

FURTHER THOUGHTS

John 10:11-17 p. 1,666 & 1 John 3:16-19 p. 1,901  
"A Witness of Words, Actions, and Aletheia"

John 10:16 I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. (Gentiles)

John 10:11 The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. (Universality of Jesus' mission)

Luke 24:47 repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. **How?**

1 John 3:18 Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.

"Preach the Gospel at all times. When necessary, use words."  
"Actions speak louder than words." (St. Francis of Assisi)

Yet Jesus' ministry was one of word and action.  
(Emmaus Road Luke 24:19-20) About Jesus of Nazareth, they replied. He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people.

Words without action lack power.  
Actions without words lack witness. (**Lacks the "Why?"**)

The Gospel of Jesus Christ is reduced  
to the Gospel of good deeds.

"and in truth." Greek = "ἀλήθεια" (alétheia)  
"I am the way and the truth and the life."

Its meaning extends beyond mere factual accuracy to encompass sincerity and authenticity.

Jesus declares himself as not only the way to God but also as the embodiment of truth and the source of life.

Not a job to do, but a truth to embody.

FINAL THOUGHTS Psalm 23 p. 862

"Go and Do Likewise"

The words of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm are reassuring.  
The words of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm are an invitation.  
To embody God's love to the world.

Sermon Notes 04/21/24

FIRST THOUGHTS Acts 4:5-12 p. 1,696  
"Rejected by the World"

Michael Chang 1989 French Open  
American, 17 years old, wins, and booed

**Why?** "First, I'd like to thank Jesus my Lord and Savior."

Peter: "the stone you builders rejected,"

**Why?** Jealousy, Power, and his claim to be "Son of God."

Peter: Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."

Jesus: "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6)

"The Scandal of Particularity"  
(19<sup>th</sup> Soren Kierkegaard, Leslie Newbigin)

It is scandalous because it claims that in this particular Jew who lived and died in a particular historical context, and in no other, that all the fullness of God dwelt, and through him alone all things are reconciled to God.

Newbigin emphasized that while Christianity proclaims Jesus Christ as the unique Savior, it does not limit God's activity to those who explicitly identify as Christians. He recognized God's grace extends beyond the visible church and acknowledged the mystery of how God may work in the lives of people from diverse cultural and religious backgrounds.

("Always keep Jesus as Lord in your heart.")

Newbigin encouraged Christians to proclaim the Gospel with conviction and humility. He spoke about the importance of engaging in respectful dialogue with people of other faiths while remaining faithful to the core teachings of Christianity.

("With gentleness and respect.")

Apostles' I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord...

Nicene Creed, We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God...

*Prayerfully, openly engage in relationships  
through Christ's love."*

### **CONTACT INFO**

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### **PRAYER LIST**

Dick Den Hartog, Peter White, Teresa Hutcheson, Nancy Diem, Fred Barker, John Nimmon, Heidi Hefflefinger, Nancy Soccio.

**Arnie Ashwell** who had surgery in relation to kidney stones. (by Ann Cavanaugh).

**Family of Molly Horton Forsyth** (by Ann Cavanaugh)

**Prayer Family:** Glenn & Elaine Gilbert-717-243-6611  
2378 Walnut Bottom Rd. Carlisle PA 17015

**Local Church:** Big Spring Presby- Steve Melton

**Presbyterian:** Lower Marsh Creek-Mark Englund  
Krieger

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Upcoming Events from the Community Life Committee:**  
**Community Garden:** Ask Bob or Rausa Roscinski for more information on how you can help!

**Game Night** – Saturday, April 27th at 6:30pm in the Fellowship hall with participants asked to bring their favorite game and a snack to share – Committee to provide drinks, paper products. All invited so bring a friend. Depending upon interest, this offering may become a monthly event.

**Help wanted** with the Camera for live streaming worship and to help keep up the digital organ library we use during worship. Please speak with Pastor Vern for more info.

**Summer Sermons:** I am looking for June - August sermon ideas. Perhaps a Biblical Text you have wondered about, or a question relating to faith theology. Either email me or write it down and hand it to me. No promises on what I will end up preaching on, but I am interested to see what topics and questions members are interested in hearing about.

Pastor Vern

A reminder that in our age of technology, there are people out there who are trying to take advantage of others by posing as someone they are not. **Be very careful with texts, emails, and calls** supposedly by Pastor Vern or any other of our church members, especially if the person asks for money of any type or more information about our members.