

IN PURSUIT



Welcome to Grace Community Church!

I am glad you've joined us this morning and pray that our time together inspires you to be more like Christ and to grow spiritually.

At Grace, we agree believe this happens best in community with others. Why not consider being a part of a smaller community. Just stop by the Discover Grace Counter in our lobby or

ask one of our Greeters for more information about our Community and Home Groups.

If you are new to our church or the Christian faith, another great way for us to help you get connected is the Discover Grace Coffee, held every Sunday at 10:45am in Room A1. I'll stop by between services to meet you personally.

In Awe,

Scott Jones



Discover Grace Coffee
10:45am Room A1

The Carnations on our stage represent the lives of those who have accepted Christ as their Savior through the outreach efforts of those at Grace.



• Sixteen people responded during last week's Baptism Service

• A couple was led to the Lord in a Grace member's office

• Three juveniles were led to the Lord by a Chaplain from Grace

The Right Dream

Pastor Scott Jones - Philippians 1:1-11

- The right dream leads us to _____ people based on _____ God is and _____ he desires. (9)
- The right dream leads us to _____ God's _____. (10)
- The right dream leads us to a life that _____ for _____. (10-11)

The right dream is to be _____ people who _____ and _____ God's will so that our lives bring _____ to God.

Today's Service

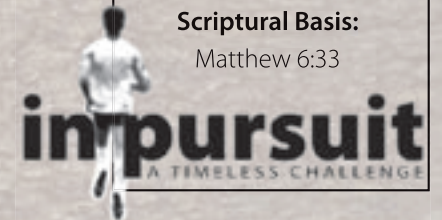
- ~ prelude ~
- ~ call to worship ~
- ~ praise & worship ~
- ~ welcome ~
- ~ offering -"Focus" ~
- ~ praise & worship ~
- ~ drama ~
- ~ message ~
- ~ response ~
- ~ benediction ~
- ~ postlude ~

~Notes~

Core Competency:
Single-mindedness

Creed: "I focus on God and His priorities for my life."

Scriptural Basis:
Matthew 6:33



The Right Dream

Philippians 1:1-11

09/12/2004

DEVOTIONAL: Cranial Enlargement- by Richard Gottahrdt

In the theological treatise by Dr. Seuss, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, we are told of a serious affliction experienced by the Grinch. His heart, it seems, was at least “two sizes too small.” An undersized and shrunken heart can cause real problems, apparently. Near the end of the book, as the Grinch experiences real transformation, we find that his heart changes as well- it expands to nearly burst his chest.

Of course, we know that this is a silly children’s book and that we shouldn’t take such metaphors too seriously, right? Unless, of course, they are true. The Bible talks often about our hearts as the seat of our affections, our will, our emotions and our spiritual life. Our heart can be hardened or softened, cold or hot, tender or harsh. The most significant news for followers of Christ is this: at the moment we put our faith in Christ, we were given a new heart, alive towards God, in place of the old one that was lifeless and decimated by the effects of sin.

But this new heart that we’ve been given still must be put to good use, or it can suffer damage. The writer of Hebrews warns us against allowing our hearts to become hardened “by the deceitfulness of sin”. And in Paul’s prayer and hope for the Philippians, his burning desire is that their hearts would not only be expanded, but also that they become wiser and more discerning.

An amazing truth about how God has made us is that our hearts can continue to expand as we mature in Christ. Not only can we learn to love more people, but, perhaps more importantly, we can grow to love people in better and deeper ways. We can experience and offer a love based on insight and knowledge, not simply the rush of emotion. We can express love toward others in a way that is truly God’s best for them, whether that’s “tough love” or simply truth in love. But one thing is very clear: we were made by God to love. Our love is meant to grow and deepen for those God has placed in our lives and entrusted to our care.

So I guess Dr. Seuss wasn’t so far off after all. And if someone were to peer inside of us today and look at our hearts, what “size” might they be? Let’s keep praying for bigger and bigger hearts. And don’t worry- it won’t burst.

- If you were to think about your heart over the last year, would you say that it’s been growing, shrinking, or about the same?
- Are there any places in your heart that are hardened- closed off to God or others? Why do you think that is?

