

“A Place Called Uncertain”



*“Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight.
In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.”*

(Proverbs 3:5-6)

Welcome to Uncertain, Texas, population, 150. For such a small town, Uncertain, Texas packs a big punch. The makeshift community rests on the shores of Caddo Lake, one of the largest natural lakes in the South. Located on the Texas-Louisiana border, it is swampland as far as the eye can see. The salt-of-the-earth folks in this sleepy town can provide you with the best catfish dinner you have ever tasted and a place to rest your head in one of the many hunting or fishing themed motel rooms.

Incorporated in 1961, the town of Uncertain began with a Mayor and five residents serving on an at-large basis. Uncertain derives its name from the original application for township where the name for it had not been decided. Therefore, when the original residents filled out the application they put "Uncertain" in the blank for the name. When the township was given, it became "Uncertain"!

Today, Uncertain is a place where we all are living. With the numbers of infections of COVID-19 on the rise again and with state and local authorities tightening restrictions for reopening, our immediate future is uncertain. Our nation’s top medical professionals, federal and state politicians, small and large business leaders and the general population all agree on one thing regarding the origin, the transmission and the cure for this deadly virus...they are uncertain. We continue to live with social distancing directives that have changed the way we connect with one another. We live each day with a perpetual question mark behind almost every decision we make.

When will our clubs reopen? Restaurants and Bars? Places of worship? When will a vaccine available to the public? The only certain thing about these days is...uncertainty.

The author of the New Testament book of Hebrews defines faith as “the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen” (Hebrews 11:1). Faith provides the certainty of hope and the conviction that God is with us when we find ourselves in a place called uncertain. In Hebrews 11, the author introduces us to the Hall of Fame of faith containing the names and stories of ordinary people who have relied upon their faith in times of uncertainty. Abraham trusted in God’s promises as he prepared to sacrifice his only son, Isaac. Moses trusted a voice in a burning bush and led the people of God out of slavery in Egypt. The God of Israel provided manna and quail from heaven and water from a rock when his people, who were wandering in a desert, were hungry, thirsty and uncertain about their future.

In Proverbs 3:5-6, words of wisdom are provided to those of us, living in a place called uncertain,

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The word, *trust* carries the force of relying on someone for security and safety; the confidence to rely upon the Lord and not on human understanding in times of uncertainty. Trusting the Lord “with all your heart” requires total commitment. In “all our ways,” including times of uncertainty, we acknowledge the Lord’s presence with us.

When Jesus asked people to follow him, he was asking them to trust him with the rest of their lives. He has our future in his hands. None of us can be certain about tomorrow. We do not know what will happen with the stock market next week or with our health next month, but the Lord does. We can find peace in a place called Uncertain knowing the Lord is here with us.

Are you living in a place called Uncertain in your life these days? Do you lose sleep at night worrying about the uncertainty of your medical or financial future? Maybe it is time to leave the catfish dinner behind, check out of your hunting or fishing themed motel room and leave Uncertain behind. The Lord has already checked out and is waiting for you down the road!