

IN PURSUIT



Winning Last Place

Philippians 2:1-11

10/03/2004



Welcome to Grace! A special welcome if you're visiting us for the first time. If you're looking for a new church, or just checking us out, our desire is that you feel welcomed and sense God's presence in our community.

Stick around long enough and you will experience the warmth, purpose and excitement of this wonderful group of people I get to pastor. I also encourage you to visit the Discover Grace Counter in the Lobby for more information. Another great way to find out what we're all about is to attend the Discover Grace Coffee, held every Sunday at 10:45am in Room A1.

In Pursuit,

Scott Jones



Discover Grace Coffee
10:45am, Room A1

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



- A Grace Chaplain led two kids to the Lord in Juvenile detention.
- A woman led her grandmother to the Lord in the hospital.

Today's Memory Verse

Philippians 2:3-4

"3Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. 4Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others."

Winning Last Place

Pastor Scott Jones - Philippians 2:1-11

What we have experienced

Philippians 2:1

What we are called to be

Philippians 2:2-4

- Our _____ with Christ is the _____ for our _____ with one another. (1-4)
- The _____ of Christ _____ us promotes the unity of Christ _____ us. (1-4)

Humility is having the proper view of who you are before God, not thinking too highly of your strengths nor too lowly of your weaknesses, living in deep dependence on God, that frees you to serve others with joy.

When the humility of Christ is in us...

1. We won't _____ our position to our own _____. (5-6)
 2. We will _____ others instead of looking to be _____. (7)
 3. We will make _____ that truly _____ us. (8)
- _____ is the pathway to _____. (9-11)

Today's Service

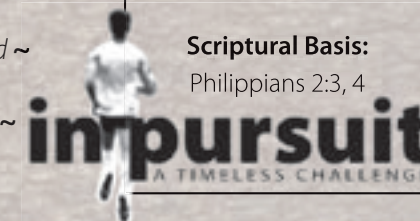
- ~ praise & worship ~
- ~ welcome ~
- ~ praise & worship ~
- ~ offertory - *Jesus You're All I Need* ~ sung by Kelly Gotthardt
- ~ message - Pastor Scott Jones ~
- ~ response ~
- ~ benediction ~

~Notes~

Core Competency:
Humility

Creed: "I choose to esteem others above myself."

Scriptural Basis:
Philippians 2:3, 4



DEVOTIONAL: Welcome to Humility - by Richard Gotthardt

A line from an old hymn was wandering through my mind recently, and so I paused to contemplate it. The line: "Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail." This commentary regarding our "human condition" may not sound very flattering to our modern ears. We live in a day of self-empowerment and "can-do" thinking. We prefer slogans more like, "If I can dream it, I can achieve it!" So what's with all of this self-abasement? Perhaps it's just negative thinking or something worse, like passivity and resignation. Not hardly.

The author of this hymn was an Englishman named Sir Robert Grant. Educated at Oxford and elected to Parliament at age 29, Grant fought for the rights of the poor, helped pass key pieces of legislation, and later served as Governor of Bombay, India. While there he put his faith into action through social reform and by fighting for justice and equity for the down-trodden. He achieved noteworthy success in his short life, advancing the cause of world missions as well as human rights. The line above is from his hymn, "O Worship the King", inspired by the words of Psalm 104. These words did not flow from the pen of a man battling "issues" of self-esteem and personal empowerment.

Rather, these terms are an apt and accurate description of each member of the human race. Against the backdrop of God's limitless power and inescapable vastness, our lives are seen for their egg-shell fragility and ant-like insignificance. And yet, as the hymn goes on to remind us, God is more than simply our superior in every possible way. He is "our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend". The contrast is both startling and wondrous. "The Lord of All" That Is has called me His friend.

Humility, then, is certainly not a lack of self-esteem or failure to "actualize my potential". Humility is the only rational response of a sane mind. I, a feeble and frail child of dust, am loved and valued beyond measure by the Maker and Redeemer of my soul. My worth is beyond calculation. My debt to Him is beyond repayment. And my absolute dependence on Him... is never-ending. Welcome to humility.

- What ideas or mental pictures surface when you think of the word humility? Are they more positive or negative in nature?
- How might seeing yourself more accurately lead you to a greater expression of humility in your life?

Harvest Festival... "The Night Without the Fright" Oct. 31, 6:00pm-9:00pm. A night of fun for the whole family. Visit www.gracecommunityaz.org for more info.

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

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

Pray for Students... Join "Moms in Touch" to pray for students of GCCS and James Madison Prep. Contact Rhonda Howman, 480.899.7339.

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

Seniors (XYZ)... will meet on Thursday, Oct. 7 at 10:30am in the Davidson Center. Soloist: Anita Jordan; Pianist: Karen Smith; Speaker: Dale Hillard, GCC Bible Teacher. Sign up for Kartchner Caverns and Calif. Nov. 27-29. Call Paul & Dottie Hartzler 480.894.2201 or 480.592.9186.

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.

Men of Grace... meet with other men for Bible study and accountability. Mid-week Bible study and breakfast, Wed., 6:15am, Terrace Center. Evening Edition meets Wed., 7:00pm, Room B3. For more personal focused groups, contact Ken Kohlmeier, kenkohlmeier@gccaz.org or x262.

Fall Fix-up Day... Come be a part of the Nehemiah Team on Sat., Oct. 16, 7:30am-12:00pm to help make our campus beautiful for the holiday season. Contact JoAnne Vacho at joannevacho@gccaz.org or x235 for questions and to RSVP.

Pray for Muslims... during Ramadan, their month of fasting. Join people who care for the salvation of the one billion Muslims worldwide for five Fri. evenings, from Oct. 15--Nov. 12, in Rm. A1 from 7-8pm. Contact Julie at 480.236.9763.

International Turkey Network's North American Conference... at Word of Grace Church in Mesa, Nov. 10-12, 2004. For anyone interested in God's work in Turkey, considering cross cultural work there, or with a burden to pray for Turkey. Registration is \$110, but evening sessions at 7:00pm are free. Contact Pat Lew 480.464.3983.

Sympathy... to the family and friends of Helen Able who passed away Sept. 26.

grace community church

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

GCC Annual Business Meeting

If you consider Grace Community your Church, please attend this important meeting today 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. Information on the Elder candidates is available in the Lobby along with minutes from last years' meeting.



First Serve

Stop by at the booths outside 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. Donations will be accepted.

Grace Series Classes Coming Soon

Are you wanting to grow closer to God, but aren't sure how? **Class 201 "Discovering Maturity"** teaches the dynamics of spiritual growth, why we need to be committed to growing spiritually, how to accomplish it and how to develop a life of worship.

Would you like to learn how to share Christ's love with others more effectively? **Class 401 "Discovering My Mission"** will challenge you to have a greater love for lost people. The goal of the class is to help you personalize and gain confidence in talking to others about Jesus.

Both classes will be offered **Sun., Oct. 24-Nov. 14 from 11:05am-12:30pm.** Contact Lois Klein at x214, loisklein@gccaz.org or sign up at the Discover Counter.

Stewardship Update

Budget-to-date, September 28, 2004	\$ 875,500
Actual-to-date, September 28, 2004	\$ 817,211

A surprising thing that happens when we get in step with the Lord's plan for our financial stewardship is how we are able to "get by" on what remains after we give to the Lord. In man's economy, our "needs" somehow expand to fill an increase in income. But in God's economy, the reverse is true. Our disposable income is decreased as a result of giving to His ministry, yet our needs are taken care of by a smaller amount of money.

We don't know how this happens, but it does. It's the economy of heaven!

Remember Grace in your will or trusts.