



On the Same Page

“And a voice came from the throne, saying, “Give praise to our God, all you His bond-servants, you who fear Him, the small and the great.”” (Revelation 19:5 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.

Powers of Observation

When I come home from visiting, my wife will ask me questions about colors or items I noticed. I don't notice much of anything. However, I am able to notice details in Scripture text after years of practice.

In the television show “Elementary” from about ten years ago, Sherlock has **powers of observation** different than the ones above. **He notices small things** that most people would not notice. So does God. God's Word does not describe God's notice as the same as mine or my wife's, or Sherlock's. But **God's powers of observation** are noted in several places. I've traced some it by searching out “**small things.**”

God notices **the smallest of details in His Word**, the Scriptures. It is common today as people wanting to preach the “gist” of Scripture without attention to the specifics. I think it allows them to shave the “rough” edges from God's Word, though I would argue that it is the “rough” edges with which we need to struggle. The “Word-as-received” addresses hidden offenses more effectively. Here is what Jesus says: **Matt. 5:18** “until heaven and earth pass away, **not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law** until all is accomplished.”

God's judgment is also impartial, so much so that, as it says in **Deut. 1:17** ‘You shall not show partiality in judgment; **you shall hear the small and the great alike.**” God instructs His people to judge in this way because He judges in this way. He is not bound by our estimation of what is a “big” sin or a “significant” sin or an especially “bad” sin. All sin is an affront to God's holiness.

The entrance to God's salvation is small: **Matt. 7:14** “For the gate is **small** and the way is **narrow** that leads to life, and there are few who find it.” The path to God is exclusive. Jesus famously said, **John 14:6** “**I am the way**, and the truth, and the

life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.” It would be fair to translate this verse “**I am the only way.**” It is narrow as opposed to the broad way that accepts every notion of man’s mind that imagines what God ought to accept. But man’s open-minded opinion contradicts the statement above about the small gate and the narrow way.

But also, **God accepts all kinds of people for salvation.** God’s powers of observation, demonstrated by Jesus, notice the poor and the blind, the rejected and the outcasts. Remember how **Jesus noticed with His divine powers of observation** the woman at the well and the woman with the issue of blood. He noticed the small child and the criminal on the adjacent cross. He noticed the one man in the tree that everyone else wanted to ignore: **Luke 19:3 Zaccheus** was trying to see who Jesus was, and was unable because of the crowd, for he was **small** in stature. ⁴ So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree in order to see Him, for He was about to pass through that way. ⁵ When Jesus came to the place, He looked up and said to him, “Zaccheus, hurry and come down, for today I must stay at your house.”

God sees things that others do not see. He sees you and the things that you wish other people would notice and the things that you wish other people wouldn’t. But He sees, and His regard for you and your concerns is not governed by **the false notion of “bigger is better”** that has captivated our culture. Oh, God is indeed great, but He notices that which is not.

An Exposition of Psalm 130 by John Owen

He is a skillful refiner, that can find much gold in that ore where we see nothing but lead or clay. He remembers the duties which we forget, and forgets the sins which we remember. He justifies our persons, though ungodly; and will also our duties, though not perfectly godly.

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

Time Change is this weekend - Spring ahead

Weekly Worship @ 11:00 a.m.

This Sunday, March 9, we come to a second high point in Titus where we consider the Gospel in a message called **Eternal Salvation** (Titus 4:3-7).

Last Sunday, March 2, we continued our Lord’s Table series called **Gospel Conversations**, and thought about Jesus’ interaction with Peter at the foot washing found in John 13 with a devotion called “**It’s Time to Watch, not Talk.**” [Listen to the message here](#)

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