



On the Same Page

“Far be it from You to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous and the wicked are treated alike. Far be it from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth deal justly?”
Genesis 18:25

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.**

Clean Sweep

Sunday, January 7, 2018

We are looking at Biblical accounts of man's verbal interactions with God. We are thinking about prayer, and how to pray. And in [Genesis 18](#), we see [Abraham engaged in active negotiation with God](#).

[In a recent visit with Abraham](#), we found him thinking that perhaps his servant would be his heir. God said “No, your own son will be your heir.” Ten years passed, and nothing happened, so Sarah suggested that Abe take handmaid Hagar and produce a son. By the time we get to today's passage, Ishmael, Abe's son by Hagar, is about 14 years old. Abraham is 99. Sarah is 89. And, God makes the promise again, with more specificity. “At this time next year, Sarah will have a son!”

Due to the depth of the relationship between God and Abraham, the Lord decides to share what He will do next, in visiting the wickedness of Sodom and Gomorrah with the intent of destroying them. It is here that Abraham begs for God's restraint. “Will you destroy it if you find 50 righteous people there? or 45? or 40? How about 30? or 20? Even 10?” God says that He will withhold judgment even if there are 10 righteous people. But there are not.

Abraham pleads for a division of mankind, between those who are proclaimed righteous, and those who are not; between those covered by the blood of the covenant and those who are not. Abraham, based on God's revelation of Himself, sees all of humanity in this light. There are only two kinds of people: righteous, and unrighteous, not measured in human standards or by human appearances, but by faith in the promises of God.

Will God “sweep away” the righteous with the unrighteous? Will God treat the wheat as though it is chaff? No, He will not, and He does not. And even though He did not find even ten righteous people in Sodom, he still arranged [the rescue of “righteous Lot,”](#) his wife ([partially](#)), and his two daughters. He made a clean sweep of Sodom and Gomorrah, but not before rescuing the righteous.

God has promised to make **a clean sweep** of this world in which we live as well. It's a mess, and God is at odds with sin. We look forward to [a new heavens and new earth in which righteousness dwells](#). Will He sweep away the righteous with the unrighteous? No, He will make a clean sweep of this world, even as He reaches out and saves those who are in right relationship with Him through faith in the covenant formed by Him for the sake of His people, sealed with the blood of Jesus. And this should guide how we pray.

The Crucified Life by A. W. Tozer and James L. Snyder

He does not even mind if you worship God, provided you also worship the gods of this world.

News and Notes

Prayer Time: Sundays, 9 a.m., in the sanctuary

Lord's Table, and American House (3 p.m.) service are this Sunday, January 7.

Ladies Bible Study resumes their meetings, this Tuesday, Jan 9, 10 a.m., in the sanctuary.

Awana meets on Wednesday evenings, 6 - 7:30 p.m for ages 3 through 8th grade. Awana resumes this week, Wednesday, January 10.

Our **Annual Meeting** will be next Sunday, January 15 9:45 a.m. There will be children's Sunday School next week, but the Annual Meeting will occupy the time for Adult Sunday School. Refreshments will be served between 10:30-11 a.m.

Men of Action next meets on Saturday, January 20, 7:30 a.m. **Circle of Grace** next meets on Tuesday evening, February 6.

We would like to invite interested people 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.

Last Sunday, December 31, we met for morning worship at 11, and reflected on God's grace in the past year, and joined in prayer and thanksgiving over matters of sadness and rejoicing. Our sermon text was Genesis 15, and God's covenantal commitment to Abraham. We remember that our relationship with God depends not so much on our commitment to Him, but His commitment to us. [Listen to the message here.](#)

This Sunday, January 7, we will focus on being "Clean Instruments" (2 Timothy 2:20-26) with an emphasis on communication, both what we listen to, and how we speak. **Next Sunday, January 14** we will introduce our church theme for 2018, linked with our next section in Luke's Gospel on mission - **Courage and Clarity**

Sunday School for adults and children resumes this Sunday, though next Sunday, January 14, S.S. for children only, due to our 9:45 a.m. Annual Meeting.

[Milford Baptist Website](#)

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