



Forest Home Church

Forest Home Church
1751 Old Natchez Trace
Franklin, TN 37069

www.ForestHomeChurch.org

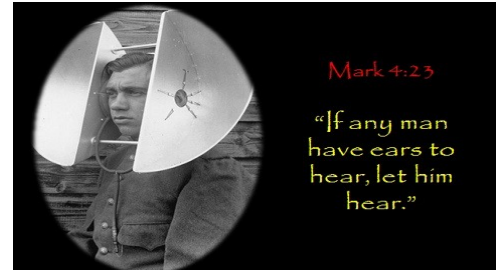
January 15th 2012

"Sharing, Loving & Exploring Life in Christ"

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



The Letter to Diognetus



Back in the early church around the 160s A.D. a letter was written to a "most excellent Diognetus" to answer questions he had about the Christian life. The author of the letter is unknown, as is the identity of Diognetus, a name meaning "born of Zeus." One well known Diognetus of the time was the tutor of Marcus Aurelius, the Emperor of Rome, and some think that the letter was in response to his questions. What we know for certain is this: The short "Letter to Diognetus" is a literary gem of the early church, and is a clear window into the life of Christians, then as well as now. Read, identify, and be encouraged by this testimony to the Light of the world. LH

The letter begins thus:

To His Excellency, Diognetus:

I understand, sir, that you are really interested in learning about the religion of the Christians, and that you are making an accurate and careful investigation of the subject. You want to know, for instance, what God they believe in and how they worship him, while at the same time they disregard the world and look down on death, and how it is that they do not treat the divinities of the Greeks as gods at all, although on the other hand they do not follow the superstition of the Jews. You would also like to know the source of the loving affection that they have for each other. You wonder, too, why this new race or way of life has appeared on earth now and not earlier. I certainly welcome this keen interest on your part and I ask God, who gives us the power to speak and the power to listen, to let me speak in such a way that you may derive the greatest possible benefit from listening, . . .

(The letter addresses idol worship and Jewish practices, and then addresses in what follows the life of Christians in the world.)

For Christians are not distinguished from other people by country, language or customs; you see, they do not live in cities of their own, or speak some strange dialect, or have some peculiar lifestyle. This doctrine of theirs has not been discovered by the ingenuity or deep thought of inquisitive men, nor do they put forward a merely human teaching, as some people do.

They live in both Greek and foreign cities, wherever their lot is cast. They follow local customs in clothing, food, and the other aspects of life. But at the same time, they demonstrate to us the wonderful and certainly unusual form of their own citizenship. They live in their own native lands, but as aliens; as citizens they share all things with others; but like aliens, suffer all things. Every foreign country is to them as their native country, and every native land as a foreign country.

They marry and have children just like everyone else; but they do not cast out their offspring. They offer a shared table, but not a shared bed. They are at present 'in the flesh' but they do not live 'according to the flesh'. They are passing their days on earth, but are citizens of heaven. They obey the appointed laws, and go beyond the laws in their own lives.

They love everyone, but are persecuted by all. They are unknown and condemned; they are put to death and gain life. They are poor and yet make many rich. They are they are completely destitute, and yet they enjoy complete abundance. They are dishonored and yet gain glory through dishonor. They are defamed, and are vindicated. They are mocked and bless in return. They are treated outrageously and behave respectfully to others. When they do good, they are punished as evildoers; when punished, they rejoice as if being given a new life. They are attacked by Jews as aliens, and are persecuted by the Greeks; yet those who hate them cannot give any reason for their hostility.

To put it simply – the soul is to the body as Christians are to the world. The soul is spread through all parts of the body and Christians through all the cities of the world. The soul is in the body but is not of the body; Christians are in the world but not of the world. . . .



Dave Ramsey's Five Basics of Biblical Finance

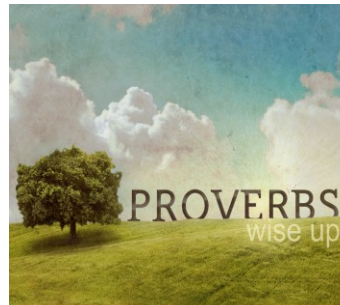
Some of you may recognize Dave Ramsey as one of the local but nationally known names in helping folks manage money by Biblical insights and godly principles. While there are over 800 Scriptures about money in the Bible, Dave chose five that stand out as the very basics of Biblical Finance. Here they are, with a fill in the blank format:

