

IN PURSUIT



Welcome to Grace! I am glad you've chosen to be with us this morning... I know there are a lot of other things you could be doing on Sunday morning. Today's message is the second in our new series "In Pursuit" and looks at the core virtue of hope and how our difficulties can be used for good.

If you're new to our church, we'd love to meet you and answer any

questions you might have about who we are or what we believe. You can stop by the Discover Grace Counter in the Lobby today for more information or come to the Discover Grace Coffee, held every Sunday at 10:45am in Room A1. I'm able to stop by between services and I'd love to meet you.

Following His Lead,

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.



- A child accepted Christ at TruthQuest on Sunday

Today's Memory Verse

Philippians 1:21

"For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain."

When You're Boxed in, Chained Down, Tied Up...

Pastor Scott Jones - Philippians 1:12-26

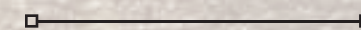
- When you're "chained down," look for God's _____ in your "_____." (12-18a)
- When you're "chained down," let your _____ in Christ give you _____ to make him _____. (18b-21)

What made it possible for Paul to have hope?

- _____
- _____

Exalted = "make famous"

- When you're "chained down," keep _____ so that you can help others _____ in their _____. (22-26)



Today's Service

- ~ prelude ~
- ~ call to worship ~
- ~ praise & worship ~
- ~ welcome ~
- ~ offering - *Jesus You're All I Need* ~
sung by Kelly Chan
- ~ praise & worship ~
- ~ message - Pastor Scott Jones ~
- ~ response ~
- ~ benediction ~
- ~ postlude ~

~Notes~

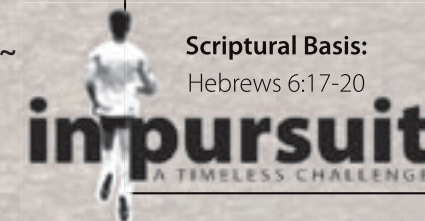
Core Competency:

Hope

Creed: "I can cope with the hardships of life and death because of the hope I have in Jesus Christ."

Scriptural Basis:

Hebrews 6:17-20



When You're Boxed in, Chained Down, Tied Up...

Philippians 1:12-26

09/19/2004

DEVOTIONAL: Not Just Lemonade- by Richard Gottahrdt

What is hope, really? Is a hopeful person primarily an eternal optimist with a positive outlook and a sunny disposition? Should we be "glass is half-full" rather than "glass is half-empty" kind of people and use phrases like, "When life hands you lemons, just make lemonade!"? The truth is, there are some glasses, even if they they're half-full of lemonade, that still hold real pain and heartbreaking disappointment. A painful and prolonged illness, the death of a dear one, a lifeless marriage, personal betrayal- these are more than simply lemons. No, hope has got to mean more than just trying to put a positive spin on things.

When we check in with Paul, chained to a Roman soldier and potentially awaiting execution, we don't find him saying, "Well, on the bright side, at least I've got my health, not to mention lots of company!" Rather, Paul began with an honest acknowledgement of the difficulties that he was experiencing- frustration and even disappointment. Paul doesn't mince words about those who were trying to "stir up trouble for me while I am in chains." Genuine hope does not begin with pretense or make-believe. As C.S. Lewis has said, we must learn to be grown-up in our thinking.

And hope continues to grow as we face reality. Reality in its fullness must include the truth of God's complete and utter control over all things- His sovereignty. This does not make God the author of evil or sin, but rather powerful enough to bring genuine and eternal good out of even the most evil and awful circumstances. That is how powerful God is. And since God intends the ultimate good for both Himself and His children, we can be confident that His plans will not fail. This allows us to view any circumstance through this lens- the lens of confidence in God- the lens of hope. This, then, is what hope really means. It means that even when we hurt, when we're frustrated, and when don't understand, we can cling to Him, we can trust Him.

