

Pastor's Pen

El Roi!

Then she called the name of Yahweh who spoke to her, "You are a God who sees"; for she said, "Have I even remained alive here after seeing Him?"

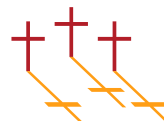
Gen. 16:13

El Roi is the Hebrew word for God of seeing. This is the name that Hagar gave to God when He rescued her. Hagar was the handmaiden of Abram's wife, Sarai. She had given her to her husband to conceive a child since we thought she was barren. However, as you would expect, everything did not turn out well. After becoming pregnant with Abram's child, Hagar looked contemptuously at Sarai. Sarai was not going to stand for it and demanded Abram do something. But Abram put it back on Sarai and she treated Hagar so harshly that she fled (Gen. 16:3-6).

Hagar, alone and pregnant, must have felt fear and anxiety about her and her child's future. Scripture tells us that the angel of the Lord found her. Biblical scholars identify the angel of the Lord here as the pre-incarnate Christ. Jesus asks her where have you come from and where are you going. Obviously, God already knew the answer because He is sovereign. He allows Hagar to respond. The Angel of the Lord tells her to go back and submit to Sarai.

Because He saw her in a time of distress when she was hiding and journeying in the wilderness, Hagar acknowledged Him as El Roi, that is, "the God of Seeing," or "the God Who Sees". What a tremendous promise for us today. God sees you. He sees you in your time of distress and in your time of need. He will never leave you or forsake you (Hew.13:5-6).

Your shepherd,
Pastor Mark



Grace Gems

An infallible test!-(Samuel Davies, "The Nature of Love to God and Christ, Opened and Enforced")

"If anyone does not love the Lord-a curse be on him!" 1 Corinthians 16:22

If you truly love the Lord Jesus Christ-then you earnestly study and endeavor to please Him by a life of universal obedience. Love is always desirous to please the person beloved; and it will naturally lead to a conduct that is pleasing. This, then, you may be sure of, that if you truly love Jesus-then it is the labor of your life to please Him.

The only way to please Jesus, and the best test of your love to Him-is obedience to His commandments. This is made the decisive mark by Christ Himself: **"If anyone loves Me-he will obey My teaching. He who does not love Me-will not obey My teaching."** **John 14:23, 24**

Jesus repeats this theme over and over in different forms: **"Whoever has My commands and obeys them -he is the one who loves Me," verse 21. "If you love Me-you will obey what I command," verse 15. "You are My friends-if you do what I command." John 15:14. "This is love for God,"** says John; that is, it is the surest evidence, and the natural, inseparable effect of our love to God, "that we obey His commands.

Quote of the Week

"The godly are destined for
inconceivable happiness!"
- Johnathan Edwards

And His commands are not burdensome."

1 John 5:3; that is, they will not seem grievous to one who obeys them from the principle of sincere love.

Here, then, you who profess to love the Lord Jesus- here is an infallible test for your love! Do you make it the great aim of your life to keep His commandments? Do you honestly endeavor to perform every duty which He has required-and that because He has commanded it? And do you vigorously resist and struggle against every sin, however constitutional, however fashionable, however gainful-because He forbids it? And is the way of obedience pleasant to you? Would you choose this holy way to Heaven, rather than any other-if it were left to your choice?

Your not loving God-if it continues, will certainly lead you to Hell. You are fit for no other place! Where should the enemies of God be-but in an infernal prison? There is the same propriety in throwing you into Hell-as in shutting up madmen in bedlam, or rebels in a dungeon! Why, you are devilized already! You have the very temperament of devils! Enmity to God is the grand constituent of a devil-it is the worst ingredient in that infernal disposition; and this you have in your hearts, and, as it were, incorporated with your habitual temperament! And what do you think will become of you? Judge for yourselves-must you not be doomed to that everlasting fire, which was prepared for the devil and his angels-whom you resemble?

"If anyone does not love the Lord-a curse be on him!" 1 Corinthians 16:22

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 Book Study
Fridays | 6AM Men's Book 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 School 9:00AM
Children's Church 10:30AM
Sunday Services 10:30AM

Giving from service on 01/19/2025

General Offering	\$9,201.88
Building Fund	\$2,789.00
Uganda	\$237.00
Total.....\$12,227.88	
Attendance	224

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

Jan 26, 2025

Welcome