

Pastor's Pen

"Goodness and Mercy Without End"

"Give thanks to Yahweh, for He is good; For His lovingkindness endures forever." Psalm 118:1

Life is hard. People deal with sickness, death, pain, and suffering throughout their lives. As Christians, we are not immune to any of this. Let's face it, sometimes it is challenging to deal with the life that we have. Sometimes we don't feel like praising God and thanking Him for the pain and suffering that we must endure.

Yet, as believers, we know that our suffering is not without purpose. We might never understand God's purpose, but we know, **"And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose."** (Rom. 8:28) Cathy and I have experienced His lovingkindness throughout her dealing with Parkinson's. Her body suffers, yet our faith grows as we experience His mercy and grace, which enable us to persevere. Many would say it's not fair when valleys come, yet I can echo Job's words with all sincerity: **"Shall we indeed accept good from God and not accept calamity?"** (Job 2:10)

It is easy to forget just how good God is when life feels overwhelming or unfair. However, the psalmist reminds us that God's goodness is not situational; it is always constant. Every sunrise, every breath, every act of provision is a reflection of His character.

The psalm emphasizes not only God's goodness but also His lovingkindness—His steadfast mercy that never fails. The word "endures" reminds us that God's mercy is not temporary, conditional, or fleeting. Unlike human love, which can fade or fail, God's lovingkindness stretches forever through every trial, every sorrow, and every joy.

Gratitude naturally flows when we meditate on His eternal goodness. To give thanks is more than saying "thank you"; it is an acknowledgment of God's unchanging character and faithfulness. It's choosing to see life through the lens of His mercy, even when circumstances suggest otherwise.

Your shepherd,
Pastor Mark

Grace Gems

Do you understand what you read?
-Charles Spurgeon

"Do you understand what you read?" Acts 8:30

We would be better teachers of others, and less liable to be carried about by every wind of doctrine—if we sought to have a more intelligent understanding of the Word of God. As the Holy Spirit, the Author of the Scriptures, is He who alone can enlighten us rightly to understand them—we should constantly ask His teaching and His guidance into all truth.

Quote of the Week

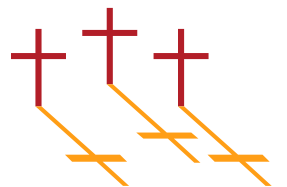
"We are called to live not according to our feelings, but according to God's Word and promises."
-Sinclair B. Ferguson

When the prophet Daniel would interpret Nebuchadnezzar's dream, what did he do? He set himself to earnest prayer that God would open up the vision. The apostle John, in his vision at Patmos, saw a book sealed with seven seals which none was found worthy to open, or so much as to look upon. The book was afterwards opened by the Lion of the tribe of Judah; but it is written first, **"I wept much!"** The tears of John, which were his liquid prayers, were, so far as he was concerned, the sacred keys by which the sealed book was opened!

Therefore, if, for your own and others' profiting, you desire to be **"filled with the knowledge of God's will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding,"** then remember that prayer is your best means of study!

Like Daniel, you shall understand the dream, and the interpretation thereof—when you have sought unto God. And like John, you shall see the seven seals of precious truth unloosed—after you have wept much.

Stones are not broken, except by an earnest use of the hammer; and the stone-breaker must go down on his knees. Use the hammer of diligence, and let the knee of prayer be exercised—and there is not a stony doctrine in Scripture, which is useful for you to understand, which will not fly into shivers under the exercise of prayer and faith! You may force your way through anything—with the chisel of prayer. Prayer is the crowbar which forces open the iron chest of sacred mystery, that we may get the treasure hidden within! So shall you grow healthy, strong, and happy in the divine life!



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 09/28/2025

General Offering	\$8,955.33
Building Fund	\$861.00
Uganda	\$215.00
Benevolence	\$230.00

Total.....\$10,261.33
Attendance 237

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

Oct 5, 2025