Hope, then, is not about avoiding unpleasant realities or trying to sort of "buck up". Because of the love and the power of God, hope is facing reality- all of it- head-on with confidence, joy, and anticipation- even when life hurts. So, go right ahead. It's quite safe to get your hopes up. Get them all the way up!

- What is a current life situation in which you are tempted to be discouraged and frustrated?
- How might a settled belief that God has a purpose and plan in your life make a difference?

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

Tuesday Night Bible Study... 7:30pm-8:30pm, Room A2. Savoring the Psalms as poetry, praise, prayer and profession. Teacher: Carl Ward.

Cancer Support Group... For cancer patients and their family. Meetings are held Monday, 10:00am-11:30am, Room A1. Contact Karen Dilgard, 480.730.6624.

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

Seniors (XYZ)... invites you to the Thursday, September 23rd meeting at 10:30am in Davidson Center. Soloist: Bonnie Peterson. Speaker: Len Baker, Bible Teacher. Sign up for the trip to Hale Theater Oct. 1 and the trip to the BIG Room at Kartchner Cave & Musical in Sierra Vista Oct. 21-22. Call Paul/Dottie Hartzler at 480.592.9186 or e-mail: pdhartzler@aol.com.

Friendship Partner Training... for families and singles who would like to befriend international students at ASU. Training will be on Thurs., Sept. 23, Rm. E201, 7:00pm-9:00pm. For more information, call Ron Mills at 480.456.0069.

Women of Grace.... 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 9:00am. **Bible Studies** offered Wednesdays at 6:00am, 9:00am and 7:00pm. For more information, call the Women's Ministries office at 480.894.2201 x241.

"First Serve" Event... Be looking the next two Sundays for opportunities to serve for the "first time - one time" in one of the many ministries of Grace. Also meet many of the volunteers and leaders of these ministries. Krispy Kreme Donuts and Starbucks Coffee will be served (Yum).

Sympathy: Joseph, LaVonne and Elaina Rinaldo in the death of mother and grandmother, Leona Gilbert, Sept 13.

Memorial Service: Mary Evangeline Crook, Mother of Gay Rhoades, Sat Sept 25, 11:00am, Lamb Chapel.

Register to Vote... Come today to the table on the porch and register to vote.

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

Elder Nominating Committee

Two GCC members, with the following qualifications, will be elected at the Annual Business Meeting on Sunday, October 3, 2004 to serve for a one-year term on the Nominating Committee. Each candidate must be a member in good standing at Grace Community Church, an attendee at Grace for a minimum of five years, currently serve in a ministry, be recognized as a leader amongst peers and have a discerning spirit. Members are asked to submit the names using the lock box in the Information Center.

GCC Annual Business Meeting

If you consider Grace Community your Church, please attend this important meeting on Sunday, October 3 at 6:00pm in the Worship Center. There will be a time of worship, testimonies and encouraging ministry reports.

Church members will be voting to confirm the final Elder candidates, DeWayne Herbrandson, Mark Burtch and John Pruitt. A two-thirds majority will confirm their election. Two GCC members will also be elected for a one-year term on the Elder Nominating Committee.

Global Outreach Send Off

Please come forward today and pray for Larry Wieland, Jo Keeley, and Gayle Ellis. They will be leaving for two weeks to lead two camps for 120 children from Liberia and Sierra Leone. Please keep them in your prayers as they are gone as well.



Stewardship Update

Budget-to-date, September 14, 2004	\$ 726,000
Actual-to-date, September 14, 2004	\$ 698,220

Several surprising things happen when we get in step with the Lord's plan for our financial stewardship. Many can testify of the deepening of their spiritual life as a result of honoring Him with their finances. Why? Because where your treasure is, there your heart is as well (Matt. 6:19-20).

Put your treasure in heaven and your heart will follow. And when your heart looks around heaven, it begins to see things it has never seen before. That's the source of the excitement that people discover.

Remember Grace in your will or trusts.