

THE FOREST HILL NEWS



**Forest Hill
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Barry M. Grider, Pulpit

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 21, 2009

Number 16

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 2)

Neil Richey

Honesty Makes for Great Friendship

Miguel de Cervantes is credited with coining the phrase “honesty’s the best policy”. I like how Thomas Carlyle put it, “Make yourself an honest man, and then you may be sure that there is one rascal less in the world.” We need less rascals for friends. True friends can be honest with one another.

Proverbs 27:6 says, “Faithful are the words of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.” When commenting on these words, one writer said it this way, “True love, properly exercised, will not withhold timely reproof through fear of giving offence.” In Leviticus 19:17 it says, “Thou shalt not hate thy brother in thine heart: thou shalt in any wise rebuke thy neighbour, and not suffer sin upon him.” In point of fact, it’s alright to rebuke a friend provided that when it’s done there can be no question that it was done out of a heart of love.

The need for honest, loving correction among friends can be sure, “Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counselors there is safety” (Pro. 11:14).

Choosing Friends Wisely Makes for Great Friendship

By that I mean, we ought to be selective in our friendship choices. Here are a series of wise words to consider.

- “Wealth maketh many friends; but the poor is separated from his neighbour” (Pro. 19:4).
- The poor is hated even of his own neighbour: but the rich hath many friends” (Pro. 14:20).
- “Many will entreat the favour of the prince: and every man is a friend to him that giveth gifts. All the brethren of the poor do hate him: how much more do his friends go far from him? He pursueth them with words, yet they are wanting to him” (Pro. 19:6-7).

- “Make no friendship with an angry man; and with a furious man thou shalt not go: Lest thou learn his ways, and get a snare to the soul” (Pro. 22:24-25).
- “He that goeth about as a talebearer revealeth secrets: therefore meddle not with him that flattereth with his lips (Pro. 20:19).

Watchfulness Makes for Great Friendship

What I mean by that is, great friendships ought to be guarded. If something is important to you, what are you going to do to keep it? Fight for it. Protect it. The dictionary definition of “guard” is, “to protect from harm by or as if by watching over. Syn. To defend.”

The Proverbs writer said, “A froward man soweth strife: and a whisperer separateth chief friends” (Pro. 16:28). A froward man is by definition a fraud. He seems to care but in actuality does not. He’s out to destroy what’s sacred. Someone put it this way, “No person is more abhorred and avoided than the slanderer and whisperer, whose course is marked by the creation of strife and dissension among brethren.”

In Proverbs 17:9 it says, “He that covereth a transgression seeketh love; but he that repeateth a matter separateth very friends.” This is not rocket science. Don’t lose a good friend because of something that he or she has since sought forgiveness for. It doesn’t do any good to become “historical” with your friends. When commenting on this passage, one writer said, “Peace and harmony can be maintained only by mutual kindness and forbearance; a tale-bearer may embroil a whole community in strife.”

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

A Big Thank You

In order, properly, to thank everyone who helped in the past annual lectureship would require naming everyone in the brotherhood who came, prayed, or had good thoughts about the efforts here. It is not to wish, here, to overlook anyone; but if someone is missed in the following “thank yous,” please be forgiving.

Thanks to the elders of the Forest Hill congregation for their continued support, to her deacons, and to every faithful member. The secretarial staffs of the school and the church are especially thanked for their very hard work in preparing for the incoming speakers and visitors.

Thanks to the alumni association and her president, Mike McDaniel for arranging the dinner and promoting the lectureship. A special thanks to Fred Watson, our “coffee” man, and to Tony Callahan for his directions in the kitchen. Thanks to all who helped prepare and serve meals and clean up. Thank you to Carolyn Hayes who beautified the building with flower arrangements. Thank you to Celicia Grider who handled all the ladies’ classes. Thanks to all who worked in the media room.

Area congregations who brought food were Olive Branch, Cordova, and Southaven. Tom Bright again put the lectures on Online Academy of Bibles Studies. Thanks to Paul and LaDon Sain and Heather Woodard for publishing the book and to April Meachum and Jan Kuehn for helping in proofreading.

An especially difficult task is teaching the daily children’s classes. Thanks to Cindy Rodgers (coordinator) and all the student wives who helped. Thanks to the students who manned the parking lots, ran cameras, helped visitors, remodeled the break-room, and generally worked themselves to exhaustion so that things ran smoothly.

Thanks to fellow-faculty, Bobby Liddell, and all the speakers for their efforts. To God be the glory for blessing all the efforts.

Keith Mosher

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