



Mrs. Frances L. Moffett

Born: August 24, 1950

The Golden Rule

**“Therefore, however you want people to treat you,
so treat them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.”**

Matthew Chapter: 7: 12

**Mrs. Frances L. Moffett
Memorial Service
7 February 2025**

Introduction

We gather today to celebrate the life of Mrs. Frances L. Moffett, beloved wife, mother, grandmother, friend, and community member. Her warmth, generosity, and unwavering strength touched the lives of many, and it is with heavy hearts that we come together to honor her.

Invocation

Lord Jesus, today we grieve for the passing of Sister Moffett. Yet, we know that you are also touched with the feelings of our sorrow. We ask for your peace, which surpasses all understanding (Phil 4:7). For as the Apostle Paul wrote, we do not grieve as others do, those who have no hope (I Thes 4:13). Reveal to us your tender grace, reminding us that our hope is in you, for you are the resurrection and the life (Jn 11:25). Lord, help us to turn to you in true faith, finding comfort in your presence and in your promises. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Scripture Reading

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures.
He leads me beside still waters.
He restores my soul.
He leads me in paths of righteousness
for his name's sake.
Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.
You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD
forever.

~ Psalm 23

Obituary

Frances Moffet of Sierra Vista, AZ passed away on February 1st after battling an unexpected illness. Frances' devotion to her family and her belief in Jesus Christ supported her in this struggle, and she is now at peace with her Lord and Savior.

Frances was one of 13 children, the daughter of Neil Young Sr. and Josie Young. Neil was a Mississippi farm owner, and Josie was a homemaker. Frances' parents and grandparents instilled her with Christian beliefs and moral character. From them she learned about cooking, obeying authority, and virtuous living.

Frances came to know the Moffett family through St. Phillip's Lutheran Church, where she volunteered to help with Vacation Bible School and attended Sunday School. She eventually married James and was soon an Army spouse, one of the most difficult jobs in the military. She loyally and patriotically supported Jim as he moved from post to post as he rose through the officer ranks.

Frances was not idle. She earned an Associate of Arts Degree in Sociology and a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology. After Jim's Army retirement she was active in Sierra Vista. For years she and her husband have been involved in local wedding ceremonies as MCs and photographers. Together, they even wrote a book on marriage: *How Marriages Survive*. Furthermore, Frances faithfully served for many years as an usher at the Kino Gospel Service on FT Huachuca.

Frances is survived by her husband, James; son, James, Jr.; granddaughters, Iyanah and Aria Moffett; brothers, Robert and George "Bubba," and Charles "Pete" (and Shirley) Young; sister, Mattie (and Earl) Jefferson. She is preceded in death by her parents, Neil and Josie Young.

Speaker

Meditation

2 Timothy 4:6-8 reads: "For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing."

In this passage we see the Apostle Paul's final thoughts, the dying testimony of a great Christian. Here we see that not only does God's Word teach us how to live, it also teaches us how to die. As Paul pens these words to his protégé, Timothy, he knows that his end is near. Sitting in a prison in Rome, he recognizes that his execution is looming; the ax will soon fall for his "crime" of preaching Christ's good news, the gospel. So in this text Paul answers the question, "How should a Christian die?" We read here that the apostle appropriately reflects on his life, both looking back and looking forward.

First, he looks back on his life of faith. He employs three images in verse 7. The first of these is that of a fighter. Paul is a spiritual warrior who has endured beatings, floggings,

imprisonments, shipwrecks, and all kinds of hardships in order to follow God's calling. He gives his all, his entire being, as a living sacrifice for the gospel. He is an unrelenting fighter.

The second analogy is that of a runner. Paul doesn't fall out of the run that God gave him. He completes all of the laps set before him, making it to the finish line. He has completed everything that Jesus wants him to do. He is a tireless athlete.

The final image is that he is a believer. Paul's power as an effective fighter and runner doesn't come from himself; the source of his power is his faith in Christ. In Philippians 4:13 he says, "I can do all things through him who strengthens me." Before his conversion Paul persecuted the Early Church, but he had a dramatic encounter with the Lord on the road to Damascus, Syria. From that time on he is a true believer. He goes from the prime persecutor to the prime propagator of the Christian message. He keeps the faith.

What is true of Paul is also true of Frances. She has accomplished all that Jesus asked of her. She was a loyal, supportive wife to Jim for decades. She was a loving mother, grandmother, sister, and friend. She faithfully served in her churches and chapels. She was a vital part of the community here in Sierra Vista. She prioritized following Christ over fashionable trends. We will certainly miss her, but Frances has fought the good fight, she has finished her race, she has kept the faith.

Paul also looks forward to a glorious eternity. He knows that upon his death he will not cease to exist. His demise will not be his destruction, which is why in verse 6 he refers to it as his "departure." He has absolute confidence that due to Jesus' sacrificial and substitutionary sacrifice at Calvary his sins are completely forgiven. Because of Christ's merciful and gracious love, he will be present with God when he is absent from his body. In 1 Corinthians 15 we also see that Paul is confident that he will receive a new, perfect body, at Jesus' Second Coming in the future.

This is how we find comfort today. As I prayed in the invocation, we do not grieve as the world grieves, those with no hope. In the Gospel of John the Lord Jesus says that he is "the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live (11:25)." Christians confidently look forward to a grand reunion with all believers, a new heaven and a new earth, and the end of sin, pain, mourning, and death.

Additionally, the apostle looks forward to a divine reward. He will be given a crown of righteousness, complete glorification, through Jesus' imputed righteousness to his children. He goes on to say that this award isn't his exclusively, rather, it is given to "all who have loved his appearing:" every believer. Faithful Christians have a sure hope eternally with God.

Like Paul, Frances has been a loyal servant of God, publicly displaying her faith for everyone around her. I'm confident that I, and all believers will see her again at that grand reunion in Christ's kingdom. Can you see her now, standing before Jesus, hearing him say, "Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your Master (Mt 25:23)." This is how a great Christian dies.

One day, each of us will also stand before the Lord. This saint that we remember today would tell you it isn't what we do then that matters; it is what we do now that counts. The peace that she currently enjoys, you can also have by putting your trust in the blood of the Lamb, the saving work of Jesus Christ.

Benediction

The benediction comes from the Gospel of John, Chapter 14, verses 1-3. Let us pray.

“Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.” In Jesus' name. Amen.