

Pastor's Pen

Friends!

"Now it happened when he had finished speaking to Saul, that the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul." 1 Samuel 18:11

The story of David and Johnathan's friendship is one of those stories in scripture that can be quickly overlooked. They could not have been more different than one another. David was a shepherd; Jonathan was a prince. Jonathan had his own armor; David had a harp and a slingshot. Jonathan grew up in the palace and was trained in the art of war; David grew up in a village and was trained to tend sheep. Jonathan was the oldest son and in line to inherit the throne; David was the youngest of eight boys and anointed the next king in place of Jonathan. Jonathan was from the tribe of Benjamin, David was from the tribe of Judah. Despite their differences, they became dear friends.

Many assume that David and Johnathan were around the same age, but the fact is that David was 30 years younger than Jonathan. Near the beginning of Saul's reign, his son, Jonathan was already fighting. Israelite men did not become soldiers until they were at least twenty years old (Numbers 1:3). Saul reigned 40 years (Acts 13:21). He and Jonathan died in the same battle (1 Sam. 31:2-6). Thus, Jonathan was at least sixty when he died, while David was only thirty (2 Sam. 5:4). Despite this age difference, they had an endearing friendship. So attached was David to his loyal friend that, after Jonathan's death, David wrote a song to him, a tribute filled with heart-wrenching pathos (2 Samuel 1:19-27). Theirs was a friendship closer than brotherhood.

One of the great blessings that God gives us in this life is a close friendship with another believer. The Bible describes a true friend in the following ways: ***They forgive and do not hold grudges (Proverbs 17:9). They are loyal (Proverbs 18:24). They influence godly behavior (Proverbs 27:17). They correct in love (Proverbs 27:5-6). They show love no matter the circumstance (Proverbs 17:17). A true friend gives heartfelt advice, bringing joy to the heart (Proverbs 27:9). A true friend helps in time of need (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12).***

"Friendship is unnecessary, like philosophy, like art ... It has no survival value; rather it is one of those things which give value to survival."
— C.S. Lewis

Your shepherd,
Pastor Mark

Quote of the Week

"Let those be thy choicest companions who have made Christ their chief companion."

-Thomas Brooks

Grace Gems

"Let those be thy choicest companions who have made Christ their chief companion."

-Thomas Brooks Six Words of Comfort- Chad Bird

When we stand with Adam and Eve, east of Eden, looking back on the gardens we have destroyed because we couldn't keep our hands off forbidden fruit; when we weep over lost loves, lost chances, lost lives; over all the sounds of shame, accusation, and judgment ring these six saving words, "With Christ I have been crucified."

He stands with us, east of Eden, to bring us back into the Father's favor.

When we stand with Abraham and Sarah, surrounded by enemies, perplexed by unfulfilled promises, wondering what the future will hold; when we mar our marriages with bad decisions, as they did; when we come up with "better plans" than God's own that welcome woe into our lives; when all this happens, shouting louder than all the voices of fear and failure that roar within our conscience is this strong and sure word, "With Christ I have been crucified."

He stands with us, and all around us, to uphold us with his forgiving mercy.

When we find ourselves on the run with Jacob, separated from family, plagued by the unknown; when, like Joseph, we are stabbed in the back by those closest to us and left to rot in a life that feels like a prison cell; when it seems as if even God has abandoned us in an Egyptian dungeon; along come the words that promise nothing separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. For "with Christ I have been crucified."

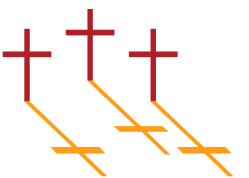
He stands with us, even when all others abandon us. Our lives are his and his our own. It is no longer we who live but Christ who lives in us. For we have died, and our lives are hidden with Christ in God.

Lest sin's deceit, or death's despair,

Or Satan's charms, your soul ensnare,

Onto your heart these words inscribe,

With Christ I have been crucified!



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 11/10/2024

General Offering	\$8,591.45
Building Fund	\$1,679.00
Uganda Missions	\$195.00
Benevolence	\$103.00
Christmas SOS.....	\$200.00

Total.....\$10,768.45
Attendance..... 230
Online..... 30

Christmas SOS goal \$8,000.....so far \$200.00

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

Nov 17, 2024

Welcome