

# On the Same Page

“It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves, but you, in these things which now have been announced to you through those who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven —” (1 Peter 1:12)

## Information

I was born quite a few years ago in the industrial age. Some say we now live in the information age. It is not that there is no industry now, or that there was no information before - but information has become our common currency. It is interesting that we don't know quite what information is, or how it works.

When I drive to Starbucks in the morning for coffee, I at times inform my group of buddies that it's going to be a bad day based on information that I just received. If the stoplights at Main and Commerce, and then Main and Liberty, and then Main and Huron, and then General Motors and Milford Road - if they are all red and cause me to stop all those times, I can deduce from that information that it is going to be a bad day.

Good information is supposed to contribute to the truth of the reality in which we live. However people may disagree with one another, - and they certainly do disagree - but, **there is really only one reality.**

So let me just say that my friends at Starbucks know full well that I am mocking when I say that I can tell the disposition of the day ahead by the redness of a series of stoplights. Information it is, but not good information. It is not information that contributes to an accurate understanding of reality any more than a horoscope. I am actually making fun of such absurd “knowledge” with the hope that they might think about where to find “good” knowledge.

To find information about reality, we must consult a trusted source. I believe in the providence of God, but I am not sure that God cares much about whether I have to stop at too many stoplights in my quest for that first cup of coffee. I don't believe those lights are synced in any intelligent way - they are not “smart” lights; they are “dumb” lights. And they are in no way a source of information that should be trusted. So where do we go to find trusted information?

If you trust the information that shows up in the first few entries on your computer screen, you are a foolish person. The algorithms are designed to feed you first what they have deemed you most want to read; that with which you are most likely to agree. If you trust a particular talking head you have never met on a news entertainment show, you are foolish, because you have no means of detecting the character or motivation of that person who is talking other than knowing that they are being paid a boatload of money to hang on to market share. They don't know you as George or Phyllis. They know you only as market share.



## 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.**

We suppose that we get our “good” information from those we trust. But whom do we trust? That is the question, and that is the problem. We know that the world is filled with liars, but we think we have the tools to tell the liars from the truth-tellers. On what basis? Because they sound confident? One might more likely find the truth in someone who is humble. But that doesn’t sell.

Many people have heard of Jesus, but few trust Him. Why? Because they already have other networks of experts they trust. When the disciples chose to trust Jesus instead of the chief priests, it is that they found Jesus to speak into their hearts with a sincerity and truth that they could not escape. This also brought the result that they found the chief priests to be disappointing, even self-serving.

If information is to help us understand what reality truly is, then Jesus is the One best able to help us in that regard. He will stand in judgment of all other competing and contrary information. He will steer us away from liars, unless it is that we, despite our professions of faith, actually trust the liars more than we trust Jesus. If that is the case, I don’t know which reality you might think you are living in, but it is not real, and you are not prepared for what comes next.

I’m writing this article while parked a red light. It just turned green, so we can go now, and it is a good day, not because the light is green, but because Jesus is alive, and He is the King of the true reality that should matter to everyone. It is called the Kingdom of God.

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**Forever** by Paul David Tripp

**Here is something humbling to think about: no one swindles you more than you do. No one plays games with your reality more than you do. No one deceives you better than you do. No one has told as many lies to you as you have told to yourself. No one has worked as hard and as long to get you to deny what is real and to embrace what is unreal as you have.**

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**Notes:**

**Sunday school classes for adults and youth meet each week at 10 a.m.**

**The Ladies Tea is this Tuesday, 10:30 a.m. in the sanctuary.**

**Our Daily Bread devotionals for Dec-Feb are available in the church lobby**

**Christmas Sundays, Dec 8,15,22; Christmas Eve service, Dec 24, 6 p.m.**

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

**This Sunday, December 8,** our first Christmas message searches out the meaning of the Christmas star and explores the Bible and finds a story that will reach the conclusion that **“Jesus is the Star of the Show”** (Isaiah 14 and Numbers 24).

**Last Sunday, December 1** was our Lord’s Table service at 11 a.m. We have been listening in on **Gospel Conversations** with Jesus in John’s Gospel. Last Sunday, we came to John 8:1-11, and we hear Jesus address the religious authorities and the adulterous woman, in a devotion called **“Pointing at the Greater Sin.”** [Listen to the message here](#)

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