

Scripture is the path upon which we tread when our fellowship began to fully embrace the good news that each person is created in God's image- inclusive of all cultures, races, genders, and orientations. Our identity as Biblical, Relational, Intergenerational, Doing Justice, Giving Freely, and Embracing Diversity encourages us to seek the truth revealed in Jesus- throughout the witness of scripture- that leads to life, for individuals and for our community.

The metaphor the Lord has given us for our journey to full inclusion of our LGBTQ+ family is of crossing water on the dry ground of scripture to the Promised Land. We have followed this path- opened through prayer, and made firm by the wind of the Holy Spirit- through monthly 3-hour Saturday Bible Studies. Join us with these notes and recordings.

9/30/17

Pastor Emeritus Ron Simkins debunks the teaching of mainstream American Christianity that humans are destined for eternal punishment if their LGBTQ+ theology and practice are "wrong." [Biblical Teachings on "HELL" Notes](#) ; ["Hell" and the Eternal Soul Recording](#)

What must we do to be saved? Pastor Renée Antrosio explores Jesus' assertion of Torah truth that loving God with our whole selves, and loving neighbor as ourselves, is the key to life. Belief in Jesus the Messiah is eternal life, equally available to all. [Transcript](#) ; [Recording](#)

What is the cost of conditional welcome? Mainstream American Christian leaders, mimicking the Pharisees before us, have effectively excluded LGBTQ+ Christians and damaged countless young people, laying on them burdens they cannot bear. Jesus' judgement for restricting access to the kingdom of heaven warns religious leaders then and now. [Transcript](#); [Recording](#)

10/14/17

The goodness of creation encompasses the whole variation between the seeming opposites of day & night, land & sea, male & female. The image of Elohim is represented in each person and in the "very good" diversity of humanity, across ethnicities and genders. [Transcript](#). [Recording](#)

The tale of Sodom and Gomorrah—of inhospitality and sundown town violence—has been misused to justify the very violence it decries. Lay teacher Kevin Hamilton explores these issues of justice and mercy. Scripture notes for [Sodom and Gomorrah](#). [Recording](#)

11/30/17

The priestly handbook of Leviticus proclaims the paradigm: "YHWH is in every part of life." Pastor Emeritus Ron Simkins examines the practical aspects of these laws and how they were expressed in the lives of Israel's heroes. [Overview Notes](#). [Recording Part 1](#). [Recording Part 2](#).

The instructions in Leviticus describe a particular moral ethic for ancient Israelites to be separate from surrounding peoples. Lay teacher Kevin Hamilton looks at the issues of purity and how these affect Israel's relationship to the land of Promise. [Notes](#). [Recording](#)

Jesus' interpretations of Sabbath and Kashrut law is the template for understanding the Law. Drawing from conversation with a local Reform Rabbi, Pastor Renée Antrosio demonstrates how applying Jesus' Jewish method of interpretation to sexual laws- like dietary laws- leads us to discover the higher ethic: God cares about every aspect of our lives. [Transcript](#); [Audio](#)

1/20/18

Pastor Renée Antrosio presents research on same-sex behavior in 1st century Rome as systemic exploitation of slaves, captives, and adolescents. She explores the meanings of "nature" in the biblical language, in which God is presented as working "unnaturally" to grant salvation. [Culture. "Nature" and Behavior](#). She examines Paul's rhetorical trap of "us" and "them" in which Roman believers are condemned for judging their pagan neighbors, and how Christians have fallen into this same trap. [Paul's Rhetoric](#); [Transcript of Romans](#); [Summary](#).

3/10/18

The pastoral letters of 1 Corinthians and 1 Timothy present specific examples of working out God's revelation in Jesus in their time and culture. Pastor Emeritus Ron Simkins explores how American Christianity has wrestled with issues of Bible and culture. [Notes](#); [Audio](#)

Some rare vocabulary in 1 Corinthians and 1 Timothy has challenged translators to convey culturally specific terms in modern language. Pastor Renée Antrosio explores the original meanings and how these words translate into our American cultural context. [Audio](#); [Transcript](#)

Lists of vices and virtues served rhetorical functions in Greek and Roman society. Lay teacher Kevin Hamilton illuminates Paul's love of lists and how they would have been heard and understood by the original hearers. Audio [Lists of Vices and Virtues](#); Notes about [Lists](#)

4/14/18- Viewing and discussion of [for the BIBLE tells me so](#).

5/12/18

Pastor Emeritus Ron Simkins presents on Anti-Judaism and Anti-Semitism in the Church [Ron's notes](#); [Audio](#)

Lay teacher Kevin Hamilton presents on the Racism of the White Church. [Notes](#); [Audio](#)

Pastor Renée Antrosio suggests that these historical prejudices and violence inform our understanding of the Church's wrongs toward the LGBTQ+ community. Each of these legacies suggests a different response to acknowledge and repent of past and current injustices and move forward into better love of our neighbors. [Notes](#); [Recording](#)

5/20/18

Pastor Renée Antrosio connects Pentecost, our year-long Sunday morning series in Acts and Galatians, and our Sticky Scriptures Series. [The Spirit expands the Chosen](#).