

# On the Same Page

“But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the *law* of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful **hearer** but an effectual **doer**, this man will be blessed in what he **does**.” (James 1:25 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.

## Read the Book, and Do the Lab

Jeff may be surprised, but I have remembered something that he said when we were doing weekly Bible studies several years ago. We covered several books of the Bible, and I can't remember what was the context for his statement, that all of our Bible learning should be linked to "labs." That is, what we learn in the Bible, we should practice putting into practice.

I avoided classes that had labs if I could. I couldn't avoid biology, so we had to study organ systems, and then we had to cut up the frog on a little stainless steel tray and discover what we already knew from the book. I was a history major in college, and while labs are possible, they are not common. I was assigned to study the writings of Washington Gladden housed at the Ohio Historical Society. I read some of his sermons, which I think qualifies as a lab, and did not reach much of a conclusion because of the weakness of my effort. I learned later that he was a Social Gospel preacher who linked salvation with social action, not so much a salvation from sin against God, but salvation as human efforts to cure societal ills - clearly not the Gospel. I didn't know this from my reading, but from others who actually read and understood. I should have failed the lab.

Jeff says that in church, there is much more Book than lab. He was not advocating ignoring the Book. But when a preacher preaches the Book, he also ought to give some assignments. I suppose those assignments could be to sit and think; to write out a confession, whether of sin or of faith; or to obey what is commanded; or to parse out what should be the attitude that accompanies a promise (if God says, "I will be with you," a promise, then how should that affect our thoughts and our moods, especially in the midst of trial?). What if every sermon had an assignment? What if we knew when we left the room what it is that we are supposed to do with this that we have just

heard? **Because, as the Bible says, it's not just the hearing, but the doing.**

It's been some time since Jeff and I sat down together. It's been a long time since I've heard his common-sense statement that the Book demands a lab assignment. And I have to confess, I haven't done much with it. This is no good excuse, but I'm very comfortable being a Book guy. I can do without cutting up the frog. **But none of us can do without responding to the Word.**

This Sunday we will complete an exposition of Paul's letter to Titus. The Pastoral Epistles, which includes Titus, have a high rate of imperatives (commands) in them. Do this and this and this, and don't do this. Timothy and Titus are being given instructions on how to supervise local church ministry in their region or on their island. Paul tells Titus **to be really clear** about grace (Book), and to urge people **to be involved** in good works (Lab). He is clear that grace precedes the good works, but that the good works are not optional. I think that might translate into something that sounds like, **"Read the Book and Do the Lab."**

So as this Winter series called "Grace and Good Works," (or, "Book and Lab") closes this Sunday, let me give fair warning that there will be a lab assignment. Not only does the Lord want us to have our minds exercised, but He may also want us to get our hands dirty.

---

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

**Take heed, therefore, that you do not DO, that you may believe, but rather believe so effectually that you may DO, even all that Jesus doth require of you from a right principle, even out of love to your dear Lord Jesus Christ...**

---

**Notes:**

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

**Ladies Bible Study normally meets on Tuesdays, 10 a.m.** with a study of Ezra and Nehemiah, but not this coming Tuesday, April 1. No, really, not this Tuesday.

**Men's Breakfast and Meeting** is Saturday, April 5, 8 a.m.

---

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

**Last Sunday, March 23**, Bob preached on the 10th Commandment (Exodus 20:17) in a message called **The Invisible Sin**. Audio for Bob's messages on the 9th and 10th commandments are available here: [March 16](#); [March 23](#)

**This Sunday, March 30**, we plan to complete our Winter Series from Paul's letter to Titus with a final message bearing the series title: **Grace and Good Works** (3:8-15)

[Milford Baptist Website](#)

[Milford Baptist Facebook](#)