

Pastor's Pen

The focus of our worship

"And after coming into the house they saw the Child with Mary His mother; and they fell to the ground and worshiped Him." Matthew 2:11

This week, we will gather with family and friends and celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. As followers of Christ, we do not worship Jesus one day a year.

The Scripture tells us that the Magi fulfilled their quest to find the child they knew as the long-prophesied ***"King of the Jews."*** When they finally reached the home of Joseph and Mary they fell to the ground and worshiped Jesus.

Matthew's recording of this event tells us the proper focus of a believer's worship. Jesus, and only Jesus is worthy of worship, not His earthly parents. One of the many false beliefs Roman Catholicism promotes is the worship of Mary. In his *Ineffabilis Deus* in 1854, Pope Pius IX established as dogma the immaculate conception of Mary, which preserved her from inheriting original sin. His concluding statements provide a good summary of the Catholic view of Mary.

"Let all the children of the Catholic Church, who are so very dear to us, hear these words of ours. With a still more ardent zeal for piety, religion and love, let them continue to venerate, invoke and pray to the most Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, conceived without original sin. Let them fly with utter confidence to this most sweet Mother of mercy and grace in all dangers, difficulties, needs, doubts and fears. Under her guidance, under her patronage, under her kindness and protection, nothing is to be feared; nothing is hopeless. Because, while bearing toward us a truly motherly affection and having in her care the work of our salvation, she is solicitous about the whole human race.

And since she has been appointed by God to be the Queen of heaven and earth, and is exalted above all the choirs of angels and saints, and even stands at the right hand of her only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, she presents our petitions in a most efficacious manner. What she asks, she obtains. Her pleas can never be unheard."

Jesus is the only one worthy of our worship. He is the one who intercedes on a believer's behavior. He is the only one who forgives us of our sins when we repent and believe. This Christmas, let us remember what God has done. If He is Lord and Savior of your life, He has given you eternal life in His presence forever.

Your shepherd,

Pastor Mark

Grace Gems

Imitate the loving Jesus!-Charles Spurgeon

Let us ever imitate the loving Jesus. The child comes to Him; He takes it on His knee, saying, "Let the little children come unto Me, and forbid them not."

A widow has just lost her only son; He weeps at the coffin, and with a word restores life to the dead man. He sees a paralytic, a leper, or a man long confined to his bed; He speaks, they rise and are healed.

Quote of the Week

"We tend to focus our attention at Christmas on the infancy of Christ. The greater truth of the holiday is His deity."

- John Macarthur

He lived for others, not for Himself. His constant labors were without any motive, except the good of those who lived in the world. And to crown all, you know the mighty sacrifice He made, when He condescended to lay down His life for man when on the tree, quivering with agony, and hanging in the utmost extremity of suffering—He submitted to die for our sakes, that we might be saved!

Behold in Christ, 'love consolidated'. He was one mighty pillar of benevolence! Christ is love!

Oh, you Christians, you should be loving also. Let your love and your beneficence beam out on all men!

Each in your proper sphere—speak kind words, do kind actions. Live out Christ again in the "kindness of your life". If there is one virtue which most commends Christians, it is that of kindness; it is to love the people of God, to love the church, to love the world, to love all.

But how many have we in our churches of crab-tree Christians, who have mixed such a vast amount of vinegar, and such a tremendous quantity of gall in their constitutions, that they can scarcely speak one good word to you. They imagine it impossible to defend religion except by passionate ebullitions.

They cannot speak for their dishonored Master without being angry with their opponent; and if anything is awry, whether it be in the house, the church, or anywhere else—they conceive it to be their duty to set their faces like flint, and to defy everybody.

They are like isolated icebergs; no one cares to go near them. They float about on the sea of forgetfulness, until at last they are melted and gone. And though, good souls, we shall be happy enough to meet them in Heaven, we are very glad to get rid of them from the earth! They were always so unamiable in disposition, that we would rather live an eternity with them in Heaven, than five minutes on earth.

Don't you be like this, my brethren. Imitate Christ in your loving spirits. Speak kindly, act kindly, and do kindly—that men may say of you, "He has been with Jesus!"

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
Wednesdays | 6:30PM AWANA

Family Groups

Thursdays @ 7PM
Please check church website
for start date and directions to each

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 12/17/2023

General Offering	8,439.32
Building Fund	13,702.00
Uganda Missions	445.00
Benevolence	1,000.00

Total.....\$23,586.32
Attendance 200

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
Baptist Church
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Grace Harvest Baptist Church

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Welcome