



# This Week

**Churchwide**

**Worship Services**  
Sunday, 9:00–10:15 AM or 10:30–11:45 AM

**Bible Fellowships**  
Sunday, 9:00–10:15 AM or 10:30–11:45 AM

**Men**

**Samson Society**  
Thursday, 7:00–8:30 PM in the Library

**College & Career**

**Progressive Dinner and Trolley Ride**  
Tuesday, 6:00–9:00 PM at the G.Y.M.

**5th & 6th Grade**

**Breakaway**  
Wednesday, 6:30–8:00 PM in the Loft

**Senior High**

**The Forum**  
Wednesday, 6:30–8:30 PM at the G.Y.M.

**Junior High**

**The Forum**  
Wednesday, 6:30–8:30 PM at the G.Y.M.

# Advent, Week One: Hope

As we enter the season of Advent, we are reminded that Christ’s coming gives us a unique hope as Christians. Much like the people of Israel in the older testament looked toward the coming of Messiah, we look both to Christ’s first coming in the newer testament, as well as to His return. How does the hope of Christ’s second coming and the future of eternity with Him affect the way you live your life? How does it shape your relationships?

**Tuesday:** Isaiah 9:1–7

**Wednesday:** Isaiah 40:1–5

**Thursday:** Colossians 3:1–4

**Friday:** Philippians 3:12–21

**Saturday:** Revelation 21:3–6



# This Morning

**Lesson 32: Requesting Funds and Grace Giving**—*1 Corinthians 16:1–4*  
Tom Rodgers, Lead Pastor

- I.

**A request for financial resources:** The apostle Paul employed the principles of grace giving to request funds from the Corinthians to meet the pressing needs of believers in Judea—*1 Corinthians 16:1–4*.
- II.

**New Testament grace giving:** Each believer is to be motivated by God’s grace in determining how much to give in light of the principle of sowing and reaping—*2 Corinthians 9:6–7*.

A.

“The true measure of a gift is not its external magnitude, but the internal state of the giver’s heart” (Philip E. Hughes).

B.

Grace giving views giving as a form of sowing or investing in what God is doing.

C.

The principle of sowing and reaping logically implies that handling money is a training ground for handling spiritual riches—*Luke 16:11*.

III.

**The purpose of the tithing system:** The Mosaic Covenant mandated three tithes (Deuteronomy 14:22–29) and allowed for a fourth tithe (1 Samuel 8:15–18) as a system of taxation for the nation Israel.

A.

**The 1st tithe:** The first tithe went to the Levites, who served as the vocational assistants to the priests in the central sanctuary of Israel—*Numbers 18:21–24*.

B.

**The 2nd tithe:** The second tithe was brought to Jerusalem to promote spiritual and social unity among the Israelites and provide for all those who attended the three, annual pilgrim feasts—*Deuteronomy 12:10–18*.

C.

**The 3rd tithe:** The third tithe was given locally every three years to fund the welfare system within the community—*Deuteronomy 26:12–15*.

D.

**The 4th tithe:** The fourth tithe could be mandated by the king to support the national militia, when Israel transitioned from being a theocracy to a monarchy—*1 Samuel 8:15–18*.

Begin	Tithe Applied	Amount	End
100%	1st tithe	10%	90%
90%	2nd tithe	9%	81%
81%	3rd tithe	3%	78%
78%	4th tithe	8%	70%

IV.

**An appropriate exhortation:** Those with financial resources are encouraged to enjoy their prosperity and be generous in order to be rewarded richly in eternity—*1 Timothy 6:17–19*.

V.

**The central issue in grace giving:** If every believer in Grace Church would ask the Lord for direction about his personal giving, we would have a healthy spiritual family, regardless of how much or how little each of us were actually giving.
- # Discuss
- These questions are offered each week to facilitate further discussion of this morning’s topic in small group settings such as Community Groups or over dinner with family and friends. We hope you find them helpful to your spiritual growth.
1.

Have you ever felt pressured to give financially to a church? What was the source of that pressure? What emotions did that cause you to feel? How does that mesh or conflict with 2 Corinthians 9:7 in which Paul describes the “cheerful giver?”

2.

By contrast, what does financial giving look like to be motivated by God’s grace, rather than some form of pressure?

3.

What are some other practices in your spiritual life which you have done out of pressure or obligation instead of as a response to God’s grace? What has been the result in your relationship with God? What other consequences did it have in your life?

4.

Describe the difference in the relationships and community of a church with rigid rules for financial giving versus a church where people give money in response to God’s grace?