

# Pastor's Pen

If You Know Him, You'll Show Him

***"And by this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments."*** 1 John 2:3

Have you ever wondered how you can know if you are saved? There are many people in the world today who have a false sense of salvation. They may think that because they prayed and invited Jesus into their hearts as children, they are Christians. Some will point to their baptism as evidence of their salvation. Years ago, a woman was talking to one of our pastors about her son, with whom she was having problems. He asked if he was a Christian, and she said yes and pulled out his baptism certificate to prove it. Needless to say, a baptism certificate or the fact that one has been baptized is not proof of salvation.

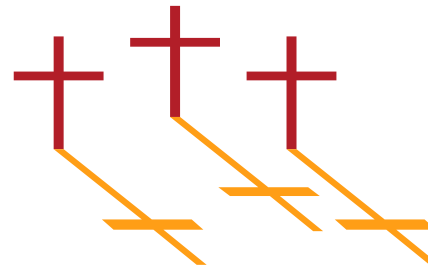
So how do we know we belong to Christ, that we are born again, a child of God? The proof is in our fruit. Just as you can't get grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles, you can't get godliness from a corrupt heart. Faithful followers of Christ bear fruit that reflects their connection to Him—fruit like ***"love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control."*** (Galatians 5:22–23).

In addition, John informs believers that if we are truly His, we will keep His commandments. If we obey the three great commandments: Love God, Love your neighbor, Love fellow believers, then it is evidence that we have come to know Him. We won't do it perfectly, but our lives will be devoted to obeying His commands.

Have you come to know Christ as Lord and Savior? Have you acknowledged before a Holy God that you are a sinner and that you can not earn your way to be with God forever? Have you turned from that sin and trusted Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection as payment for your sin? If you have not, I beg you to turn to Christ, turn from your sin, and make Jesus Lord and Savior of your life.

If you think you are His, ask yourself, am I bearing fruit in evidence of my salvation, and am I obeying His commands?

Your shepherd,  
Pastor Mark



## Quote of the Week



"True faith produces fruit. A barren tree is no proof of a living root."  
— Charles Spurgeon

# Grace Gems

Plato's wish!  
(J.R. Miller, 1911)

***"You are absolutely beautiful, my Beloved; there is no flaw in You!"*** Song of Songs 4:7

Plato expressed a desire that the moral law might become a living personage—that men seeing it thus incarnate, might be charmed by its beauty.

Plato's wish was fulfilled in Jesus Christ! The holiness and the beauty of the divine law were revealed in Him. The Beatitudes contain an outline of the ideal life—but the Beatitudes are only a transcript of the life of Christ Himself! What He taught about love—was but His own love stated in a course of living lessons for His friends to learn. When He said that we should be patient, gentle, thoughtful, forgiving, and kind—He was only saying, "Follow Me!"

If we could gather from the most godly people who ever have lived, the little fragments of lovely character which have blossomed out in each, and bring all these fragments into one personality—we would have the beauty of Jesus Christ! In one person you find gentleness, in another meekness, in another purity of heart, in another humility, in another kindness, in another patience. But in the holiest of men, there are only two or three qualities of ideal beauty—along with much that is stained and blemished, mingled with these qualities. In Christ, however, all that is excellent is found, with no flaw!  
***"You are absolutely beautiful, my Beloved; there is no flaw in You!"*** Song of Songs 4:7

# 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 08/17/2025

|                        |            |
|------------------------|------------|
| General Offering ..... | \$6,613.22 |
| Building Fund .....    | \$1,187.00 |
| Uganda .....           | \$840.00   |
| Benevolence .....      | \$180.00   |

Total.....\$8,820.22  
Attendance ..... 246

## 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

Aug 24, 2025

