



On the Same Page

“On the contrary, who are you, O man, who answers back to God? The thing molded will not say to the molder, “Why did you make me like this,” will it?” (Romans 9:20 NAS95)

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.**

Incomparable

Sunday, May 21, 2017

So you buy a dog, just a mutt, but as good as any other dog. Now what to name him? How about this? “Incomparable”

That clearly does not work. Yours is a dog just like any other dog, perhaps more ordinary than most. And, we all are experts at making comparisons. You, and your dog, are comparable - easily compared, whether favorably or unfavorably, with others. Not so with God.

God is incomparable. That is, He is in a category of his own. The Old Testament character, Job, says, “For He is not a man like me...” We cannot compare ourselves to Him, or Him to ourselves. But we often do, because that is what we do, and the result is that we begin to wrongly think of ourselves in god-terms, and we begin to think of God in man-terms. And that’s a problem.

Imagine a God who cannot possibly be too full of Himself. He cannot be guilty of an arrogant pride - because He is in fact the fullness of glory and the sum of all perfection.

Imagine a God who has never made a mistake. He has never suffered regret or remorse. He has never second-guessed Himself.

Imagine a God who never grows wiser, since He is all-wise; who knows all contingencies, and who is never surprised.

We are not comparable to this God. We can easily trespass into wrongful pride; we make plenty of mistakes, and we desperately need more wisdom than we now have. We cannot compare ourselves to God, because He is incomparable.

This might potentially lead one to despair, for how can we relate to a God who is so different from us? But don’t forget: the Bible clearly teaches that God made us, without sin, and yet in such a way that we all are subject to weakness and to weariness. God made us this way, and He loves us this way. The Incomparable Creator loves his creatures, and fashioned them (us) in such a way that we live best when we acknowledge our weakness and need, and when we recognize our proper position of being dependent on Him.

We acknowledge our weakness and need and dependence when we heed His Word and receive His Son, in faith and obedience. Failing to do so, we prepare for ourselves a clash with the Creator and Redeemer who is in a class by Himself. Again, Job completes his thought, saying, “For he is not a man, as I am, that I might answer him, that we should come to trial together.” (Job 9:32 ESV)

Martin Luther, in the Argument to Lectures on Galatians (1535) - a book of the Bible that he lectured upon no less than six times - here showing that righteousness is a gift received from outside of ourselves:

“As the earth itself does not produce rain and is unable to acquire it by its own strength, worship, and power but receives it only by a heavenly gift from above, so this heavenly righteousness is given to us by God without our work or merit. As much as the dry earth of itself is able to accomplish in obtaining the right and blessed rain, that much can we men accomplish by our own strength and works to obtain that divine, heavenly, and eternal righteousness.”

Martin Luther's Basic Theological Writings. Augsburg Fortress, 2005, p. 20.

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
We are promoting our **summer week of camp at Lake Ann**. We are trying to settle on a camp week that works for most people, and time is of the essence. Please inform Deb Furline or Pastor Steve what weeks work for your young people. 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. **Start time is 6:15 at the church, and the study concludes at 7:30 p.m. Next meeting, this Tuesday, May 30**

Elders and Deacons meeting is next Tuesday, May 23, 6:30 p.m.

Men of Action breakfast meeting is Saturday, May 20, 7:30 a.m. We will study Romans 12:1,2, followed by a yard work service project.

Weekly Worship @ 11:00 a.m.



This Sunday, May 21, we see Jesus ministering, and being questioned and opposed by the Pharisees regarding Sabbath activities (Luke 5:1-11). In one case, we hear Jesus make an amazing analogy from David's experience as God's anointed; and in the other, we watch as Jesus boldly makes his life-saving point in the face of those who object.

Last Sunday, May 14, in our study of Luke's Gospel, we began to see that Jesus is not what people expected. We also find that Jesus is no mere addition to our lives, but rather requires a re-making of our lives. [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.