

Pastor's Pen

Fishers of Men!

"And He said to them, 'Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.'" Matthew 4:19

Have you ever wondered why Jesus called Peter, Andrew, James, and John fishers of men? It could be because Peter, Andrew, James, and John were professional fishermen. It could be a metaphor. Just as fishermen catch fish, the disciples would now "catch" people—bringing them into the Kingdom of God through preaching, teaching, and making disciples (Matthew 28:19–20). I believe all three explanations are correct. However, there is an Old Testament connection.

In the book of Jeremiah, the prophet writes, **"Behold, I am going to send for many fishermen,"** declares Yahweh, **"and they will fish for them; and afterwards I will send for many hunters, and they will hunt them from every mountain and every hill and from the crevices of the rocks."** (Jer. 16:16) This verse has a two-fold meaning. One of judgment and the other they will be gathered to God by His grace. That same message applies to our world today.

When Jesus called Simon Peter and Andrew, He didn't give them a lecture or a theological test. He simply said, **"Follow Me."** That call came with a promise: He would make them fishers of men. In other words, He would transform their purpose. Jesus didn't just invite them to be believers. He called them to be active participants in His mission. These men were ordinary fishermen, but Jesus saw in them something extraordinary. He saw instruments of God's kingdom—people who would draw others into the net of God's grace.

What say you, Christian? Like those first disciples, you don't need special qualifications—just a willing heart and obedient feet. Jesus doesn't say, **"Make yourselves fishers of men."** He says, **"I will make you."** It's His work in us that equips us to reach others.

Your shepherd,
Pastor Mark

Grace Gems

The Lord is my Shepherd!- J.R. Miller

"The LORD is my shepherd; I have everything I need!"
Psalm 23:1

The shepherd is a favorite Scriptural picture of the divine love and care. In the Old Testament, the twenty-third Psalm gathers the whole wonderful truth in exquisite lines, which are dear to young and old wherever the Bible is known. Then in the New Testament, when our Lord would give His friends the sweetest revealings of His heart toward them, and tell them what they are to Him, and what He would be to them-He says, **"I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep."** (John 10:11)

The Hebrew shepherd lives with his sheep. If they are out in the storm-he is with them. If they are exposed to danger-so is he. Just so, Christ lives with His people. He enters into closest relations with them.

The shepherd knows his sheep. He has a name for each one and calls them all by their names. Just so, Christ knows each one of His friends, and has intimate personal knowledge of each one. He knows the best in us-and also the worst. He knows our faults, our sins, our wanderings. Yet, knowing us as we are-He loves us still and never wearies of us!

The shepherd is most gentle with his sheep. He does not drive them-but goes before them and leads them. When they need rest on the way-he makes them lie down, and chooses for their resting-place, not the dusty road-but green pastures. He is especially kind to the lambs, gathers them in his arms and carries them in his bosom. All this is an exquisite picture of the gentleness of our Good Shepherd in His care of His sheep. He is thoughtful toward the weak. He loves the lambs and makes room for them in His bosom. Whatever the need is, there is something in the heart of Christ which meets its craving and supplies its lack! **"He will feed His flock like a shepherd. He will carry the lambs in his arms, holding them close to His heart. He will gently lead the mother sheep with their young."** (Isaiah 40:11)

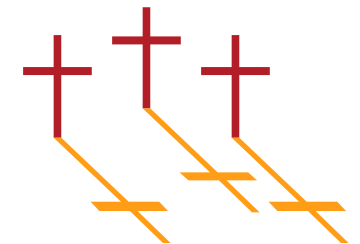
The shepherd defends his flock in all danger. Often he had to risk his own safety, even his life, in protecting his sheep.

Just so, the Good Shepherd gives His life-for His sheep! Christ's sheep are absolutely safe in His keeping. **"I give unto them eternal life,"** He said; **"and they will never perish-ever! No one will snatch them out of My hand!"** Then at last, He will bring His own all safely home, **"and they shall become one flock-with one Shepherd!"**

Quote of the Week

"The gospel is like a fisherman's net. You have nothing to do with the fish except to let down the net and draw it in again. The power lies not in you, but in the net itself."

— Charles Spurgeon



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 06/15/2025

General Offering	\$10,623.76
Building Fund	\$1,039.50
Uganda	\$140.00
Benevolence	\$125.00

Total.....\$11,928.26
Attendance..... 210

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

June 22, 2025

Welcome