

Pastor's Pen

The Right Perspective!

"He must increase, but I must decrease." John 3:30

It is in our nature to think that we are special. For most people, from the time we are born to when we become adults, we are constantly told how special we are. We hear it from our parents, grandparents, and others who love us. If we are not careful, even as Christians, we can think more highly of ourselves than we ought (Romans 12:3).

When we became a part of the family of God, it stopped being about us. Our focus is not on what we want but on what God wants. We need to understand our role. John the Baptist understood what his role was. John the Baptist played a pivotal role in God's redemptive plan as the forerunner of Jesus Christ. His life and ministry were marked by purpose, humility, and a prophetic voice calling people to repentance. He had an important ministry but knew it was not about him but Christ. That is why he declared that He must increase, but I must decrease. John would be arrested shortly before Jesus started His public ministry. Eventually, he was beheaded by King Herod Antipas.

As a child of God, he chose you before the world's creation, and just like John the Baptist, He has prepared good works for you to do. God has given each of us a different assignment. Let us be faithful in fulfilling our calling in life. We will never have a ministry like John the Baptist, but that does not mean your ministry is not vital to the Kingdom of God. Charles Spurgeon, the Prince of Preachers, was on his way to church on January 6, 1850. He was 15 years old. On his way to church, he was trudging up Hythe Hill in Colchester. When the blizzard prevented him from going further, he turned the corner and entered a small Primitive Methodist Church on Artillery Street. The following is what Spurgeon said about that day.

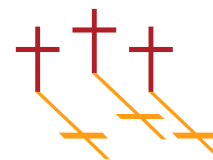
"When I could go no further, I turned down a court and came to a little Primitive Methodist Chapel. In that chapel there might be a dozen or fifteen people. The minister did not come that morning: snowed up, I suppose. A poor man, a shoemaker, a tailor, or something of that sort, went up into the pulpit to preach. He was obliged to stick to his text, for the simple reason that he had nothing else to say. The text was, **'Look unto Me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth'** [Isa 45:22].

He did not even pronounce the words rightly, but that did not matter. There was, I thought, a glimpse of hope for me in the text. He began thus: 'My dear friends, this is a very simple text indeed. It says, "Look." Now that does not take a deal of effort. It ain't lifting your foot or your finger; it is just "look." Well, a man need not go to college to learn to look. You may be the biggest fool, and yet you can look. A man need not be worth a thousand a year to look. Anyone can look; a child can look. But this is what the text says. Then it says, "Look unto Me." 'Ay,' said he, in broad Essex, 'many of ye are looking to yourselves. No use looking there. You'll never find comfort in yourselves.' Then the good man followed up his text in this way: 'Look unto Me: I am sweating great drops of blood. Look unto Me; I am hanging on the Cross. Look: I am dead and buried. Look unto Me; I rise again. Look unto Me; I ascend; I am sitting at the Father's right hand. O, look to Me! Look to Me!' When he had got about that length, and managed to spin out ten minutes, he was at the length of his tether. Then he looked at me under the gallery, and I daresay, with so few present, he knew me to be a stranger. He then said, 'Young man, you look very miserable.' Well, I did; but I had not been accustomed to have remarks made on my personal appearance from the pulpit before. However, it was a good blow struck. He continued: 'And you will always be miserable—miserable in life and miserable in death—if you do not obey my text. But if you obey now, this moment, you will be saved.' Then he shouted, as only a Primitive Methodist can, 'Young man, look to Jesus Christ.' There and then the cloud was gone, the darkness had rolled away, and that moment I saw the sun; and I could have risen that moment and sung with the most enthusiastic of them of the Precious Blood of Christ."

May each of us be as faithful as that lay preacher God used to bring Charles Spurgeon to saving faith. He must increase, but I must decrease. John 3:30.

Your shepherd,

Pastor Mark



Grace Gems

Let them alone! (John Newton)

"They are joined to their idols—let them alone!"

Hosea 4:17

God sometimes leaves men to themselves—their furious passions are unchained, and they are given up, without restraint, to the lusts of their own evil hearts! A more dreadful judgment than this, cannot be inflicted on this side of hell.

Matthew Henry writes, "People go on in sin until the Lord says, 'Let them alone!' Then they receive no more warnings—and feel no more convictions. Satan takes full possession of them—and they ripen for destruction! It is a sad and sore judgment for any man—to be let alone in sin! Those who are not disturbed in their sin—will be destroyed for their sin! May we be kept from this dreadful state; for the wrath of God, like a strong tempest—will soon hurry all impenitent sinners into eternal ruin!"

Quote of the Week

"The true gospel is a call to self-denial. It is not a call to self-fulfillment."
— John MacArthur

Weekly Gatherings

Bible Classes

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



Weekday Meetings

Mondays | 7PM Men's Bible Study

Wednesdays | 6:30PM AWANA



Family Groups

Thursdays @ 7PM
Please see website for locations



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; AWANA & Surge!



Service Times

Sunday Services 10:30AM
Sunday School 9:00AM
Children's Church @11:00AM



Giving from service on 12/08/2028

General Offering\$35,617.37
Building Fund\$2,011.00
Benevolence \$525.00
Christmas SOS\$645.00

Total.....\$38,798.37
Attendance 197

Christmas SOS goal \$8,000.....so far \$2,126

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

Dec 15, 2024

