

IN PURSUIT



Making Your Money Last Forever

Philippians 4:14-23

11/21/2004



Welcome! If you're new to Grace, you're sure to fit right in. We are an inter-generational community becoming like Jesus Christ. That means we value people of all ages coming together, learning from each other and taking on the characteristics of Jesus Himself. I hope you'll come and be part of what God is doing here.

If you'd like to learn more about

Grace and how you can get connected, stop by the Discover Grace Table in the Lobby. Members of our family serve there between services and would love to meet you and answer your questions. I'd like to meet you too... stop by the Discover Grace Coffee held every Sunday at 10:45am in Room A1.



**Discover Grace Coffee
10:45am, Room A1**

Expectant,

Scott Jones

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.

- Woman in care facility led two older ladies to Christ
- Three High School students made decisions for Christ last Wednesday
- Two men led a women to the Lord visiting a nursing home



Today's Memory Verse

Philippians 4:19

"¹⁹And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus."

Making Your Money Last Forever

Pastor Scott Jones - Philippians 4:14-23

- Our money lasts forever when we use it to _____ others. (14-16)
- Our money lasts forever because it accrues _____ in our _____ account. (17)
- Our money lasts forever when it is _____ as an act of _____ to God. (18)
- Our money lasts forever because God _____ it out of His _____ supply. (19)

Philippians 4:18
"fragrant offering"
= _____

Ephesians 5:2
"fragrant offering"
= _____

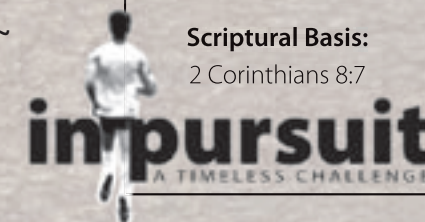
Today's Service

- ~ prelude ~
- ~ praise & worship ~
- ~ welcome ~
- ~ praise & worship ~
- ~ message - Pastor Scott Jones ~
- ~ Interview - Harold & LeeAnne Martin ~
- ~ offertory - *Hear Our Praises* ~
sung by Worship Team
- ~ response ~
- ~ benediction ~
- ~ postlude ~

Core Competency:
Giving Away My Money

Creed: "I give away my money to fulfill God's purposes."

Scriptural Basis:
2 Corinthians 8:7



~Notes~

Losing My Grip - by Richard Gotthardt

Do you remember the first time you were given money as a child? It might have been when your parents decided to entrust you with an allowance or perhaps when you received money as a gift for your birthday. Suddenly, your outlook on life was changed- you were officially a player in the financial game. That money started burning a little hole in your pocket as dreams of delightful acquisitions danced in your head. Your cash position was now liquid and there was stuff that just needed to be purchased.

And then... a glitch. I remember encountering an unexpected roadblock in my race to spend my cold, hard cash. My parents sat me down and explained that all I have and all I am comes from God. Therefore it was only fitting that I develop the practice of giving back to God – first. Before I spent, or more likely in my case, squandered my little nest-egg on whatever captured my imagination, I needed to do something called “tithe”. Since it was my parents giving these instructions, I reluctantly agreed. And reluctance would be the most accurate word to describe my giving to God for many years to come. God could have some of my money, I suppose, but He’d pretty much have to pry my clenched fist open to get at it.

Now Scripture is quite clear on this matter. “God loves a cheerful giver.” So how does He feel about those of us who aren’t quite so cheerful about it? For a long time I reasoned that it was better to give somewhat begrudgingly than not at all. (This, by the way, is true – speaking as someone whose salary depends upon your giving.) But I can honestly say that my giving truly has become less reluctant and quite a bit more cheerful. So, what brought about the change for me? Well, lots of things, but primarily the amazing adventure that giving to God signs you up for. When we are able to see firsthand the kind of eternal, life-changing difference our dollars can translate into, giving gets pretty exciting. To know that God is honored and I am blessed in return is icing on the cake (and I do love cake!). So, as a reforming reluctant giver, let me just encourage you today – don’t miss out on this part of your journey. It’s the best investment strategy going – dividends both now and forever.

