



On the Same Page

“If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.” (1 John 1:10 ESV)

A Developing Direction

Forever-Family Fellowship

We will teach and practice truth-and-love relationships with brothers-sisters in Christ that must survive/thrive in the present because we believe that these relationships will last forever

All-Week-Long Worship

As the local body of believers gathers each Sunday for worship, **we will inspire a worship experience for all age groups that will travel with you all week long.** What we do on Sunday will assist you in your singing, in your praying, in your devotion, and in your witness.

Conversely, it is as you worship all-week-long that you will be prepared to enter into gathered worship on Sunday.

Day-to-Day Discipleship

As followers of Christ, we are disciples every single day. Respect for and commitment to Scripture is essential. **We will show you how to interact with and respond to God's Word, both as individuals, and in groups.**

Moment-by-Moment Mission

God, the Architect of the world and of our lives arranges appointments and interruptions. Each of us is called to represent His Son for the glory of His Name. **We will cultivate a mind-set for moment-by-moment mission, whether close to home, or far away.**

Really Bad Prayer

Sunday, December 3, 2017

The Garden of Eden, so beautiful in Genesis 2, looks like a crime scene in Genesis 3. There, over in the shadows are two victims, or are they in fact perpetrators. And while it looks like they may be huddling against each other in fear, it also appears that they may have their backs turned toward one another.

If prayer is man talking with God, then the second recorded interaction between God and Adam is **really bad prayer**. It is the case of dis-eased expression from a sin-sick soul. God says, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the forbidden tree?” Adam’s (prayer) answer reads like this: “The woman you gave me - she gave to me, and I ate.”

In crossing the boundary of disobedience, Adam passed from innocence to enlightenment. But this enlightenment was not progress. It was rather “the knowledge of good and evil,” or, the experience of evil at a physical, sensual level. And having experienced it, he could not un-experience it. His perceptions were forever changed. His partner was now also his rival; his Friend now invoked servile fear. He had lost something innocent in his humanity, and had sadly become a different kind of creature.

Far from confessing, Adam blames the woman - “she gave it to me.” And he blames God as well: “The woman you gave me,”. As if to say, “God, you are ultimately responsible for this mess. It’s on you.” And far from interceding for his wife, he accuses her (a most devilish activity). Admittedly, it is pretty tough to intercede for someone who has sinned when we have already followed their lead. True intercession requires a connection, but also a distance. Adam blew it on all counts.

When we find ourselves in our own crime scene, and find that we ourselves are the criminals, our prayers need to be clear and accountable. Answer God’s questions. If you honestly don’t know the answer, admit it. Don’t blame. Allow your soul to be dissected. Don’t evade. Be humble and accept responsibility. Don’t make excuses. Admit what you did, take responsibility, and ask for mercy.

Prayer is a high privilege, and should not be made a mockery. It is an invitation to speak with the Almighty, and we might do well to speak the truth. It is an opportunity to give glory to God, which we steal when we seek to establish our own righteousness. It is a chance to display our intended humanity, as we think, and speak, and ask, and believe - something lesser creatures cannot do.

In this sixth of eight sermons (March, 1522), Martin Luther addresses the role of faith in partaking of the Lord's Table.

But faith (which we all must have, if we wish to go to the sacrament worthily) is a firm trust that Christ, the Son of God, stands in our place and has taken all our sins upon his shoulders and that he is the eternal satisfaction for our sin and reconciles us with God the Father. ... And when I have this faith, then I am certain God is fighting for me; I can defy the devil, death, hell, and sin, and all the harm with which they threaten me.

Martin Luther's Basic Theological Writings, 2nd edition, edited by Timothy F. Lull. Fortress, 2005, p. 295.

News and Notes

Prayer Time: Saturdays, 7:30 a.m., at the Milford Tim Hortons; Sundays, 9 a.m., in the sanctuary

Ladies Bible Study will hold its next meeting at the start of 2018.

Awana meets on Wednesday evenings, 6 - 7:30 p.m for ages 3 through 8th grade.

Angel Tree Christmas gifts "angels" are due back next Sunday, December 10.

Circle of Grace ladies fellowship will meet Tuesday, Dec 12, 6:30 p.m., at the Conrad home. Please see the display in the lobby.

Men of Action breakfast and meeting will be Saturday, Dec 16, 7:30 a.m.

We would like to invite interested people from our church family to join **Milford Baptist's Facebook prayer page** (search 'Milford Prayer') - a user-by-permission forum to post/read church family prayer requests.

Please note the church's phone number: 248-717-3564



Weekly Worship @ 11:00 a.m.

This Sunday, December 3, we will reflect on the woman's faith (Luke 8:40-48) who initiates contact with Jesus and is healed by his power.

Last Sunday, November 26, we considered the amazing miracle where Jesus seeks out the man in the tombs in order to deliver him from the "Legion" of demons (Luke 8:26-39). This was the 2nd of 4 miracles that help to prepare the disciples for mission. [Listen to the message here.](#)

Upcoming Sundays: The remaining miracle in this series will be taught on **Dec 10**. On Sunday, **Dec 17**, children will present a Christmas play and songs in our worship gathering. On Sunday, **Dec 24**, we will meet for morning worship at 11, and Christmas Eve service at 6 p.m. No Sunday School on Dec 24 or 31.

Sunday School meets each Sunday morning, 9:30 a.m. Our adult class is studying subjects related to the morning message; a class for youth; the children's class, the story of Christmas.

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