

THE FOREST HILL NEWS



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VISIT US SOON!

Sunday:

Bible Study..... 9:30 A.M.
Morning Worship.....10:30 A.M.
Evening Worship..... 5:00 P.M.

Wednesday:

Bible Study7:00 P.M.

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**WOULD YOU LIKE A FREE
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Email: carolha365@bellsouth.net
Include "Free Course" in

Volume 36

April 14, 2009

Number 15

You are invited to attend

FRIENDS & FAMILY DAY



at FOREST HILL
Sunday, May 17

Fellowship meal following
Morning Worship

Please invite your family & friends!

Learning the Art of Great Friendship (Part 1)

Neil Richey

An English publication offered a prize for the best definition of a friend, and among the thousands of answers received were the following:

“One who multiplies joys, divides grief, and whose honesty is inviolable.”

“One who understands our silence.”

“A volume of sympathy bound in cloth.”

“A watch which beats true for all time and never runs down.”

While those are quite good, here’s the definition that won first prize: “A friend is the one who comes in when the whole world has gone out.”

The book of Proverbs is replete with characteristics of what great friendship is made of. Let’s take a moment to look at those characteristics.

Loyalty Makes for Great Friendship

A good synonym for the word loyal is faithful. So, loyalty is the art of being faithful. It could include faithfulness to an idea, custom, duty, or a person. Douglas MacArthur made this line famous when he said, “In the evening of my memory I come back to West Point. Always there echoes and re-echoes: duty, honor, country,” Philip Armour said, “There is one element that is worth its weight in gold and that is loyalty. It will cover a multitude of weaknesses.” When speaking of loyalty, my Lord said, “No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon” (Mat. 6:24).

The proverbs writer had this to say about loyalty: “Ointment and perfume rejoice the heart: so doth the sweetness of a man’s friend by hearty counsel. Thine own friend, and thy father’s friend, forsake not; neither go into thy brother’s house in the day of thy calamity: for better is a neighbor that is near than a brother far off” (Pro. 27:9-10). I like that little expression, “forsake not.” It means not to allow yourself to relinquish or to loosen the tight bond you share.

Notice how Samuel illustrates this point when he says, “And it came to pass, when he had made an end of speaking unto Saul, that the soul of Jonathan was knit with the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul” (1 Sam. 18:1).

Do you want to have a great friendship? Then you have to be loyal.

Steadfast Makes for Great Friendship

To be steadfast is similar to being loyal. But, it seems to me to be a stronger word. It means literally unswerving and unchanging. With respect to friendship, the Proverbs writer would say, “A friend loveth at all times, and a brother is born for adversity” (Pro. 17:17). In other words, when a brother [friend] prospers or suffers, a true friend’s character will shine. He will know the words of Paul that say, “Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep” (Rom. 12:15).

Grace Makes for Great Friendship

We all know that grace is commonly called a “free gift”. Indeed that’s the case. It’s this idea of giving something to someone that they don’t deserve. Good friendship needs a lot of grace—after all, we’re human. Even on our best days we’re going to let one another down. “Grace is everything for nothing to those who don’t deserve anything.” What a thought!

The component parts of grace are simple—mercy, love, and kindness. In the book of Proverbs, we see those ingredients. For instance, in Proverbs 19:22 it says, “The desire of a man is his kindness: and a poor man is better than a liar.” A poor man knows how to extend mercy. All men desire kindness. In order for me to be a friend, I must know what it means to be friendly (Pro. 18:24). Then, there’s love. “He that loveth pureness of heart, for the grace of his lips the king shall be his friend” (Pro. 22:11).

[from *The Scroll*, Piedmont Road Church of Christ, Marietta, Georgia]

to be continued

From the Preacher

“Never have I seen a lectureship that stirred a congregation to be more zealous about soul saving than this past lectureship,” stated Forest Hill deacon, Lyle Summitt in the recent elders, deacons, and preacher meeting. I totally concur. Our theme “To Seek and To Save” was so timely and relevant. Two words came to my mind during the week - introspection and motivation. All of us, no doubt, looked inside and thought of the many souls we have neglected, yet through the powerful sermons and presentations, we were motivated to do more to seek and to save. Many thanks to our faithful members who tirelessly labored to make the week a great success. Much appreciation is also extended to local congregations for their assistance and to the throng of people who attended the lectureship. Truly encouraging!

It was my good pleasure to once again travel with our students to the various sites of the Restoration Movement this past week. That journey really complimented lectureship week as we were reminded of the courageous efforts by the pioneers to restore primitive Christianity. The week culminated with a visit to the recently opened Creation Museum in Florence, Kentucky, near Cincinnati. True to the Genesis record, it is a state of the art museum and well worth taking time to explore. Many other significant activities are taking place during late spring and into the summer. Please consult your bulletin regularly.

Barry

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