Singles Volunteer Opportunity: All singles are invited to serve on Saturday Sept. 18, 8:30am-12:00 pm, for our quarterly service at the warehouse and offices of Phoenix Rescue Mission. Bring your water bottle and some cash for lunch afterwards. Questions? Call Mark Stewart at 480 963-9518.

Marketing & Advertising Experience?... Join us in designing ways to communicate the vision of Grace. Come to our kick-off meeting Wednesday, Sept. 15, 6:30 pm, Room B3. Questions and RSVP, Jeff Small at jeffsmall@gccaz.org.

Now Hiring Part-Time Custodian... for evenings and weekends. Applications are available in the Information Center. For more information, contact Human Resources at x215.

Now Hiring Paid Teachers for Nursery and Preschool... September 2004 thru May 2005 during one of the following times: WOW! meetings: Wednesdays, 8:00 am-noon; Insight for Moms meetings: 2nd & 4th Tuesdays, 8:00-11:30 am; and Sunday mornings during 9:30 and 11:05 am services. For more information call Liz Hyde at x332.

Evangelical Health Fair Serving Opportunity... On Sat., Sept. 18, 9:00 am-9:00 pm, come help serve the local community at Gracie’s Family Thrift Store in Tempe. Visit the table on the porch or contact Dave Engel at 480-706-0363.

Cancer Support Group... For cancer patients and their family. Meetings are held Monday, 10:00-11:30 am, Rm A1. Contact Karen Dilgard, 480-730-6624.

GriefShare Bereavement Support Group... Wednesdays, through Nov. 3, 7:00-8:30 pm, Worship Center Conf. Rm. Learn to recover from grief and gain renewed hope for the future. Contact Gayle x261.

Seniors (XYZ)... will meet on Thursday, September 16 at 10:30 am in the Davidson Center. Special music will be provided by Dr. David Thye, Chairman of the Music Dept., Southwestern College. Pastor Scott Jones will be speaking. Contact Paul & Dottie Hartzler at pdhartzler@aol.com or call 480-592-9186.

Women of Grace.... Women’s Ministries begin this Tues., 9/14 and Wed., 9/15! Single or married, at home, or in the workplace or just looking to find new friends, we have a place for you to connect. **Insight for Moms** meets Tuesday at 9:00 am. **Bible Studies** offered Wednesdays at 6:00 am, 9:00 am and 7:00 pm. For more information, call the Women’s Ministries office at x241.

Home Going.... On Sept. 2 our beloved “hugging” usher, Louis Cadieux, went home to be with Lord. His children, Pat & Blaine Cadieux and Nancy White invite you to a memorial service on Sat., Sept. 18 @ 11:00 am in the Worship Center.

grace community church

1200 e. southern avenue - tempe, az 85282 - 480.894.2201
on the web @ www.gracecommunityaz.org



PHOENIX SEMINARY

“Wisdom in the Word”

Starting Thursday, Sept. 16, Phoenix Seminary will be conducting “Wisdom in the Word” at Grace. A 14-week New Testament overview called “Jesus and Paul... their lives and their teachings” with John DelHousaye, Phoenix Seminary faculty. 7 PM to 9 PM every Thursday night through Dec. 16. Contact Renee @ ext. 226 or reneeladd@gccaz.org.



Grace Series Classes

Class 101, Discovering the Master and His Church An introductory course to better understand the beliefs of Grace. Also a requirement for membership. Lamb Chapel.

Class 301, Discovering My Ministry

An in-depth study of spiritual gifts, including a self-assessment to learn how God has “wired” you. Room B3.

Both classes are on Sundays (four consecutive) from 11:00 am - 12:30 pm.

Stewardship Update

Budget-to-date, September 7, 2004	\$ 649,000
Actual-to-date, September 7, 2004	\$ 638,435

In Randy Alcorn’s *The Treasure Principle*, Treasure Principle Key # 6

God Prospers Me Not To Raise My Standard Of Living, But To Raise My Standard Of Giving.

2 Corinthians 8: 14-15 - “At the present time your plenty will supply what they need, so that in turn their plenty will supply what you need. Then there will be equality as it is written: ‘He who gathered much did not have too much, and he who gathered little did not have too little.’”

The abundance of our possessions is not the Lord’s green light for us to live in luxury. It’s His provision for us that help others. He entrusts each of us with these resources not to build our kingdom on earth, but to build His kingdom in heaven. From Eternal Perspective Ministries, www.epm.org