



Forest Home Church

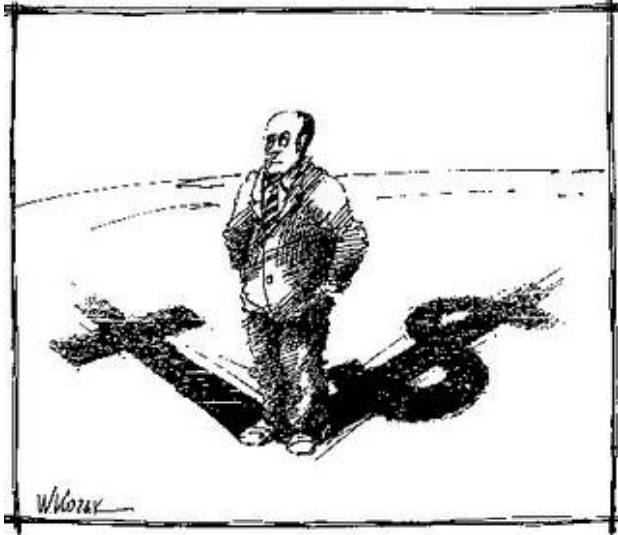
Forest Home Church
1751 Old Natchez Trace
Franklin, TN 37069

www.ForestHomeChurch.org

February 13th, 2010

"Sharing, Loving & Exploring Life in Christ"

Send announcements, praises, and prayer requests to: newsletter@foresthomchurch.org



"No man can serve two masters. ... You cannot Serve both God and money." Jesus

There are many ways to describe the grace of God. I often think of it as "the Lord's aggressive disposition to bless." The Lord is not passive in being gracious, but actively seeking to promote our flourishing, to create what can be described as a state of blessedness. God is gracious in creating, and grace is God's last Word. The last sentence in the Bible, Revelation 22:21 says, "The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen." LH

- Prayers and Praises
- Our brothers/sisters in Africa: Jac Agak, Charles Ngoje, Jacob Randiek, and your orphan(s)
- Lord's comfort with Kathleen and Sarah in loss of their mother/grandmother Doris
- Lord's comfort for Pat Prince in loss of her mother
- Lord's healing grace for Lynn's brother Kelly
- Lord may you be High and Lifted Up among us
- Lord's anointing on Tommy's "Next Right Step" Ministry
- May Larry's brother continue to recover well from surgery
- Thank You for this day's provisions of food, shelter, clothing and love
- Blessing of utterance for Jim McAlister's writing project
- Lord we pray for the good of our city
- Lord may our wandering loved ones come home to the Living God
- Lord please let those running find home in You
- Dawn Costello's uncle who has cancer
- Thank you Lord for laughter
- Lord's blessing on Azad in preaching & singing to many Kurdish on TV
- Lord's drawing in Frank's prison & neighborhood work
- Let your Word shine: Awake O Sleeper and Rise from the Dead
- We ask that all our young ones may grow to love You
- Thank You for all teaching, singing, & ministering the Word at FH
- Teach us to rest in your grace
- Thank you Lord for you healing ways

In essentials, UNITY
In non-essentials, LIBERTY
In all things, LOVE

Quotable on Grace:

We all swim in an ocean of grace. The church cannot afford to call sin by its true name without calling grace by its true name. In the experience of Israel, exodus was the "name" for grace, the move out of slavery into freedom. And it is in the context of this most gracious event that the law was given. Mercante wrote: "The best reason to preach on sin is to highlight the power and joy of grace." Scripture teaches us that sin is an expensive commodity. Consequently, God's grace is not cheap (Rom. 6:1); it is free, but not cheap. Grace flows freely into the heart that is willing to risk it without addiction. Gerald May pointed out that "living into grace requires taking risks of faith." And the risks are many.

God's grace asks us to give up our addictions. Augustine once said that God is always trying to give good things to us, but our hands are too full to receive them. May observed, "Our addictions fill up the spaces within us, spaces where grace may flow." (Miroslav Kis)



Money Coram Deo

“*Coram Deo*” is Latin phrase meaning “in the presence of God.” It has been used by Christians over the centuries as a spiritual reminder that our life is lived before God. *Coram Deo* is one of those gyroscopic concepts that helps us stay focused, right-oriented, and resting in God no matter what. Reformed teacher R.C. Sproul has taught about this big-little phrase for years. Here is one of his meditations on it:

“To live *coram Deo* is to live one’s entire life in the presence of God, under the authority of God, to the glory of God. To live in the presence of God is to understand that whatever we are doing and wherever we are doing it, we are acting under the gaze of God. . . . To live all of life *coram Deo* is to live a life of integrity. It is a life of wholeness that finds its unity and coherency in the majesty of God.

