

Pastor's Pen

Pride!

But I tell you that every careless word that people speak, they shall give an accounting for it in the day of judgment. Matthew 12:36

Last month our nation made the ungodly decision to celebrate, endorse, and promote a perverse and sinful lifestyle. Walk into almost any store, and you are bombarded with rainbows and pride merchandise. I clicked on pride month on Google, and confetti fell from the top of the screen down, and at the bottom of the screen marched people holding flags that proudly displayed their desire for perversion. At the White House, President Biden, in front of a huge banner celebrating pride month, said,

"Happy Pride Month. Happy Pride year. Happy Pride life. We're joined today by leaders across our administration, which has more proud staff at every level than any administration in American history. Our Secretary of tap- — of Transportation, Pete Buttigieg. And we have the first and second transgender Americans to the — be confirmed by the United States Senate in history: Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services Admiral Rachel Levine and Undersecretary of Defense Shawn Skelly. And, by the way — by the way, I am proud that back home in Delaware the first transgender state legislator in American history, Sarah McBride. I also want to thank two people who couldn't be here but who made this possible: My dear friend Tim Gill and his husband Scott Miller who is doing a terrific job as my Ambassador to Switzerland. And it's wonderful to welcome all of you to the — and over a thousand Americans from all across the country. We're gathered here today to honor the extraordinary — and I'm not being solicitous — the extraordinary courage and contributions of the LGBTQ community, to celebrate their legacy and their progress. And we welcome to the largest Pride Month celebration ever held at the White House. But just the beginning."

God gave the Prophet Hosea these words, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from ministering as My priest. Since you have forgotten the law of your God, I Myself also will forget your children (Hosea 4:6)". While that was directed towards God's people at that time, we can find application for our nation today. We are a nation that God no longer blesses. We cannot be because it would contradict who God is. We are under God's judgment because we have abandoned Him as a nation. John MacArthur writes the following on the wrath of abandonment by God: "It is a form of God's wrath in which He lets go of a society and lets it catapult full speed without restraint in the direction of its own sinful desires and devices and choices." Any Christian can see the abandonment all around us. However, there is still good news. God will never forsake those who belong to Him. I was a boy living in Germany in 1962 when the Cuban missile crisis occurred. Even though I was only six years old, I remember how upset my mother was that we might be going to war with Russia. I can remember my dad reassuring you that we would be fine. Years later, I talked with him about that crisis, and I will never forget what he said, "Mark, you never have to worry about us being defeated by another country, but we can defeat ourselves." I understand his words now more than I ever have. Yet, while we may suffer the consequences of a nation that hates God and is heading full speed to self-destruction, we have His promise as believers that He will never leave us nor forsake those that are a part of His flock. Nations will be judged, and they will come and go. But, God's Elect hold unto the promise that we will never face the wrath to come. There will be a time when all those who rejected Christ will face the penalty for their sin and experience the wrath of God for all eternity.

Your shepherd,
Pastor Mark

Quote of the Week

"Nothing grieves me so much as that I cannot live constantly to God's glory."
-Jonathan Edwards

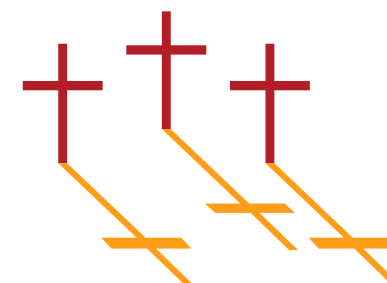
Grace Gems

Growing worse?

(John Angell James, "Christian Progress" 1853)

One of the last lessons we effectually learn, is that true godliness is a constant conflict in a believer's heart between sin and holiness. Some sincere believers mistake a clearer view and deeper sense of their depravity, for an actual increase of sin. The Christian seems sometimes to himself, to be growing worse, when actually it is only that he sees more clearly what in fact he really is!

In the early stages of our Christian life, we have usually but a slender acquaintance with the evil of our sinfulness and the depravity of our heart. The mind is so much taken up with pardon and eternal life, that it is but imperfectly acquainted with those depths of deceit and wickedness which lie hidden in itself. At first we seem to feel as if the serpent were killed. But we soon find that he was only asleep—for by the warmth of some fiery temptation, he is revived and hisses at us again! Nothing astonishes an inexperienced believer more than the discoveries he is continually making of the evils of his heart. Corruptions which he never dreamed to be in him, are brought out by some new circumstances. It is like turning up the soil, which brings out worms and insects, which did not appear upon the surface. Or to vary the illustration, his increasing knowledge of God's holy nature, of the perfect law, and the example of Christ—is like opening the shutters, and letting light into a dark room, the filth of which, the inhabitant did not see until the sunbeams disclosed it to him.



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 @ Brown's
Other groups off for the summer

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

Giving from service on 06/25/2023

General Offering8,134.94
Building Fund4,677.75
Uganda Missions 260.00

Total.....\$13,072.69
Attendance 238
Online.....23

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



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

Grace Harvest Baptist Church

July 02, 2023

Welcome