

Pastor's Pen

Even Judas Preached

"And they went out and preached that men should repent. And they were casting out many demons and were anointing with oil many sick people and healing them." Mark 6:12-13

Years ago, I heard John MacArthur say, "The greatest danger to the church is not the world, it's not the government, it's not the occult. The greatest danger to the church is the false teacher who stands in the pulpit." False teachers can blend in very well. In the Gospel of Mark, Jesus sent out the 12 (Judas included), ***"And He summoned the twelve and began to send them out in pairs, and was giving them authority over the unclean spirits; (Mark 6:7)." Even though the 12 Apostles spent three years together the 11 did not know that Judas was a deceiver.***

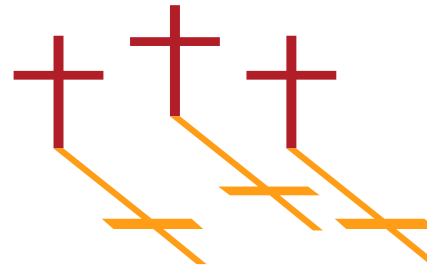
When Jesus sent out the twelve disciples two by two, He gave them authority to preach, cast out demons, and heal the sick. Jesus used the 12 to preach the Gospel. It was a decisive moment of ministry, one where the kingdom of God visibly advanced. But pause and consider this: Judas Iscariot was one of those twelve. He preached repentance. He likely healed. He may have cast out demons. Yet, he was the son of perdition (literally means one destined for destruction or one characterized by ruin).

Judas's participation in ministry did not mean he truly followed Christ as a believer. He walked with Jesus, heard every sermon, saw every miracle, but his heart remained unchanged. His life is a solemn reminder that external ministry does not guarantee internal transformation.

Many Churches today are filled with people who follow Christ because false teachers have promised them health and wealth. Like Judas, they try to use Jesus for their own personal gain. We live in a time where performance can be mistaken for spiritual health—where platform can be confused with faithfulness. But the call of Jesus is not first to do great things in His name, but to love Him and be known by Him (Matthew 7:22–23).

Be on guard Christian, test what you hear from those who would claim to speak for God. If what someone teaches from the pulpit cannot be backed up by Scripture, then they are not preaching God's truth, but their truth to manipulate the unsuspecting.

Your shepherd,
Pastor Mark



Quote of the Week

"A dog barks when his master is attacked. I would be a coward if I saw that God's truth is attacked and yet would remain silent."

-John Calvin

Grace Gems

The God of contemporary Christianity!- A.W. Tozer

"These things you have done, and I kept silent. You thought that I was altogether like you! But I will rebuke you and accuse you to your face!" Psalm 50:21

The God of contemporary Christianity is only slightly superior to the pagan gods of ancient Greece and Rome, if indeed He is not actually inferior to them-in that He is weak and helpless, while they at least had some imagined power.

Among the sins to which the human heart is prone, hardly any other is more hateful to God than idolatry; for idolatry is at bottom a libel on His character. The idolatrous heart assumes that God is other than He is, in itself a monstrous sin; and substitutes for the true God, one made after its own likeness. Always this God will conform to the image of the one who created it-and will be base or pure, cruel or kind, according to the moral state of the mind from which it emerges.

The essence of idolatry is the entertainment of thoughts about God that are unworthy of Him. Wrong ideas about God are not only the fountain from which the polluted waters of idolatry flow, they are themselves idolatrous. The idolater simply imagines things about God, and acts as if they were true.

If we insist upon trying to imagine Him-we end with an idol, made not with hands but with thoughts. And an idol of the mind, is as offensive to God as an idol of the hand! Before a Christian Church goes into a decline, there must first be a corrupting of her Scriptural thoughts of God. She simply gives a wrong answer to the question, "What is God like?" and goes downhill from there. Though she may continue to cling to a sound nominal creed, her practical working creed has become false. The masses of her adherents come to believe that God is different from what He actually is, and that is heresy of the most insidious and deadly kind!

The heaviest obligation lying upon the Christian Church today is to purify and elevate her concept of God, until it is once more worthy of Him, and of her!

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 beginning Sept 17th 6:30-8
Men's Book Study—Monday & Friday beginning Sept 15th @ 7pm and Sept 19th at 6am



Family Groups

All Family Groups beginning **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 08/25/2025

General Offering	\$8,624.75
Building Fund	\$1,350.75
Uganda	\$540.00
Benevolence	\$120.00

Total.....\$10,635.50
Attendance..... 252

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

Aug 31, 2025

