



On the Same Page

“The Rock! His work is perfect,
For all His ways are just;
A God of faithfulness and without injustice,
Righteous and upright is He.” (Deuteronomy 32:4 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.

Judging the Judge

I am thinking about God as Judge. It is something that God is, not just something that He does. Yes, God is other things alongside of Judge, such as Creator and Redeemer, but He is still Judge. For God to fail to function as Judge, it would be an instance of Him not being who He is. He would cease to be God. Is that what you want?

A friend complained that God should “practice what He preaches” when I mentioned Sunday’s passage, [“Do not judge so that you will not be judged”](#) (Matt 7:1). He had observed that God Himself judges, so He should not tell others not to judge. I’ve been a little fired up ever since.

My friend does not understand that there is a difference between man and God. He seems to think that God should abide by man’s rules, and that God’s judgments and ours are similar. They are not. We make judgments, but they are based on limited knowledge and most often self-interested. **God is Judge, and His ability to Judge is not compromised in any way.** He is not swayed by rhetoric or frustration. He does not judge more severely when He has a bad day. His judgments are always perfectly righteous.

A metaphor of the potter and the clay is used in the prophets Isaiah and Jeremiah. It is not difficult to understand. God is the potter; His people are the clay. Note what Isaiah says: Is. 45:9 [“Woe to the one who quarrels with his Maker — An earthenware vessel among the vessels of earth! Will the clay say to the potter, ‘What are you doing?’ Or the thing you are making say, ‘He has no hands?’](#) Now let me apply this to our “judge” discussion. God is the Judge, and we are those standing before the judge. God sits in judgment against us, but we do not stand in judgment against God. He has an authority as “God” that we do not have. It is part of what is contained in the word “God,” a sovereign being who rules from heaven. We believe in one, true God who is sovereign. Part of this is only logical. Two gods cannot be sovereign, because the sovereignty of one will impinge on the other. There can only really be one sovereign, and thus, one supreme Judge. And, it is not me or you.

So for a mere human, no matter how rich or smart, to stand in judgment of God - it is just foolishness. But it is not a slaphappy kind of foolishness. It is of the tragic kind. Because we can go through life and decide how God has shorted us one way or another; how He hasn’t been fair; or how God has failed to acknowledge our sterling qualities. But all of that is standing in judgment of the very God before whom we will one day bow. **He is the Judge; not me.**

This all reminds me of the atheist who was carrying on about the non-existence of God, but then blurted out, “and I hate him (God) so much.” I wonder if that is not buried in the mindset of the person who objects against God’s prerogative to judge in a way that supersedes our frail judgments. I wonder if we have a sneaking resentment that God is God and I am not. Is it possible that we would rather have the world bow to ourselves rather than us living in a holy fear of God which produces a humility so that we would bow before His judgments?

We should be glad that there is a Judge with a righteous standard. This Judge will hold all evil accountable to His judgment and punishment. **We should also be glad that this Judge is also a Savior,** and that He has provided for forgiveness for those who submit to His salvation in Christ, and thus escape the condemnation due to those who have lived their lives faulting God instead of examining themselves in the light of God’s Word.

Our Secular Age by Collin Hansen, Derek Rishmawy, Alastair Roberts, John Starke, Carl Trueman, Bruce Riley Ashford, Mik...

If we are not intentional about building distinctly Christian communities, our identity and mission will get lost in the shifting cultural sands. But those communities must not exist for the sake of maintaining our own identity and mission. Christian communities ought to exist to bring the holy love of God to our neighbors in word and action. Real spiritual formation is mobilization for a mission, not narcissistic (self-preoccupation).

Notes:

Sunday school meets week with classes for adults and children.

Ladies Bible study meets in the sanctuary, Tuesdays, 10 a.m. - but not on April 16.

Weekly Worship @ 11:00 a.m.

Last Sunday, April 7, we prepared for Lord’s Table with a reflection on two separate verses: Nehemiah 9:6, and Proverbs 30:4. I will call this devotion **“Bigger than Heaven and Earth.”**



Our “Pentecost” series begins this Sunday, April 14, with an exposition of Matthew 7 as we seek to finish a Springtime journey through the Sermon on the Mount.

This Sunday, April 14, we look at Jesus’ warning about human judgments, with a special application regarding the judging of others before we have sufficiently taken stock of ourselves. I will call this message from **Matthew 7:1-5 “Speck vs. Log.”**

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.

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