

Pastor's Pen

Does God Love Everyone?

"But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous." Matthew 5:44-45

Does God Love Everyone? Most people would answer yes, and they would not be entirely correct. In one sense, God loves everyone through His merciful love. What I mean by this is that God does not immediately punish unbelievers for their sins. When God blesses His people, unbelievers can be blessed as well. The passage above is another example of His merciful love.

However, when it comes to evangelizing the lost, many people will tell them that God loves them and has a better plan for them. Paul Washer commented on this type of false evangelism. "So you walk up to this man [sinner], and you say, "God loves you, and He has a wonderful plan for your life!" and he goes, "What? God loves me? That's fantastic. I LOVE ME, TOO! And He loves me more than I love me? Well, that's hard to imagine. I'll take a God like that." The truth is that before we are saved we are at enmity with God. James writes, "You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God (James 4:4)." Did you catch that? If you love the world, God declares you His enemy. Does not sound like He loves you the way the progressive preachers proclaim the Gospel.

Joel Osteen's wife, Victoria, declared one day from their church pulpit that God loves you just the way you are. Rick Warren proclaimed that God would never stop loving you even if you reject Him and go to hell. The truth is that God loves those who repent of their sin and trust in His Son, Jesus, as Lord and Savior.

Michael Houdmann explains God's love this way, "The love of God that justifies sinners is not extended to everyone, only to those who have faith in Jesus Christ (Romans 5:1). The love of God that brings people into intimacy with Himself is not extended to everyone, only to those who love the Son of God (John 14:21).

This love could be thought of as God's "covenant love," and it is conditional, given only to those who place their faith in Jesus for salvation (John 3:36). Those who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ are loved unconditionally, securely, forever."

The Gospel is offensive to the lost, but it does no good to water it down to try to convince someone to come to saving faith. Without transformation, there is no salvation.

Your shepherd,

Pastor Mark

Grace Gems

Very precious-(John Fawcett, "Christ Precious")

"Yes, He is very precious to you who believe!" 1 Peter 2:7

Jesus is precious to believers—as the bread of God coming down from heaven, and giving everlasting life to their souls. By Him they are really, constantly, and daily supported, fed and sustained. As bread is sweet and precious to a hungry man—so is Christ sweet and precious to those who live by Him. The entertainment that He gives to them—is a divine, a spiritual feast!

Jesus is precious to believers—as the Sun of Righteousness. The beams of His grace are healing, enlightening, cheering, and full of consolation. If natural light is sweet, if it is a pleasant thing to behold the sun—how much more pleasant to experience the irradiating influences of the Light of life!

Quote of the Week

"It is absurd to think that a man can believe in Christ, with his heart, and it not have a radical affect on the rest of his life."
~Paul Washer

Jesus is precious to believers—as the fountain where they bathe their weary souls, and in which they are cleansed from all sin and impurity. He is the tree of life, under the shadow of which, they sit with great delight, and His fruit is sweet to their taste. He is a rock, a strong tower, a hiding-place, where they find protection from every storm, and security from every foe. He was precious to the Psalmist under all these views—"I will love you, O Lord, my strength. The Lord is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer, my God, my strength in whom I trust; my shield, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower." It is therefore the delight of their lives—to know Him, to love and honor Him with their whole hearts, and to aspire after conformity to His blessed image, and His holy will.

"O blessed Redeemer, I find in you all that my poor helpless soul stands in need of. Though I have the greatest reason for shame and humiliation, on account of what I am in myself—yet in You I behold everything to elevate my hopes, and to afford me relief and encouragement! May my soul magnify the Lord, and my spirit rejoice in God my Savior! The characters and relations in which You have revealed Yourself to me in Your Word—exhibit a balm for every wound, and a cordial for every fear.

If I am naked—You are the Lord my righteousness.

If I am soul-sick—You are my physician.

If I am weak and helpless—You are my strength.

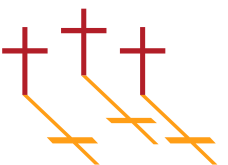
If I am neglected and despised—You are my compassionate and faithful friend.

If I am ignorant—You are made unto me wisdom.

If I am polluted and enslaved—You are made unto me sanctification and redemption.

If I am nothing but emptiness and vanity—You are full of grace and truth."

"Yes, He is very precious to you who believe!" 1 Peter 2:7



Weekly Gatherings

Bible Classes

Old & New Testament Classes
Ladies Class
Young Adults Young Parents
Youth Surge
Sunday Morning @ 9:30AM

Weekday Meetings

Mondays | 7PM
Men's Bible Study
1st and 3rd Saturday
Women of Grace | 9AM

Family Groups

Thursdays @ 7PM
every other week @ Chambers, Cox's,
Patrick's, Brown's and Royall's

Build the Body Teams

If you would like to serve on a BtB Team
and forgot to sign up, please contact the
team leader at the appropriate email
address.

Youth Study

Wednesdays @6:30PM
Youth Study and AWANA!

Service Times

Sunday Services 8AM & 11:00AM
Sunday School 9:30AM
Children's Church @11:00AM

Giving from service on 9/25/2022

General Offering	7,795.15
Building Fund	346.35
Uganda	365.00
Total.....	8,506.50

Attendance	247
Sunday School	174
Online.....	21

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
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Grace Harvest Baptist Church

Oct 02, 2022

Welcome