

Pastor's Pen

"When Heaven Bends Down"

"I love Yahweh, because He hears My voice and my supplications." Psalm 116:1

Everyone wants to be heard. Spouses want to know that when they are sharing with their husband or wife, they are intently listening. Children, when they are talking to their parents, want to know that mommy and daddy care about what they have to say. The elderly want their children to listen and not ignore them when they come to visit. All of us at one time or another have failed to listen to those we love.

Love often grows out of being truly heard. When someone listens to us with care, our hearts are drawn closer to them. The psalmist declares his love for the Lord for this very reason: God hears. He is not a distant, uncaring God, unmoved by our cries. He bends down, inclines His ear, and receives every whisper, every groan, every wordless prayer.

The psalmist does not begin with duty, ritual, or obligation; he starts with love. That love flows from a deeply personal experience: God heard him. The verse is not simply about answered prayer, but about a God who leans in, who inclines His ear to His children.

Notice the intimacy: my voice and my supplications. God doesn't just hear prayers in general; He hears your voice. Your cry does not get lost in the noise of the world. The infinite, all-powerful Creator bends low to receive the words of your heart.

This is the beauty of prayer. It is not merely a religious act; it is a relationship. Every whispered request, every broken plea, every joyful word of thanksgiving is precious to Him. And the natural response to such divine attentiveness is love. The psalmist's love is not abstract; it is tethered to real experience. "I love the LORD, because..." Love grows deeper when we remember the specific ways God has met us in our need.

Your shepherd,
Pastor Mark

Grace Gems

No Greater Victory
-Alistair Begg

"There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus." Romans 8:1

One of the perennial misconceptions about Christianity is that God views each of us as a sort of living scoreboard: one side lights up with our sins and failures, the other tallies our good deeds and victories, and so long as the good wins out in the final score, the results will be good enough for God—right?

But the fact of the matter is that if we tally up our sins and compare them to our obedience, we're always losing. It's not even a competition, really. Like when a pro team faces off against a junior varsity squad, it'll be a blowout. Still, too many of us fool ourselves into thinking we have time for a comeback—we can fix ourselves up just enough before the final whistle blows or work hard enough to come out victorious.

Such thinking isn't even on the same playing field as the gospel. And it misses grace entirely.

It is never our own score that helps our standing before God. No, it has to be Christ's. In the words of Paul's letter to the Ephesians, your salvation **"is not your own doing; it is the gift of God"** (Ephesians 2:8). The gift is Christ's perfect tally in our place. Nothing less than His perfect righteousness will do.

When you really begin to understand the gospel, it sounds too good to be true. What person deserves such extravagant grace? But that is precisely the point. Our salvation is completely a gift, and it is utterly undeserved. We don't deserve it now, nor could we ever. But God grants mercy to us regardless. He declares us victorious—no condemnation!—because of Jesus Christ, and only because of Him.

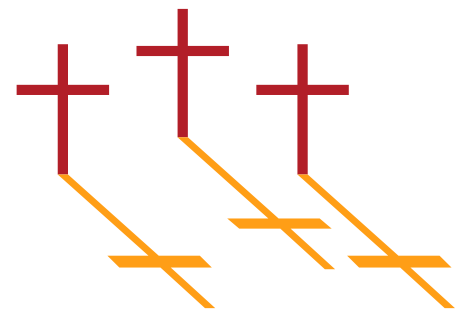
Being a Christian does not immunize you against taking a scoreboard approach to life. Paul's entire letter to the Galatian church was to urge them not to give up on grace. We face a constant battle to remember that it is in Christ, and only ever in Christ and never in our performance, that we enjoy "no condemnation." Have you lost the joy of your salvation? It is likely because you are looking too much at yourself and too little at Jesus. In the Christian life, there is no need for despair and no room for pride because it is never about you; it is always about Him.

In Christ Jesus, God gives you the win. There's no greater gift, no greater victory, and no greater joy.

Quote of the Week

"To continually reject God's truth causes the conscience to become progressively less sensitive to sin, as if covered with layers of unspiritual scar tissue."

-John MacArthur



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 09/21/2025

General Offering	\$6,139.25
Building Fund	\$867.00
Uganda	\$190.00
Benevolence	\$210.00

Total.....\$7,406.25
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

Sept 28, 2025

