

On the Same Page

1Pet. 2:24 and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed. 25 For you were continually straying like sheep, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls.



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.

Whiter than Snow

There is a beautiful verse in Isaiah 1 that uses snow's whiteness as a word picture. I don't know how in the world that phrase came to mind here at the halfway point of February, but let's not talk about the weather. **Let's talk about the Gospel.**

The verse goes like this: **Is. 1:18** "Come now, and let us reason together," Says the LORD, "Though your sins are as scarlet, They will be as **white as snow;**"

The last two lines are actually found in poetic form in the Bible text. "White as snow" is a pretty good illustration, not of whiteness, but of purity.

The problem was that as Isaiah was writing, Israel was **anything but pure**. Here is his poetic description: **Is. 1:4** Alas, sinful nation, People weighed down with iniquity, Offspring of evildoers, Sons who act corruptly!" Come now, Isaiah, tell us what you really think. But remember, this is not Isaiah's observation. It is God's, which Isaiah was then led to write.

Not only were they dirty, but they were sick. "The whole head is sick, And the whole heart is faint. From the sole of the foot even to the head, There is nothing sound in it."

And then, **there is nothing that Israel could do about it.** They were not able to work or buy their way back into God's favor. They could do all the religious rituals they could dream up, but it would be to no avail.

That's the bad news. The bad news is needed before we are ready to hear and appreciate the good news. Without the bad news, the good news does not strike us as being all that good. The bad news states that Israel was anything but pure; disqualified from any kind of covenant relationship with the holy God. **The good news talks about these stained people becoming "white as snow," pristine and pure and thus acceptable to God.** It is a picture of purity, but it requires us to ask the

question, “how?” If they can not do it themselves, then how is it to be accomplished? We will find the answer in the text that I gave above, but only in part. Here is the whole thing: **Is. 1:18** “Come now, and let us reason together,” Says the LORD, “Though your sins are as scarlet, They will be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They will be like wool.” Not only do we have the word picture, “**white as snow,**” but also this simile: “**like wool.**” I suppose we normally think of wool as white, though I’m not sure that is its import here. Wool does not fall from heaven as does snow. It comes from a sheep, from the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

So both pictures are important. Jesus, the Son of God, came down from heaven (like snow) for the express purpose of bringing cleansing to His people, that is, those who would accept His gift. And the way that He did it is by Himself becoming the sacrificial lamb (wool) who would “bear in His own body our sins on the tree, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By His wounds we are healed” (1 Peter 2:24). **That’s the good news. White as snow,** and reconciled into a relationship with the God of the universe, which is why you exist.

What Is Distinct About the Theology of 1 Timothy? by Claire Smith

The vision of the church as the household of God is theologically and missiologically driven. At its heart is the salvation plan of God, who wants all kinds of people to be saved, and so God’s household is to be formed by, ordered for, and primarily directed toward the gospel. Until Christ’s final appearing, believers are to conform to God’s ordering in our own lives and households; and as *God’s* household, to hold to fast to and make known the truth and mystery of godliness, who is Christ.

Notes:

Sunday School classes for youth and adults meet each Sunday, 10 a.m.

Ladies Bible Study meets on **Tuesdays, 10 a.m.** with a study of Ezra and Nehemiah

Wednesday night dinner, discussion and prayer, 6 p.m. Chili being served - please bring something to go with it.

Weekly Worship @ 11:00 a.m.

This Sunday, February 9, we complete Titus 2 with a summary and intent of the Gospel and the kind of life it produces. It will help make sense of our series title “**Grace and Good Works.**” I will call the message “**Appearances of Grace**”

Last Sunday, February 9, we studied healthy relationships for a **Healthy Church,** based on the instruction provided in Titus 2:1-10. [Listen to the message here](#)