



On the Same Page

“Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, **think about these things.**” (Philippians 4:8 ESV)

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.

Thinking Out Loud

Baboons don't think. They may have excellent instincts, but they don't reason. It is one of the ways that humans are different. I should say, it is one of the ways that humans *should be* different.

Not all humans think. Many of our responses are more reactions than they are reasoned responses, almost more like a reflex. I have noticed some other instances when I'm pretty sure people are not thinking. One is rehearsing. When a person recites for me what they heard on the news show last night, they are not thinking. They are reporting. Now reporters can think, but many reporters just say what they have heard.

Also, if you tell me the same story over and over, I don't think you are thinking. It's the first thing that comes to mind, and you are telling a story that pretty much bypasses the thought process.

But how is it that we think? Some people are gifted, having developed the interiority of their minds so that they can build a thought structure that continues to get developed over time. Most of us are not like that. We've got to write things down. We are helped by talked to others about it. We need to think out loud.

Also, thinking takes time. We need to turn things over in our minds, and consider other facets of a truth or theory to see if it really works out. Taking time to think is something that our culture does rather miserably because we tend to be in such a hurry.

The other question that I would mention is this: about what should we think? And the answer is limitless. We live in a world that begs to be examined, to be thought about. What makes a person righteous and what makes a person wicked is worth thinking about. The role of the sovereign and infinite God over against the roles of temporary, finite humans is worth thinking about (and, we tend to overestimate ourselves, and underestimate God, both damaging errors). And we should think out loud about these things. Find people with whom you can actually talk something serious.

I would hope that churches are places where this can happen. Hopefully, the person up front isn't just reading what he got off the internet or now, ChatGPT. Hopefully the people will engage with one another over more issues than health and politics (though I admit that health and politics are worth thinking about - but there's got to be more than that). Let's use the minds that God gave us for their intended use. (continued on back side)

(continued from front side) If you only think about the weather, you're probably not really thinking. If you only think about money, maybe you are just counting and measuring. If you bypass the wonders of the world and the deep things of God, then it seems to me, you are living more like a baboon.

The Letters of John Newton by John Newton

Whoever is truly humbled — will not be easily angry, nor harsh or critical of others. He will be compassionate and tender to the infirmities of his fellow-sinners, knowing that if there is a difference — it is grace alone which has made it! He knows that he has the seeds of every evil in his own heart. And under all trials and afflictions — he will look to the hand of the Lord, and lay his mouth in the dust, acknowledging that he suffers much less than his iniquities have deserved.

Notes:

Sunday school meets each week at 10 a.m. with classes for adults and children.

Ladies Bible study is conducting their Winter series on Tuesdays, 10 a.m., with a study called Seven Feasts: Finding Christ in the Celebrations of the Old Testament, by Erin Davis.

Thank you to those who took part in last **Wednesday's evening dinner with discussion and prayer**. Let's do it again in another week, Wednesday, February 21, 6 p.m.

Weekly Worship @ 11:00 a.m.

Last Sunday, January 28, we continued our Winter series with a study of 1 Thessalonians 2 and a message, titled, **"The Gospel Makes a Grand Entrance."** It is not that Paul and Silas made a grand entrance. No, it is not about them, but about God and the Gospel. Their goal was that the Gospel would make such a grand entrance into their lives that it would lead to the believers' grand entrance into God's eternal kingdom! [Listen to the message here.](#)



Last Sunday, February 4, we took a bit of break from our Winter series and consider the Biblical promise, **Jesus is Coming Again**. We will see the emphasis in 1 Thessalonians, but also note some key verses that provide solid markers that will characterize Jesus' coming. [Listen to the message here.](#)

On the Same Page weekly newsletters are available on our website, and there is also an email list which will deliver the newsletter to you each week.

Daily Encouragement emails go out Monday-Saturday mornings, with a short devotional and congregational prayer requests. You may request to be added to this list (or, deleted from this list) by sending a request to baptistmilford@gmail.com.

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