- 1) Get out of _____.
 "The rich rule over the poor, and the borrower is the slave of the lender."
 —Proverbs 22:7 (NRSV)
- 2) Act your _____.
 "A foolish man devours all he has."
 —Proverbs 21:20 (NIV)
- 3) Get on a _____.
 "For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has enough to finish it?"
 —Luke 14:20 (NKJV)
- 4) _____ and invest.
 "In the house of the wise are stores of choice food and oil."
 —Proverbs 21:20 (NIV)
- 5) _____.
 "Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house."
 —Malachi 3:10 (NKJV)

Answers: 1) Debt; 2) Wage; 3) Budget; 4) Save; 5) Give

Getting Wisdom

One of the most comforting Scriptures is James 1:5 – "If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you." This means there is another path to wisdom besides the bitter experience of learning from our mistakes. We may also pray to the Lord for His gift of wisdom, especially in times of trials and testing. The Lord is most certainly generous in pouring out wisdom on His people.



I believe there is yet another path. While one time praying for wisdom, I was arrested by a clear and searching question. The Lord grants wisdom, no doubt about it, but had I considered His books on wisdom? Was I asking for wisdom without taking advantage of the inspired wisdom books of the Bible? Indeed I was. So yet another path to wisdom became clear: Read His wisdom writings! This would include Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon, Job and James.

I know there are quite a few enjoying the chapter-a-day wisdom from Proverbs this month. One passage that got my attention was Proverbs 6:16-19: "There are six things that the LORD hates, seven that are an abomination to him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that make haste to run to evil, a false witness who breathes out lies, and one who sows discord among brothers." What got your attention from reading Proverbs?

"Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ" - St. Jerome

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Valentine's Spaghetti Dinner

For all couples in our church body. An evening to enjoy each other's company while the **youth group** serves you Dinner. At the church building from 6pm to 8pm.

Branded hosting Sign-ups

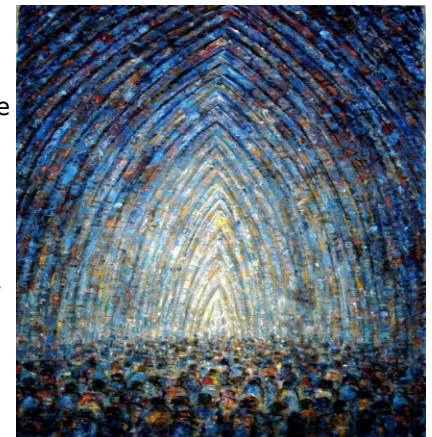
Sign up sheets will start going around to host the **youth group** the last Saturday night of each month from 5pm to 7pm for an evening devotional. Anyone is welcome to host. The host will be responsible for dinner for around 10 and could lead the devo or activity if you want.

FOREST HOME ANNUAL RETREAT

Fri, Jan 20, 2012 from 5:00 PM to Sat, Jan 21, 2012 at 6:30 PM at Bethany Hills Camp

Book Club

Death Comes To Pemberley
 P.D. James at Lisa Grimenstein's
 Date and Time: TBA



Hosanna in Excelsis Deo by Worku Goshu of Ethiopia

2011 Calendar

- **Jan 20th-21st** – FH ANNUAL CHURCH RETREAT @ Bethany Hills
- **January 28th** - Branded for the youth from 5pm to 7pm
- **Feb 10th** - Valentine's spaghetti dinner for the body, from the youth
- **EACH MON+THURS 5:30-5:50PM**@church, Intercessory prayer for anyone
- **EACH TUES MORNING – 6:30am**, mens bible study
- **EACH WED – Dinner @ 5:45pm & Women's Bible Study @ 6:15pm**

DATE	NURSERY (Infants-2 yrs old) During sermon only	LORD'S SUPPER PREPARATION	WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER
Jan 15	Linda Boyd	Jan D. McAlister	Jan 18 Ocie/Shannon
Jan 22	Leah Hickerson	Feb Allen	Jan 25 Pat/Karen
Jan 29	Kacy Pantall	Mar Boyd	Feb 1 Pizza
Feb 5	Kathleen Stewart	April J. Grimenstein	Feb 8 Sarah/Kathleen
Feb 12	Anita Christy	May Gill	Feb 15 Liz/Dawn
Feb 19	Ocie Garner	June Farmer	Feb 22 Linda/Lois
Feb 26	Barbara Jenkins	(Sub-Grimensteins)	Feb 29 Lisa/Wendy
Mar 4	Lynne Daniel	See Jim Grim with questions.	Mar 7 Ocie/Shannon