



## On the Same Page

“Then the LORD answered Job out of the storm and said, “Now gird up your loins like a man; I will ask you, and you instruct Me. “Will you really annul My judgment? Will you condemn Me that you may be justified?” (Job 40:6–8 NAS95)

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### 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.

## All Paczki; No Ash

It was interesting to me that Valentine's Day and Ash Wednesday both shared the same day this past week. It seems that valentines won out over ashes. But more importantly is the distinction between “Fat Tuesday” and Ash Wednesday. I don't think that there is any doubt that there were **many, many more people with paczki in their bellies than ash on their foreheads.**

Why is it that we think we can choose one and just ignore the other? Paczki may be a Polish expression of the approaching Lenten season, but it clearly has a religious connection, as does Ash Wednesday. **Can you really just take one without the other?** The only way to do so is to entirely remove the religious element.

**Here's another example: heaven, and hell.** Many more people talk about heaven than hell. Many more people believe in heaven than hell. But can you have one without the other? If heaven is the place/state of God's eternal favor, isn't there then a place/state of God's eternal disfavor? The Bible is pretty clear about this.

Biblically, this ties in to **the distinction between the divine verdicts of condemnation or justification.** We are not talking about *self*-condemnation or *self*-justification. This is about having a broken relationship with *God* or a restored relationship with *God*. **It is something that God fixes for us through Christ,** thus, justified, or that He doesn't, thus condemned. Yes, we have a decisive part in this, but God is the Judge, not you, and **if you are not one, you are the other, either condemned, or justified.** There is no middle ground.

Ignoring the issue is not a strategy. It is an option, but a foolish one, as if one approaches a debt problem as if it will work itself out all by itself. To drift through life with a broken relationship with God, thinking that it will fix itself, is the height of foolishness. We get frustrated with people when they do not address their foolish financial practices or miserable health habits, but scarcely think about **the masses who fail to address a broken relationship with their Creator and their eternal destiny.**

I wonder if **faith and repentance are just a little like paczki and ashes.** A lot of people talk about faith in rather doughy terms, but have no category for repentance, the practice of addressing wrongs wherein we agree with God about His standards of right and wrong and seriously admit our failings. **But can you have one without the other?** True faith in God is only possible when we

**look to God rather than ourselves because we finally admit that we are broken and damaged people.** Justification (a right relationship with God) is only possible when we reach out to Christ due a solemn conviction that we are under condemnation without Him. Heaven is our hope only when we understand that Hell is our deserved destiny as those who stand under condemnation and that our so-called faith has been mostly just talk.

Regret over the paczek (singular) or paczki (plural) you consumed on Tuesday doesn't get you to Wednesday, does it? It goes deeper than that. One must seriously consider not just one's own appetites and feelings, and consider what God has to say about these things.

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**Forever** by Paul David Tripp

**Whatever our confessional theology says about eternity, at the functional level we live as if this is all there is. We live with a destination mentality instead of a preparation mentality. This present world with all of its joys and sorrows is not our final address. When we treat it as if it is, we try to get from this world what we can only experience in the next.**

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### 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.

We have scheduled a **Wednesday evening dinner with discussion and prayer this week,** February 21, 6 p.m.

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

**Last Sunday, February 11,** we continued our Winter series, "Living in the Light of His Coming" with a study of 1 Thessalonians 3 and a message, titled, "**Standing Fast in an Unstable World.**" We can seek to live our lives on the shifting sands of human predictions, or we can find ourselves fixed upon the Rock that is God and His Word. [Listen to the message here.](#)



**This Sunday, February 18,** we move forward in 1 Thessalonians to chapter 4, verses 1-12, with a message called "**Living in Sanctification and with Honor.**" We find here a practical consideration for those who are "**Living in the Light of His Coming.**" This is one of the main passages in the Bible that addresses sanctification (a big Bible word) and sexual ethics.

**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](mailto:baptistmilford@gmail.com).

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