



On the Same Page

“that they would seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; for in Him we live and move and exist,” (Acts 17:27–28 NAS95)

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.

I Just Want to be Left Alone

You might hear the sentiment, **“I just want to be left alone,”** from many different people, young or old. We live in a marketing age, and there are more groups using more methods to seize upon our attention. Most of us receive unwelcome scam calls and uninvited text messages. And then, the email comes asking you to take a survey. **“I just want to be left alone.”**

But to be honest, the sentiment goes beyond media. A person leaves a busy day at work and just wants to be left alone, only to open the door of the house to a high level of chaos. We might find there is a full schedule of school meetings or children's (or, adult's) activities that have turned from being opportunities to obligations.

And then there's the preacher. He just keeps talking about God, God, God - and a person might respond, **“I just want to be left alone.”** But that's a problem. We were made for fellowship with God, and God is intent on inviting you into that relationship. He has many methods of invitation.

There is a verse in Psalm 8 that asks the penetrating question: **“What is man that You take thought of him, And the son of man that You care for him?”** God is interested in you, and He wants what is best for you, which includes you being interested in Him. But you say, **“I just want to be left alone.”** That is, you would like to be autonomous. But you are not. You and I are daily dependent upon gifts from God to continue living; things such as oxygen in the air and rain for the crops and food on the table. God has to do with all those things, and without Him, they would not exist. So are we actually saying, **“I just want to be left alone, except for all the necessary things”?** And if we lack any of those things, guess what happens? We blame God for not doing His job.

Thank God He does not leave us alone, and thank God, He uses many methods to gain our attention. Sometimes it is a kind word or a sweet blessing. Sometimes it is a broken heart, or a broken back. Many people have found their interest in God resurrected when lying in a hospital bed or kneeling at a graveside.

Independence from God will not yield the satisfaction that you are seeking, and submission to His proper place in your life will help you find the meaning and purpose that each of us needs. Independence will produce shallowness and selfishness. Submission will relieve the pressure of orchestrating what you were never designed to do.

Let me give you one more reason, whether any of this sounds attractive to you or not. We live every day immersed in graces that God gives - from the simplest of pleasures to the most profound experiences that we can have on this earth. God, though He invites, does not coerce. And so, when you tell God, **“I just want to be left alone,”** well, He may just allow that, for the rest of your eternal life. But beware, He may just do what you have asked - and with His absence go all of those graces which have made your life enjoyable, or even tolerable. And then, you will probably blame Him.

The Power of Words and the Wonder of God by John Piper, Justin Taylor, Paul David Tripp, Sinclair B. Ferguson, Daniel Taylor, and Bob Kauflin

“The question isn’t, Do you have a voice? The question is, Do you have a song? If you’ve turned from your sins and trusted in the finished work of Christ, if you’re forgiven and reconciled to God, then you have a song. It’s a song of the redeemed, of those who have been rescued from the righteous wrath of God through the cross of Jesus Christ and are now called his friends. Once we were not a people, but now we are the people of God, and our singing together, every voice contributing, is one way we express that truth.”

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.

Good Friday service, Friday, Mar 29, 6 p.m.;

Easter breakfast, Mar 31, 10 a.m. (please sign up in the lobby).

Easter worship is Sunday, March 31 at 11 a.m.

Weekly Worship @ 11:00 a.m.

This Sunday, March 24, Bob Riddle’s message will be **“The Wrong King” (Luke 19:28-44)**

Last Sunday, March 17, as well as this Sunday, March 24, Bob Riddle will be helping us prepare for the Easter observance in our morning messages. Last week, the title of Bob’s message was **“Easter is about ... Tiny Flashlights” (Mark 5:24-34)**. [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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