



On the Same Page

“With the merciful you show yourself merciful; with the blameless man you show yourself blameless; with the purified you deal purely, and with the crooked you make yourself seem tortuous.” (2 Samuel 22:26–27 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.**

Pure (Me)ssiah

Sunday, May 7, 2017

Contrasting those called and committed to serving Christ as opposed to those serving themselves, Titus 1:15 says “To the pure, all things are pure; but to those who are defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure, but both their mind and their conscience are defiled.” That’s pretty brutal.

Paul is here writing to young minister Titus, explaining that purity is a mindset, an outlook, a way of life. It is a training of the eyes, a restraint of the tongue, an ordering of the mind, and the character of the heart. And they all go together. You are either pure, or you’re not. It is a way to distinguish two classes of people.

Oh, it’s never quite that easy. No one is perfect, and there are gaps and faults. But for the pure, the reign of purity works persuasively to stamp out impurity. Whereas, for the impure, any quest for purity is short-armed and short-lived. Further, I am not saying that an impure person is as putrid as possible. An impure person can be satisfied with an ‘acceptable’ level of impurity. He might leer at women but leave children alone, feeling self-righteous along the way. But make no mistake. He is not pure.

We have to admit that impurity is the norm; purity, the exception. So where does purity come from? James 3:17 says that “wisdom from above is first pure ...” It comes from above; from outside of ourselves. It comes from a relationship with the only person who walked this earth in perfect purity - from Jesus, who gives a new heart to us, by faith in Him, that deeply desires to be like him.

When we live in a society made up of impure people, we must always be on guard against people who want to use us for their own purposes. It may take place ‘merely’ in their eyes or minds - and so, as they say, where’s the harm? But please, don’t believe their flatteries; and, seriously, don’t make any kind of deal with them. Their friendship is good only so long as you are easy, and so long as the sacrifices required to maintain the relationship are cheap.

But then, imagine living in a society made up of those who walk in purity, not because they have to, but because they are pure. They are free to look at you with love, not lust; and they want what is best, for you. They are willing to share, and serve, and sacrifice, because they already have what they need - a relationship with One who Himself is pure, and they are experiencing the benefits.

Consider switching sides today. Move to the Messiah, Jesus, the only One anointed and appointed to lead you into purity.

Martin Luther, in the preface to Lectures on Galatians (1535) - a book of the Bible that he lectured upon no less than six times - here addressing the doctrine of justification by faith:

“No matter how well known it may be or how carefully learned, the devil, our adversary, who prowls around and seeks to devour us (1 Pet 5:8), is not dead. Our flesh also goes on living. Besides, temptations of every sort attack and oppress us on every side. Therefore this doctrine can never be discussed and taught enough. If it is lost and perishes, the whole knowledge of truth, life, and salvation is lost and perishes at the same time. But if it flourishes, everything good flourishes - religion, true worship, the glory of God, and the right knowledge of all things and of all social conditions.”

Martin Luther's Basic Theological Writings. Augsburg Fortress, 2005, p. 18.
Written late in his ministry, 1535, and found in LW 26:3-11

News and Notes

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

Ladies Tea, Saturday, May 6, 11 a.m.

Ladies Bible Study, studying Jude, concluding this week, Tues., May 9, 10 a.m.

We are promoting our **summer week of camp at Lake Ann.** You are encouraged to register for the week of July 17-22 online, or using forms found at the missions board. Please consider sponsoring a camper.

A bi-weekly series on Marriage Communication meets every other Tuesday. It is for marriage couples of any age or experience. **Dinner is 6:15 at the church, followed by study and discussion from 7 to 8 p.m. Next meeting, this Tuesday, May 16**

American House service is today at 3 p.m. We welcome your participation, as we seek to make personal connections with the residents at American House.

Weekly Worship @ 11:00 a.m.



This Sunday, May 7, we continue in Luke 5, seeing how Jesus heals two men. More is revealed about Jesus than about the men. In this message, we find that Jesus is **“Both Willing and Able.”** On this first Sunday of the month, **we will dedicate time as well to observing Lord’s Table.**

Last Sunday, April 30, we returned to our study of the Gospel of Luke, and considered the fascinating story of Peter’s call and commission. We looked at Peter’s humble confession, and what it means to “catch men.”

[Listen to the message here.](#)

Sunday School classes meet this Sunday morning, 9:30 a.m. Our adult class is studying subjects related to the morning message; the youth are tackling a series on Biblical answers to tough questions; the children’s class is learning the Lord’s Prayer.

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