



On the Same Page

“For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.”
(John 6:38 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.

It's My Choice

I have two weather apps on my phone. Why two? Because they don't always agree. Which one is better? The one that gives me the forecast that I prefer. Isn't that how it is supposed to work? We have a variety of options, and we choose the one that's best, for us.

We could take that approach with medical doctors. We could go to one doctor and have them give an assessment of our condition. Then go to another and have them do the same. Which doctor do you choose? Well, obviously the doctor that presents you as being in the better shape. One doctor says you need bad-tasting medicine. The other doctor says you should eat more candy. The choice is obvious.

None of this asks about what is the truth. We consult the weather to see if it is going to rain, so that we can arrange our plans. If we choose the forecast that merely tells us what we want to hear so that we have no need to change our plans, we stand a greater probability of getting rained on. If we choose the doctor who hands out candy instead of telling us the truth, we may die of the cancer that he finds but refrains from telling us because he doesn't want to ruin our day.

This happens with church-shopping as well. How do people compare churches? There are many ways, but sometimes people compare goods and services to see which church is going to meet the needs of their family best. That presupposes that churches are to be vendors of goods and services, and that meeting the needs that you are most concerned about is what the church should be most concerned about. **But the church is not to be market-driven. It is to be mission-driven, and the mission is not the mission that they themselves come up with, but rather the mission that Jesus Himself gave** the church after He died and rose again for us, and before He ascended back to heaven. Perhaps the most well-known version of that mission is found in Matthew 28: [18](#)“[And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”](#) For many people, teaching and disciple-making are not at the top of their list of perceived needs. They may go to the church that suits them, even if that church fails to fulfill Jesus' mission.

This applies to the selection of preachers or pastors. Congregations look for pastors who are engaging and humorous and tell great

stories. And the truth is, none of those things are bad, nor are they necessarily in conflict with being a Biblical, missional pastor. But engagement and humor are not the best indicators of good pastoring.

The final example that I will give has to do with how “the faithful” choose the Bible translation that they use. “I like this version, because I like how it says (such and such).” Some choose a Bible translation like we choose shoes - we choose the ones that look cool and don’t pinch. And that is not the best way to choose a translation. The best translation is the one (or ones) that best conveys what God is saying, whether it rubs us right or wrong.

We live in a culture that puts way too much value on our own choices, which often pushes God’s Choice to the side.

Systematic Theology by Louis Berkhof

In the last analysis atheism results from the perverted moral state of man and from his desire to escape from God. It is deliberately blind to and suppresses the most fundamental instinct of man, the deepest needs of the soul, the highest aspirations of the human spirit, and the longings of a heart that gropes after some higher Being.

Notes:

Sunday school meets weekly with classes for adults and children.

Next Sunday, June 30, we will conduct our American House service at 3 p.m. Yes, this is usually the first Sunday of the month, but due to a schedule difficulty, we are going on June 30. Please pray that we do not miss or confuse some new residents that have begun attending.

Weekly Worship @ 11:00 a.m.

This Sunday, June 23, we leave Jacob’s tales of deception (for a short time) and find Jacob in the wilderness. He is experiencing the consequences of his deceptive actions, and yet, surprising, he finds that God has not given up on Him, and, that He is not alone. I’ll call this message “**Stone Pillow,**” and we will talk about the significance of the vision that God gives to Jacob, along with a promise, from Genesis 28.



Last Sunday, June 16, we continued with Jacob and found that Jacob’s problem were actually a family problem and, in fact, a humanity problem. This is a second sad story, yet directs us to look for hope, not in fallen human beings, but in God our Father and His Son, Jesus. We call this message from **Genesis 27 “Father and Son.** [Listen to the message here.](#)

On the Same Page weekly newsletters and **Daily Encouragement** are available by email.