



# On the Same Page

“Just as it is written, “JACOB I LOVED, BUT ESAU I HATED.” What shall we say then? There is no injustice with God, is there? May it never be!” (Romans 9:13-14 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.**

## A Less-Familiar God (Psalm 5)

Sunday, March 11, 2018

I said that I would come back to [this psalm](#), so here goes. I have shared in a devotion how, at the edges of this psalm, the psalmist shows us something about **who God is** ([vv. 2,3](#) - my King; my God; LORD), and **who we need to be** before this God ([vv. 11-12](#) - we take refuge in You; we love Your name; we are righteous). 1) We find refuge in the Shepherd-King; 2) we love the one, true God over against all other would-be gods; 3) we find our righteousness, not in ourselves, but in the covenant-keeping LORD who provides us with real righteousness through faith in Jesus. There's that part.

But let's not go on to **a less-familiar aspect of who God is**, found in [vv. 4-6](#). Because we have heard over and over about how God is a God of love. And we do not want to take anything away from that. Except we cannot really understand the wonder of God's love if we do not appreciate the tension that exists with God's hate. Yes, that is what the text says. God hates.

Verses 4 and 5 seem to use an **ABBA** form, that is, the 1st line matches with the last, and the 2 middle lines correspond.

- A** - you are not a God who takes pleasure in wickedness;
- B** - No evil dwells with You
- B'** - The boastful shall not stand before Your eyes
- A'** - You hate all who do iniquity.

There are certain things that God takes no pleasure in, so much so that Scripture says, “God hates.” Further, the old saying that God hates the sin and loves the sinner ... - this phrase seems to contradict that notion. “You hate all who do iniquity.” As we move into [verse 6](#), we add the ideas that God, in this hate, is willing to “destroy,” because he “abhors.”

Now just as we have said that we cannot fully understand God's love without appreciating His hatred, neither can we understand this hatred if we neglect His purpose and nature to love. His love is such that it works through and past that which He abhors. He dives deeply into that in which He takes no pleasure. To put it plainly, He purposes to love what He hates. One thing that we simply cannot say about this God is that He doesn't care. He cares so much, that He is moved to both hate, and love.

And this is born out in [v. 7](#), where the psalmist testifies that, what he does, he does so “by Your abundant lovingkindness.” This sinner-psalmist, who himself, like us all, has “done iniquity,” is still the beneficiary of God's lovingkindness, because that is what God does.

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As in so many areas of life, there is to be balance in our prayer lives - not a balance between praying and not praying, but between boldness and obedience.

**We must pray not only with shameless assertiveness but, at the same time, with restful submissiveness, a confidence that God is wiser than we are, and wants the best for us.**

Keller, Timothy. Prayer: Experiencing Awe and Intimacy with God (p. 230). Penguin Publishing Group. Kindle Edition.

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### **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.

**Men of Action** breakfast and meeting is this Saturday, March 10, 7:30 a.m.

**Daylight Savings Time** begins early this Sunday morning, March 11

**Elders/Deacons meeting,** Tuesday, March 13, 6:30 p.m.

**Awana meets** on Wednesday evenings, 6 - 7:30 p.m for ages 3 through 8th grade. The year ends fast with "double bucks" night this coming Wednesday, then Awana store on 3/21, and Awana awards and carnival on 3/28.

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**

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### **Weekly Worship @ 11:00 a.m.**

**This Sunday, March 11, we engage with a section of Scripture on prayer in Luke 11 (1-13), and find that a parable and a poem help us to better understand the Lord's Prayer,** introduced at the beginning of this section. Read the passage in advance of our exposition this Sunday.



**Last Sunday, March 4,** we observed Lord's Table, and considered Martha and Mary as they entertained Jesus in their home (Luke 10:38-42). Mary more properly practiced the requirement of the Great Commandment than did Martha, to love God above all else. [Listen to the message here.](#)

**Sunday School for adults and children each Sunday at 9:45 a.m.**  
**Adults are studying a theme related to the worship sermon.**  
**Children are studying stories from the life of Daniel.**

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