

Pastor's Pen

A Worthy Life!

"Only live your lives in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ," (Phil. 1:27)

Many have wondered what the meaning of life is. Viktor E. Frankl (1905–1997) was an Austrian neurologist, psychiatrist, Holocaust survivor, and the founder of logotherapy, a form of existential psychotherapy centered on the search for meaning in life. He wrote, *"Life is never made unbearable by circumstances, but only by lack of meaning and purpose."*

When one becomes a Christian, one's life's meaning is made undeniably clear. Question #1 of the Westminster Shorter Catechism (1647) is, *"What is the chief end of man?"* A: *Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy Him forever.* "The purpose of our lives is not to be happy, or wealthy, or even healthy; our purpose is to glorify God.

Paul's words to the Philippians are both weighty and straightforward: **"Live your life in a manner worthy of the Gospel of Christ."** (Phil 1:27a) If the Gospel tells us that Jesus humbled Himself, loved sacrificially, forgave enemies, and conquered sin and death through the cross, then our lives should echo those same themes.

The word Paul uses for "manner of life" carries the idea of citizenship. Paul reminds them and every other believer that we are first and foremost citizens of heaven. Our loyalty, our conduct, and our purpose should reflect the kingdom of God, not the values of the world around us. Whether in private or public, whether suffering or thriving, Paul is urging believers to live with integrity, unity, and courage. Why? So that our lives match the message we proclaim.

Many temptations in a believer's life will draw them away from living a life worthy of the Gospel. All believers need to remember the words of Jesus when He said, **"If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me."** (Luke 9:23)

To be clear, living for Christ is not easy. Neither Jesus nor the early church Fathers taught that it would be. However, we have received our battle cry. We must stand firm and live a life worthy of the Gospel, no matter where that leads.

Your shepherd,
Pastor Mark

Grace Gems

Fruitfulness
-John MacArthur

"For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 1:8).

If you are a Christian, your life will produce spiritual fruit. If you want to enjoy assurance of salvation in all its richness, you need to faithfully pursue all the virtues we have been studying this past week. The reason is simple—they produce fruit in the Christian life, and nothing is a better indicator of true salvation than that. It was the criterion Christ used to distinguish between the true and false believer (Matt. 7:15-20).

Quote of the Week

"You do not have a soul. You are a soul. You have a body."
-C. S. Lewis

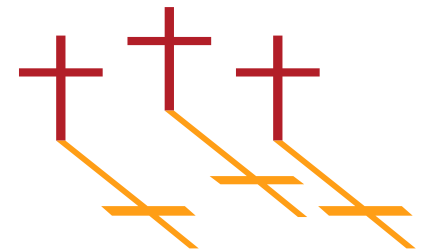
The reasonable question that ought to arise next is, what is fruit? The New Testament says it encompasses many righteous activities. Paul says winning souls to Christ is **"fruit"** (Rom. 1:13). The apostle calls the house of Stephanas **"the first fruits of Achaia"** (1 Cor. 16:15). In Philippians 4:17 Paul refers to money given in the support of ministry as fruit. The writer of Hebrews says *"praise is the fruit of our lips"* (Heb. 13:15). The act of praying is also a spiritual fruit.

Behind every one of those righteous actions is the right attitude, because **"the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control"** (Gal. 5:22-23). If you act without a godly attitude, it is only legalism, not genuine spiritual fruit.

All the Spirit-endowed virtues, actions, and attitudes we have discussed, if they are in your life, will assure you that you'll be **"neither useless nor unfruitful."** **"Useless"** is also used in James 2:20 in relation to dead faith. If you incorporate into your life the virtues of 2 Peter 1:5-7, your faith will not be dead or ineffective.

"Unfruitful" is also used in Matthew 13:22 of the person with a weedy heart and of false, apostate teachers in Jude 12. When you don't live a virtuous life, you are the same as an apostate or a worldly hanger-on in the church.

"In the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ" refers to true believers, those who possess truth as opposed to error. Because you know Christ, you have the ability to live a virtuous life (see Eph. 1:3; 2 Peter 1:3). When you do, God will give you true assurance.



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)
Children & Nursery (Downstairs C)



Weekday Meetings



Family Groups

All Family Groups on hiatus until September



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 School 9:00AM
Children's Church 10:30AM
Sunday Services 10:30AM

Giving from service on 07/27/2025

General Offering	\$9,276.36
Building Fund	\$2,023.75
Uganda	\$125.00
Benevolence	\$90.00

Total.....\$11,515.11
Attendance..... 254

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

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

Grace Harvest Bible Church

Aug 3, 2025

