



On the Same Page

“explaining and giving evidence that the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead, and *saying*, “This Jesus whom I am proclaiming to you is the Christ.”” (Acts 17:3 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.**

What is a “Good” Christian?

Recent news accounts quoted a person describing a particular Jewish man in less than favorable terms. It was explained, at least in part, why this person deserved this description, and I wondered how it would go if a Christian were described in the same way, a *** Christian. It would be difficult for me to write about this in particular, since it would require me to use a word that my grandkids are not allowed to say, and it seems the prohibition applies to grandpa as well.

So how do I write about this? I began thinking about what it meant to be a “good” Jew. I suppose that, since the definition of “Jew” is broad, there would be differing opinions about what “good.” But that would apply to “Christian” as well - **what is a “good” Christian,**” since the definition of Christian has been used by different groups with different ideas: conservative vs. liberal; Biblical vs. cultural; devout vs. casual. Is it possible that some of these people who use the word “Christian” are not “good enough” to be Christian at all?

So what is a “good” Christian? In some churches, faithful attendance would be a marker. In other churches, hefty giving counts for goodness. It can span from strong leadership to humble service. **“Good” is a very flexible word.**

In all of these measures (and more), **we could always be better.** “Better” is a comparative form of “good,” and my good and yours could always be better. So one of our problems in defining a “good” Christian is realizing that we could always do better, which means what we are doing now is **less than better, or not so good.**

Let’s get to the punch line: the question, “what is a ‘good’ Christian,” is the wrong question, because the way we have framed it answers with regard to self. **How can I be good? How can I be good enough?** And the Gospel answer is, “You can’t.” The issue is not, “are you a good Christian,” but this: **“Do you have a good Christ?”** This is because our salvation is not rooted in ourselves or our best efforts, but in what Jesus did for us. Let me say it more forcefully. If one calls himself a Christian, a “good” Christian, but does not hold to a good Christ, then he defies what it means to be a Christian.

Now, what is a “good” Christ? These terms are more easily defined. **There is only one Christ, and it is the One who has been anointed and appointed by God to be the Savior of the world, Jesus.** Since He is one of a kind and defines His own

category, He cannot be compared, that is, He is incomparable. **He is “good”** in that He is perfectly holy, just like the heavenly Father. They agree completely in word and deed. There is no separation between them, and there are no failures.

Jesus is also “good” in that He qualified Himself to be the perfect sacrifice for our sins through His perfect obedience throughout His life. In spite of the fact that He grew up in a home with sinners - think of that - sinful brothers, He Himself never sinned. Further, He willingly gave Himself up to be crucified for us, that He might, though not a sinner, be put to death for our sins.

As vindication of His suffering and sacrifice, He was raised from the dead, and now gives eternal life to those who believe in Him, that is, those who find Him to be supremely good. These people are called “Christians,” and they need no adjectives before their names.

The Works of John Bunyan, Complete 3 Volume Set, John Bunyan, and George Offor

Why, our bodies at our resurrection will not only be as free from sin, as His was before he died, but also as free from all other infirmities as He was after He was raised again.

Notes:

Sunday school meets weekly with classes for adults and children, but not next Sunday, August 9, due to our Milford Memories schedule.

Men of Action Breakfast is this Saturday, August 3, 8 a.m.

Our Lord’s Table service (11 a.m.) and **American House service** (3 p.m.) are this Sunday, 8/4.

Our next Wednesday night **prayer gathering will be this Wednesday, August 7, 6 p.m.**

Sunday, August 11, due to Milford Memories, our morning worship service will be early, 8 a.m. We all will provide a light breakfast after the service, and will host a table under the carport on Friday-Sunday afternoons to give away ice cream and info about our church. You may sign up for a time slot in our lobby.

Weekly Worship @ 11:00 a.m.

Last Sunday, July 28, we were encouraged that Jacob finally begins to turn the corner away from self and toward God (**Straddling the River**, Genesis 32:1-21). We must ask ourselves if we ourselves are prepared to turn, and have turned, similarly.

[Listen to the message here.](#)

This Sunday, August 4, we prepare for Lord’s Table by continuing our communion series called **“Gospel Conversations.”** We will spend some time with **Jesus and the “First Four” disciples** (Mark 1:14-28).

Next Sunday, August 9, remember our worship gathering will be at 8 a.m., with the climactic part of the Jacob story in Genesis.

