

Pastor's Pen

When Least Is Best!

"Truly I say to you, among those born of women there has not arisen anyone greater than John the Baptist! Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he (Mat. 11:11)."

Have you ever felt unworthy as a Christian? Have there been times in your life when you think that your life has failed to measure up to that of a disciple of Christ? There have been times in my life when I could with a resounding "YES" to both questions.

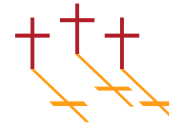
John the Baptist was a prophet like no other. He was the last of the Old Testament prophets. He called Israel to repentance. He spoke God's word directly, often in the wilderness. Like the prophet Elijah, he called out a king for their sin. He prepared the way for the Messiah, fulfilling the prophecies in Isaiah 40:3 and Malachi 3:1. He lived a life of radical obedience and boldly called people to repentance. Jesus himself declares that "among those born of women, **"none was greater than John."**

That's high praise. But look what Jesus says. **"Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."** How can this be? How can someone seemingly like me, insignificant, weak, unknown, struggling with sin, be greater than John? In his commentary on the Gospel of Matthew, John MacArthur writes,

But lest the people misunderstand the nature of John's greatness, Jesus added, yet he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. Although he was a spiritual giant among men, John's unique greatness was in his role in human history, not in his spiritual inheritance, in which he would be equal to every believer. Therefore, the least in the kingdom of heaven, the spiritual dimension, is greater than he, that is, than anyone in the human dimension, including John.

While we're on this earth, we will never be as great as John the Baptist or the other heroes of the faith, but on that day that our Lord calls us home, we will be equal with all the great men and women of Scripture.

Your shepherd,
Pastor Mark



Grace Gems

The Beatific Vision!- John MacDuff

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God." Matthew 5:8

Here is Heaven! This promise of Jesus represents the future state of the glorified to consist not in locality, but in character; the essence of its bliss is the full vision and fruition of God. Our attention is called away from all vague and indefinite theories about the circumstantial of future happiness. The one grand object of contemplation-the "glory which excels," is the sight of God Himself! The one grand practical lesson enforced on His people is the cultivation of that purity of heart without which none could see, or (even could we suppose it possible to be admitted to see Him) none could enjoy God!

Quote of the Week

"Holiness is nothing but the implanting, writing, and living out of the gospel in our souls." -John Owen

What will Heaven be, but the entire surrender of the soul to Him, without any bias to evil, without the fear of corruption within echoing to temptation without; every thought brought into captivity to the obedience of Christ; no contrariety to His mind; all in blessed unison with His will; and the whole being impregnated with holiness: the intellect purified and ennobled, consecrating all its powers to His service; the memory, a holy repository of pure and hallowed recollections; the affections, without one competing rival, purged from all the dross of earthliness; the love of God, the one supreme animating passion; the glory of God, the motive principle interfused through every thought, and feeling, and action of the life immortal. In one word, the heart a clear fountain-no sediment to dim its purity. Yes, this is Heaven-purity of heart and "God all in all!"

Much, doubtless, there may and will be of a subordinate kind, to intensify the bliss of the redeemed: communion with saints and angels; re-admission into the society of death-divided friends. But all these will fade before the great central glory, "God Himself shall be with them, and be their God; they shall see His face!" Believers have been aptly called 'sunflowers'-turning their faces as the sunflower towards the Sun of Righteousness, and hanging their leaves in sadness and sorrow when that Sun is away. It will be in Heaven that the emblem is complete. There, every flower in the heavenly garden will be turned Godwards, bathing its tints of loveliness in the all-excelling glory of God! Reader, may it be yours to know all the marvels contained in these few glowing words, "We shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is!"

"I shall be satisfied when I awake in Your likeness."

Psalm 17:15

"And every man that has this hope in Him purifies himself even as He is pure." 1 John 3:3

Weekly Gatherings

Bible Classes

Old & New Testament Classes
Ladies Class
Young Adults Young Parents
Youth Surge
Sunday Morning @ 9:00AM

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 06/01/2025

General Offering	\$12,486.06
Building Fund	\$3,097.00
Uganda	\$240.00
Benevolence	\$220.00

Total.....\$16,403.06
Attendance..... 236

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

June 08, 2025

Welcome