- Are you, by nature, a more cheerful or a more reluctant as a giver?
- How might God invite you to be more adventurous in this part of your relationship with Him and His church?

DEVOTIONAL



Thanksgiving Eve Service

Join us on Nov. 24, @ 7:00pm, for an evening of giving thanks for a bountiful God and His many blessings. This is a service for the entire family. Childcare available up to five years old.



Children’s Christmas Boutique at Gracie’s Family Thrift Store

On Sat., Dec. 11, 9:00am-2:30pm, there will be a special opportunity for children, ages 4-12, to shop for gifts for relatives and friends. With the help of volunteers, the children pick out gifts and pay for their items like “grown ups.” All items are priced from 50 cents to just a few dollars – new items will be put out all day long. Santa will be there as well. 1520 E. Apache Blvd., Tempe, 480.967.5231.

Hiring Teachers

Nursery teachers needed for *Insight for Moms* meetings: 2nd & 4th Tue., 8:00am-11:30am. Contact Liz Hyde, x332.



Men’s Bible Studies

Small groups with accountability and a way to grow closer to God. Contact Ken Kohlmeier, kenkohlmeier@gccaz.org or x262.

Women’s Bible Studies

Get to know other women while studying the Bible. Look for the Women of Grace cards in the lobby, call Women’s Ministries at x241, or check out our website for more info.



Christmas Choir

If you are interested in being a part of choir for the Dec. Advent Sundays and Christmas Eve, please come to our rehearsal this Sun., Nov. 21, 2:00pm in the Worship Center. Contact x237 for more information.



Seniors XYZ Meeting

There will be no XYZ on Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 25. The next meeting will be Thurs., Dec. 2, 10:30am in Davidson Center. Special Music by Lauri Wieland, Chris Hammond and Julie Thompson. Speaker: Ken Kohlmeier, Men’s Ministries Director.

Parents of High School Students

You are invited to EPIC, Sun., Dec., 5 at 9:30am. Come to hear valuable information about student mission trips summer ’05, and celebrate a baptism with us.

grace community church

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

During the month of November, a special offering will be received to support eight global missions projects. Prayerfully consider how you can participate in supporting this part of the mission of Grace to bring the love of God to the nations of the world. Offerings can be designated with special Thanksgiving Offering envelopes or by writing “Thanksgiving” in the memo line of your check. This year’s goal is to raise \$40,000 for local and global missions.

Thanksgiving offering

In Recognition ...

Pastor Gary Maitha is in the process of transitioning from his role at Grace into the marketplace at the end of November. Gary has served faithfully as Executive Pastor over the past four years and has made a significant contribution to our ministry and community. We love and appreciate Gary and his family and believe that God will use them according to His plan and purpose. Please be in prayer for Gary and his family as they follow God’s direction to make an impact for him in a new way.



Donate Your Old Laptop to Missions

If you are getting a new laptop for Christmas, please consider donating your old one to Walt Edman, one of our cross-cultural workers. He will give it to one of his Asian students. PC / IBM-compatible computers only (i.e. not a Mac). The computers must be in good working condition please. For more details call Debi Clifton, 480.820.3438.

Everybody Needs a Little Help

Sometimes life’s circumstances can take us all by surprise and we need a little help. Grace offers several ways for you to connect with others during the difficult times in life. Check out the C.A.R.E. Program card (next to Discover Grace Counter in the lobby) or ask a greeter for further assistance.



Financial Stewardship Update

Budget-to-date, Nov. 16, 2004	\$ 1,410,000
Actual-to-date, Nov. 16, 2004	\$ 1,288,270

So, why should I give to my church?

There are numerous reasons why an individual gives to his or her church. Some people give because the general financial health of the church is at stake. Some may give out of a sense of embarrassment, while some may feel peer pressure to give. Others will give due to a motivation for a tax advantage or benefit.

However, the greatest reason why we should give to our church is to be involved in the Lord’s service here at Grace. After all, our church can only implement its vision when each of us chooses to become a vital part of it.

Remember Grace in your will or trusts.