



On the Same Page

“In the exercise of His will He brought us forth by the word of truth, so that we would be a kind of first fruits among His creatures.” (James 1:18 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.**

Big Will; little will

Sunday, June 4, 2017

There is a household where two members are called Big Will and little will. Big Will is the dad, and little will is his son. I suppose Will probably is short for William, but there is nothing short about Big Will.

Big Will is undoubtedly the head of the house. He makes all the big decisions. What he says goes, and everybody know it. Especially little will. Most of the time.

little will gets to make lots of decisions, every single day. He makes even more decisions than he knows. We all make many decisions without even realizing it, often without even thinking about them. And that's fine. That's how things work, just so long as little will's decisions do not cross Big Will's decisions.

Now the world is not perfect, and neither is little will. There are times when he is not content to exercise his little will in the areas of freedom that are left to him; areas that do not conflict with what Big Will has communicated. Sometimes, little will wants to give himself a little more room, to make his say-so a little larger. And so, yes, he has violated the will and word of Big Will. That has not gone well.

Now just in case you don't get it yet, this is a parable. Big Will is clearly God, about whom we sing “This Is My Father's World.” And little will is you and me. We live in God's world, and we are His subjects. Whether we recognize it or not, our wills must always act under the umbrella of His will, and when we choose to exercise our wills out from under that umbrella, we get wet, though sometimes God can rain down fire instead of water. When we cross God's will, there are consequences.

The consequences are not always immediate. They can be delayed. They can be subtle. But they are certain. And if we do not experience consequences this side of death, we are told in Scripture that there is a serious sit-down with God on the other side, and it will be difficult, no, ludicrous, to try and explain a good reason why we replaced His Will with ours when we are confronted by the majesty of God in His glory.

To some, this may sound oppressive. I'm sorry if it sounds that way. Evidently you were raised in a home where you did anything you wanted, and were not taught to obey your parents, because it is that training, in part, that prepares us to respect and obey God.

Martin Luther, in his Preface to the Wittenberg Edition of Luther's German Writings (1539) - ironically, Luther decries the publishing of many books as he writes this preface, but states a vital principle: the best books point us toward The Book, the Bible -

'It was also our intention and hope, when we ourselves began to translate the Bible in German, that there should be less writing, and instead more studying and reading of the Scriptures. For all other writing is to lead the way into and point toward the Scriptures, as John the Baptist did toward Christ, saying, "He must increase, but I must decrease" (John 3:30), in order that each person may drink of the fresh spring himself,'

Martin Luther's Basic Theological Writings. Augsburg Fortress, 2005, p. 71.

News and Notes

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

A series on Marriage Communication meets three times in June: this Tuesday, June 6, and then June 13 and 27. 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.** \

American House service, this Sunday, June 4, 3 p.m.

Third Friday Fellowship (lunch and cruise), Friday, June 16

Men of Action Breakfast, Meeting, and Work Day, Saturday, June 17, 7:30 a.m.

Father's Day Worship led by men from the congregation, Sunday, June 18

Church-Wide Canoe and Picnic, Saturday, June 24

Weekly Worship @ 11:00 a.m.



Last Sunday, May 28, in our study of Luke's Gospel (Luke 6:12-19), we were introduced to the 12 Apostles, and found that Jesus engaged in a pattern of solitude and prayer in order that he could invest himself in the important task of training a few as opposed to answering to the pressure of the constant crowds. [Listen to the message here.](#)

This Sunday, June 4, we break from our Luke series to celebrate the birth of the Church, Pentecost, and to thank God for the ministry of the Holy Spirit. We also observe Lord's Table on this first Sunday of the month.

Sunday School classes meet each 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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