



On the Same Page

“Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear.” (Eph. 4:29)

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.**

Watch Your Mouth

Sunday, August 27, 2017

Throughout the summer months, we have been reading and reflecting on Jesus' teaching to his disciples about how they should live as his followers (Luke 6) - quite different from those who do not follow Jesus. This past week, Jesus taught us that out of our mouths, our hearts reveal themselves. And therefore, we should watch our mouths, and pray for help for our hearts.

Let me acquaint you with three passages that help us evaluate our words, and thus red-flag our hearts. The first is 1 Peter 2:1: “So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander.” The last term, slander, is the practice of tearing people down - of tearing down the reputations of people. As we see in the final paragraph of Luke 6, Jesus is much more concerned that we be building up than tearing down. So if you are good at cataloguing and rehearsing the failings and foolishnesses of other people - you've been red-flagged. Watch your mouth, and pray for help with your heart.

Another verse is Colossians 3:9 “Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices.” The verse above mentioned “deceit,” but let's think about the widespread practice of lying - of hiding our faults and offenses behind untruths, and the practice of trumpeting and exaggerating our virtues and good deeds. Now notice, few of us are wholesale liars. We only slip in a “little” lie here and there. But as your good mother taught you, “a half-truth is a whole-lie.” Watch your mouth, and pray for help for your heart.

Now this next verse isn't so specific about talk, but about our attitudes, which also flow from the heart. 1 Timothy 2:8 says: “Therefore I want the men in every place to pray, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and dissension.” Paul, the writer, assumes the practice of prayer and a pious lifestyle. But he also sees a problem. There were evidently a lot of angry and argumentative men. And, as Paul knew, it is really difficult to pray mad. Oh, you can go through the motions of prayer. It might even sound like passionate prayer. But when your words flow from an angry and argumentative heart, there is something wrong. Watch your mouth, and pray for help for your heart.

We live in an angry society. Basic life skills now seem to include roasting others; shading the truth; and, being perpetually upset. But, as I hope to explore next post, grace expresses itself in graciousness. And slander, lying, and angry diatribes do not fit well with grace. Nor do they fit well in a disciple's heart.

Martin Luther, "The Bondage of the Will" (1525), written in response to the humanist Erasmus' "The Freedom of the Will." This quote is from the compiler's (Timothy Lull) introduction.

"Luther feels that lurking behind Erasmus's concern for freedom, merit, and good works is human pride - a desire to have something to offer God that will blunt the enormity of our need for grace. Luther feared that the wrong kind of concern for human responsibility would soon connect with the self-centeredness that is the result of original sin. Such pride of self is the enemy of the gospel, which calls all to receive what God offers in Christ humbly, and without conditions. The truth is that both human wickedness and human achievement stand judged by the cross, to the extent that either represents an attempt to live without God and by human strength alone."

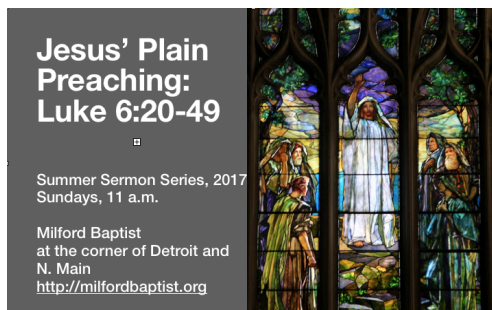
Martin Luther's Basic Theological Writings. Augsburg Fortress, 2005, p. 165.

News and Notes

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

- **American House service, Sunday, September 3, 3 p.m.**
- **Sunday School kickoff is Sunday, September 10, 9:30 a.m., as we seek to teach more children, gather and influence our youth, and grow the fellowship and knowledge of our adults. Plan to join us.**
- **Awana begins Wednesday, September 13. This year we are adding "Trek," - Awana designed for Middle Schoolers. Please see John Dickey about how you can help.**

**Please note the church's new phone number:
248-717-3564**



Weekly Worship @ 11:00 a.m.

Our Summer Series is "Jesus' Plain Preaching", and this is the final message, from Luke 6:43-45. The passage speaks of the need to dig deep in order to withstand the storms of life. Digging deep means not only knowing Christ's

instruction, but also obeying it.

Last Sunday, we reflected on another word picture, where Jesus speaks of good and bad trees producing good and bad fruit, and then applying that image to our own hearts (Luke 6:43-45). The message was called "The Problem of a Hateful Heart," and [you can listen to it here.](#)

Sunday School meets each Sunday morning, 9:30 a.m. Our adult class is studying subjects related to the morning message (this week, building God's building); there is a class available for youth; the children's class is reviewing books of the Bible, and key characters found in each (this week, Judges).

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