Welcome

We're glad you've joined us this morning! Feel free to check things out and determine whether we might be a good match for you. We're here to help at your invitation — you set the pace.

If you'd like to explore other options after the service, or if you have questions, please pick up the *Guide to Grace Church* at any exit or speak with a member of our Welcome Team in the hall.

When you're ready for the next step, we'd encourage you to check out a Bible Fellowship (Sunday mornings) or join a Community Group (Sunday nights). Both are great ways to connect with others as you grow in your relationship with Jesus.

Notes

Information



If you are interested in serving as a Salvation Army Bell Ringer on December 5, which helps raise funds to serve those in need, please get details or sign up today in the Main Hall.



Please take note of the list of upcoming service dates and times on the front page of this week's bulletin. We hope you'll join us whenever your schedule allows during this busy season.



Need your Christmas lights put up, lawn raked, or presents wrapped? Our Senior High Jamaica team is raising money for their trip by doing odd jobs through the winter months. Schedule a job by picking up a request form in the Main Hall.



Ladies, join us for a night to celebrate Christmas with fellowship and a meal catered by Gypsy Kit. Sign up in the Main Hall or online—limited spots are available. Childcare is available up through 4th grade by reservation. Cost is \$5.

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Director

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Josh Fernberg Children's Pastor

Caleb Levell

5th & 6th Grade Ministry Coordinator

Curtis Lindsey

College and Young Adults Pastor

Geoff Meador

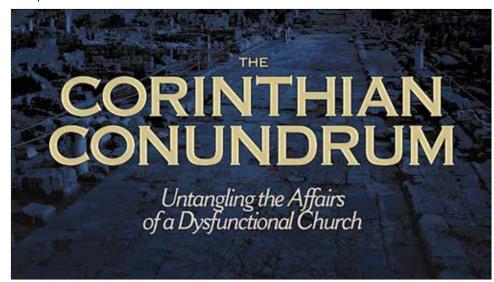
Communications Director

Nolen Smith

Senior High Pastor



November 29, 2015



This morning we continue our study of the book of 1 Corinthians, which began in January and resumed in September after a summer break. If you'd like to catch up on previous lessons, listen online any time at gracechurch.com/podcast.

Updates and Family Matters

Winter Guide Available Today

The Winter 2015 Supplement to the Guide to Grace Church is now available. This one-page calendar will keep you and your family informed of Christmas activities happening in the month of December. Spring 2016 info will be available in a few weeks!

Christmas Worship Schedule

Our four-part Christmas series will begin on Sunday, December 13 and continue through Sunday, December 27. We will gather together for worship at the following times:

 Sunday, December 13
 9:00 and 10:30 AM

 Sunday, December 20
 9:00 and 10:30 AM

 Thursday, December 24
 5:00 PM only

 Sunday, December 27
 10:30 AM only

 Sunday, January 3
 10:30 AM only

Please note: there will be no Bible Fellowships on December 20, December 27, or January 3.

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



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?



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.

- 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?