



On the Same Page

“Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;” (1 Peter 1:13 KJV)

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.**

A Sober Individual

Sunday, February 12, 2017

If someone is described as “sober,” in our present parlance, he or she would be regarded as “not much fun.” That person might be regarded as being serious and cautious, not fun-loving or funny.

Of course, talk of “sobriety” in our culture also reflects a widespread struggle with substance abuse. But if we are to understand the New Testament’s use of “be sober,” it is certainly not referring merely to a dependence on alcohol. It would also include being drunk with any number of things, alcohol included. Certainly we can find ourselves likewise “under the influence” of a mood, a passion, a desire, an agenda, etc. And when any of these things makes me forget my “first principles,” then I have lost my ‘sobriety’, and I am in danger of falling away from my calling and convictions.

So let’s back up for a moment, and get this straight. A sober person is not one who hates fun, and who cannot smile or crack a joke. He need not be a negative person who sees everything in the dimmest of lights. We should not expect him to be carrying signs that say “Woe is me” or “The End is Near.”

Lawyers think like lawyers. Maintenance men think differently, but with a stamp on their thought processes that reflects their training and their daily concerns for the ongoing operation of systems and equipment. Mechanics may be problem solvers, and engineers, well, they have a way of thinking but I’m not sure what it is. Pastors probably have a mind-stamp as well (insert joke here).

My point is that we are taught to think in a way that serves our calling, and we are generally pretty good at sticking to that mindset. Except when it comes to faith. In that case, we have not done so well in integrating the “first principles” of our faith into every area of our lives, so that we approach family and finances, work and play, with this amazing truth that we have been saved by grace and that our aim is but to believe and value the grace-gifts that are given.

We easily revert to a ‘works’ or ‘points’ mindset that supposes that God will love us more on our good days than our bad; that in some way we earn God’s favor, and are thus in a position to lose it.

But when the Gospel writers and preachers of the New Testament tell us to “be sober,” they are simply telling us to stick with a Biblical understanding of the Gospel, that we are not saved by our good deeds, but rather, by God’s good grace, which sent Jesus to be our Sacrifice and our Savior. He, when sober, is my First Principle.

Martin Luther, Preface to Commentary on 1 Peter (commenting on 1 Peter 1:13)

Therefore the spirit must busy itself daily to tame the flesh and to bring it into subjection, must wrestle with it incessantly, and must take care that it does not rebel faith. Therefore those who say that they have faith, think that this is enough, and, in addition, live as they please, are deceiving themselves. Where faith is genuine, it must attack the body and hold it in check, lest the body do what it pleases. For this reason, Peter says that we must be sober.

Luther's Works: Vol. 30, Concordia, 1967, p.27

News and Notes

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

Please pray for our group at this weekend's **FreezeOut at Lake Ann**

Ladies Bible Study, studying 1 Peter, meets each Tuesday, 10 a.m.

Awana meets Wednesdays, 6 - 7:30 p.m. - age 3 thru 5th grade. Our **Awana Grand Prix** is coming up quickly, on Wednesday, February 22, with weigh-in for cars, not contestants, on Tuesday evening. This year we get the high-tech version of this event, with a stainless steel track, and computerized scoring. We even have new boxes in which to store the whole system! Even if you are not personally involved in the race, you should try to attend and watch, and, of course, get to know our Awana families.



Men of Action breakfast and meeting is this Saturday morning, February 11, 7:30 a.m.

Weekly Worship @ 11:00 a.m.



Last Sunday, February 5, in preparation for Lord's Table, we thought about the boyhood of Jesus and his prolonged visit to Jerusalem, and his (and our) understanding of the primacy of a relationship with the Father, from Luke 2:41-51.

This Sunday, February 12, we will examine the few verses that describe John the Baptist's public ministry, as he prepares the way for the ministry of Jesus. The center of his message is repentance, and we will note the concrete expressions of repentance that John teaches.

Next Sunday, February 19, while Pastor Steve is in Togo, W. Africa, Andrew Winter, a student at Grand Rapids Theological Seminary, will visit our congregation and preach in our morning worship service. Please pray for Andrew in advance, and come expecting to be blessed by the Word.

Sunday School classes meet on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. Our Adult class will study and engage in discussion on the theme of the morning message. Our children's class is learning "The Christian's Armor," from this list in Ephesians 6.

[Milford Baptist Website](#)

[Milford Baptist Facebook](#)