

Pastor's Pen

Fruit Inspector!

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such things there is no law. Galatians 5:22-23

Throughout history, there have been people who counterfeit the original and people who impersonate others. Some people will pose as veterans for benefits and favors only veterans deserve. It is called stolen valor and is a crime only if the person tries to finically benefit from saying they are a veteran. Some unscrupulous people are far more dangerous. Some impersonate doctors, nurses, and even law enforcement. Sometimes, it is tough to catch these charlatans before they do a great deal of harm.

Inside the body of Christ, we also deal with imposters and counterfeits. The Bible refers to the false teachers, these imposters, as wolves amongst sheep (Acts 20:29). Every church has to be on guard against these wolves. There will be false believers along with the false teachers in the flock. What are we to do? You are called to be fruit inspectors. Paul wrote to the church in Corinth, *Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness* (2 Cor. 6:14)? In order to obey God and not be unequally yoked we need to distinguish between a believer and a non-believer. Paul told the church in Galatia what the fruit of a believer looks like.

If someone tells you they are a Christian, examine their spiritual fruit. If their lives reflect more the deeds of the flesh, *Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions, envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you,*

just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God (Gal. 5:19-21) than their actions speak louder than their words.

An apple tree will produce apples, not peaches. A Christian will produce fruit indicative of a follower of Christ.

Your shepherd,

Pastor Mark

Grace Gems

Nothing but a slave! (J. C. Philpot, "Obedience from the Heart" 1844)

"Once you were slaves of sin!" Romans 6:17

What a picture does this draw of our sad state, while walking in the darkness and death of unregeneracy! The Holy Spirit here sets forth Sin as a harsh master, exercising tyrannical dominion over his slaves! How this portrays our state and condition in a state of unregeneracy—slaves to sin!

Just as a master commands his slave to go here and there—imposes on him certain tasks—and has entire and despotic authority over him—so sin . . . had a complete mastery over us, used us at its arbitrary will and pleasure, drove us here and there on its commands.

Quote of the Week

"The Christian is a man who can be certain about the ultimate even when he is most uncertain about the immediate."

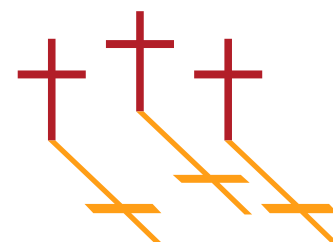
-Martyn Lloyd-Jones

But in this point we differed from physical slaves—that we did not murmur under our yoke—but gladly and cheerfully obeyed all sin's commands—and never tired of doing the most servile drudgery!

Thus some have had sin as a very vulgar and tyrannical master, who drove them into open acts of drunkenness, uncleanness, and profligacy—yes, everything base, vile, and evil. Others have been preserved through education, through the watchfulness and example of parents, or other moral restraints, from going into such open lengths of iniquity—and outward breakings forth of evil. But still sin secretly reigned in their hearts . . . pride, worldliness, love of the things of time and sense, hatred to God and aversion to His holy will, selfishness and stubbornness, in all their various forms, had a complete mastery over them! And though sin ruled over them more as a gentleman—he kept them in a more refined, though not less real or absolute slavery! Whatever sin bade them do, that they did, as implicitly as the most abject slave ever obeyed a tyrannical master's command.

What a picture does the Holy Spirit here draw of what a man is! Nothing but a slave!—and sin, as his master, first driving him upon upon God's sword, and then giving him eternal death as his wages!

"He has rescued us from the dominion of darkness—and He has brought us into the Kingdom of His dear Son!" Col. 1:13



Weekly Gatherings

Bible Classes

Old & New Testament Classes
Ladies Class
Young Adults Young Parents
Youth Surge
Sunday Morning @ 9:30AM

Weekday Meetings

Mondays | 7PM Men's Bible Study
1st and 3rd Saturday
Women of Grace | 9AM
Wednesdays | 6:30PM AWANA

Family Groups

Thursdays @ 7PM
Please check church website
for start date and directions to each

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 Services 8AM & 11:00AM
Sunday School 9:30AM
Children's Church @11:00AM

Giving from service on 01/21/2024

General Offering8,054.67
Building Fund1,547.75
Uganda Missions 141.00

Total.....\$9,743.42
Attendance 133

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
Baptist Church
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Grace Harvest Baptist Church

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Welcome