The Christian who compartmentalizes his or her life into two sections of the religious and the nonreligious has failed to grasp the big idea. . . . if a person fulfills his or her vocation as a steelmaker, attorney, or homemaker *coram Deo*, then that person is acting every bit as religiously as a soul-winning evangelist who fulfills his vocation. It means that David was as religious when he obeyed God’s call to be a shepherd as he was when he was anointed with the special grace of kingship. It means that Jesus was every bit as religious when He worked in His father’s carpenter shop as He was in the Garden of Gethsemane.

Integrity is found where men and women live their lives in a pattern of consistency. It is a pattern that functions the same basic way in church and out of church. It is a life that is open before God. It is a life in which all that is done is done as to the Lord. It is a life lived by principle, not expediency; by humility before God, not defiance. It is a life lived under the tutelage of conscience that is held captive by the Word of God.

Coram Deo . . . before the face of God. That’s the big idea”

With this understanding of *coram Deo*, I want to ask, “What does it mean for the money in our lives to be *coram Deo*?” This is an important question to keep before the Lord. And the “answer” I wish to offer today is not my own, but rather the reflections of a courageous and godly couple who serve the Lord’s work up in Kansas City –Jim and Pam Elliff. Early in marriage, this couple chose to put their finances before the Lord. They are near 60 now, and still hold to and exemplify the following principles in their home and ministry, which is called Christian Communicators Worldwide. You may not agree with every principle, but their struggle to be faithful to the Word in this area is insightful and challenging. They offer what they call seven principles of finance for the believer. LH

The Principle of Non-Attachment *I will purchase or receive nothing that I cannot give away.*

And He said to them, "Beware and be on your guard against every form of greed; for not even when one has an abundance does his life consist of his possessions. Lk. 12:15

The Principle of Liberty *I will owe no man anything but to love him.*

Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another; for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law. Rom. 13:8

The Principle of Liberality *I will constantly seek to give away money and possessions for God's glory.*

For I testify that according to their ability, and beyond their ability they gave of their own accord, begging us with much entreaty for the favor of participation in the support of the saints, and this, not as we had expected, but they first gave themselves to the Lord and to us by the will of God. 2 Cor. 8:3-5

The Principle of Recall *I will keep accurate records of God's dealings with me financially in order to show others that God answers prayer and provides for His own.*

Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven. Mt. 5:16

The Principle of Security *I will save and invest only if God is leading, with the understanding that I will give it all away at His slightest instruction.*

Do not lay up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and dust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But lay up your treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in or steal. Matt. 6:19-20

The Principle of Compassion *I will not pray for someone's needs financially unless I am willing to be the instrument God uses to meet that need if He should desire.*

We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whoever has the world's goods, and beholds his brother in need and closes his heart against him how does the love of God abide in him? Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth. 1 Jn. 3:16-18

The Principle of Contentment *I will be content to live on whatever God chooses to provide, whether little or much.*

Not that I speak from want; for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am. I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need. I can do all things through Him who strengthens me. Phil. 4:11-13

CLASSES AND WORSHIP SCHEDULE @ FOREST HOME: <u>Classes begin at 9 am. Worship begins at 10 am.</u> Grades and ages break down as follow: Pre-K – Kindergarten 1 st grade – 4 th grade 5 th grade and up		DATE	NURSERY (Infants to 2 yrs old) During sermon only	LORD’S SUPPER PREPARATION	WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER PREP	
		EACH TUESDAY 6:30 am @ the church, Men’s Ministry	Feb 13	Karen Costello	Feb/Mar Allens	Feb 16
EACH WED. 5:00 pm @ the church, Women’s Bible Study	Feb 20	D’Ann McAlister	Apr/May Grimensteins	Feb 23	Lisa/Liz	
	Feb 27	Ronna King		Mar 2	Linda/Lois	
	Mar 6	Cecile Allen		Mar 9	Ocie/Shannon	
	Mar 13	Kathy Grimenstein		Mar 16	Pat/Karen	
	Mar 20	Jane Ann Myers	(Sub-Grimensteins)	Mar 23	Sarah/Kathleen	
	Mar 27	Lois McAlister	See Jim G. with questions.	Mar 30	Lisa/Liz	