



On the Same Page

“But against any of the sons of Israel a dog will not even bark, whether against man or beast, that you may understand how the LORD makes a distinction between Egypt and Israel.” (Exodus 11:7 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.**

To be a G-man: Psalm 4

Sunday, February 18, 2018

Psalms 3 and 4 are bedtime psalms, or songs in the night. They are the interactions of people with God in the throes of sleeplessness. And this sleeplessness, rather than being a curse, has turned out to be a blessing. Thoughts were straightened out. Fears laid to rest. Perspective restored. In simple manner, I've circled four “G”-words in my Bible: “Be **gracious** to me” (v.1); the LORD has set apart the **godly** man for Himself (v.3); “Many are saying, “Who will show us any **good**?”” (v.6); and, “You have put **gladness** in my heart” (v.7). Let's think about these in turn.

This non-sleeper finds that he doesn't fit well into the world in which he lives. He's struck by his lack of acceptance, and finds himself offended at the behaviors of his neighbors. It's a lonely life, and one often finds oneself questioning whether we have it right after all. The world seems so sure of itself. And we listen to them way too much.

But God is present, and kind. He pays attention to us. He knows our frame, that we are but dust, and he comes to the aid of the children who are His, who are down and doubting. He is **gracious**.

When God “sets apart” the **godly** for Himself, we find a word that is used back in the exodus account. As Moses brought plagues to bear upon the stubbornness of Pharaoh, God would often “make a distinction” between the Egyptians and the descendants of Abraham, between one's cattle over against the other's. God was able to carefully direct His punishments, as well as his protections. And so God has special distinctions for those who seeks a view of life shaped not by the world but by God and His Word and will.

The **godly** man who is the beneficiary of God's **graciousness** knows that “**good**” is defined not merely by what makes me feel good at the moment, or what is popular by today's notions, but by that which is in concert with God's character and mission. What seems good for the world is not the **good** that I choose!

Just before he drops off the sleep, this journeyman of little faith, but nighttime prayer, is made **glad** by the assurances of God. Whether or not one has the blessings that go along with worldly favor, he is **graced** with the blessings that belong to the **godly**. “You have put **gladness** in my heart.” And that comes as we seek God's **graciousness**; as we seek to embrace the life of the **godly** as opposed to the worldly; as we let God define what is **good**. Then we have **gladness**. And then, we can sleep.

This quote caught my attention with the mention of “losses and crosses,” but also because it helps me think about an important section of our current Luke studies (Luke 9:23-26) and Jesus admonition to “take up his cross daily” and “whoever wishes to save his life will lose it.”

So in losses and crosses hast thou contentment in God, thou wilt fetch what thou lovest out of the love of God, and what thou art crossed in thou wilt fetch out of God’s love. Thou wilt say, This and that is taken from me, but God is mine; I can fetch more good by faith from him than I can lose in the world. A soul that is acquainted with God, when he loseth anything in the world, he can fetch it out of the fountain and spring.

Sibbes, Richard . A Glance of Heaven (Vintage Puritan) (p. 51). GLH Publishing. Kindle Edition.

News and Notes

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

Ladies Bible Study meet on Tuesdays, 10 a.m., in the sanctuary, studying Matthew’s Gospel.

W. Hickory Haven service will be Tuesday, February 27, 10:15 a.m.

Circle of Grace ladies fellowship next meets on Tuesday evening, March 6.

Awana meets on Wednesday evenings, 6 - 7:30 p.m for ages 3 through 8th grade. The **Awana Grand Prix** is this week: Wednesday, February 21 (weigh-in, Tues, Feb 20)

We would like to invite interested people to join **Milford Baptist’s Facebook prayer page** (search ‘Milford Prayer’) - a user-by-permission forum to post/read church family prayer requests.

Please note the church’s phone number: 248-717-3564

Weekly Worship @ 11:00 a.m.

Last Sunday, February 11, we thought about “The Spirit of a Disciple,” as Jesus remarks to his crew, “You don’t know what spirit you are of” (Luke 9). In one step after another with Jesus, it seems they were either a bit slow, or a bit too fast. As we walk with the Spirit, we want to “keep in step” with the Spirit.

[Listen to the message here.](#)

This Sunday, February 18, we follow Jesus to Jerusalem, and notice the limited careers of three “Would-Be Witnesses” (Luke 9:57-62). These show interest in following Jesus, but each has an excuse why they must delay. We must think about what it means to follow Jesus and be involved in mission, even as we live “normal” lives.

Sunday School for adults and children each Sunday at 9:45 a.m. Adults are studying themes related to the upcoming morning message. Children are studying stories from the life of Daniel.

