of this world are but temporary, for an eternity of joy with our Savior awaits.

Let us cling to these promises with unwavering faith, finding comfort in the knowledge that our heavenly home is being prepared, and that one day soon, we shall be united with our beloved Jesus forevermore!

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)



Weekday Meetings

AWANA—Wednesday's 6:30-8:00 pm
Men's Book Study—Monday at 7pm
and Fridays at 6am



Family Groups

All Family Groups began **Sept 25th**
Host Families: Tom & Penni Cox, Jesse &
Deborah Royall, Larry & Gina Covington,
Jeff & Bridget Brown, Alan & Leigh Anne
Chambers and Mark & Trisha Keffer



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



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 11/16/2025

General Offering	\$8,783.81
Building Fund	\$825.30
Uganda	\$140.00
Benevolence	\$190.00

Total.....\$9,939.11
Attendance 221

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
Widows-admin@ghbcva.org
HH-HomeschoolHub@ghbcva.org



GRACE HARVEST BIBLE CHURCH

GO GATHER GROW GO

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Grace Harvest Bible Church

Nov 23, 2025

