

“I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God – what is good and acceptable and perfect.” Romans 12:1-2.

Dear Christian friends,

Life is precious; living can be difficult. We are post-pandemic now and are experiencing some of the after-effects of that time. The disruptions that the pandemic brought into force have led to some significant shifts in the economic and social circumstances for many people. When I go for groceries, I notice the increase in prices on many standard items. We hear through our media outlets about the costs for housing and its affordability. I am shocked at the cost of monthly rent for a basic apartment in Calgary. I witness the growing number of homeless people in our city. “Tent encampments” are springing up in expanding and new locations every day. I truly wonder how many families, especially those with young children, ever manage given the rising costs for food, housing and transportation.

There also is the ever expanding population that suffers from drug use and addiction. This population certainly is more visible across the city post-pandemic. I see increasing numbers of them when I walk to the Church office and home again. I also witness with increasing frequency when First-responders must attend to someone in medical distress because of these street drugs. I live with an increasing level of concern for my children and grandchildren; for the children and youth of the congregation; for the High School students who gather at noon on the Church front step. It seems that each new generation is offered or confronted by a more lethal “illicit” drug. What will their future be like?

Human beings certainly are proving that we cannot by our own ability nor willingness bring true righteousness and equity to creation. We cannot heal the brokenness that the world exists within. We need a redeemer; one who will act to bring about the restoration of true righteousness into creation. Our LORD God has revealed his deep commitment to the reconciliation of creation and human redemption from Sin through Jesus the Son of God. Jesus as the Christ is the One who assures us of our true worth to God. Jesus as the Christ continues to be present for us, to guide us in rightful living and encourage us during discouraging times. We need to be fortified in life for living.

Baptized Christians are never abandoned after being present at the Baptismal font. God does not adopt us and leave us simply to fend for ourselves. Our LORD remains an ever constant source of life and ability for living. As September initiates a more standard routine to our weekly schedule, it is a good time to commit toward that renewed focus upon our relationship to God through Jesus as the Christ. It is God’s promise and commitment to us that can sustain us in life through the most challenging situations we may experience. When a baptized person sets apart time for God through scripture reading, meditation, worship and prayer, they are strengthened for living in hope. Jesus leads us to what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Life is precious; living can be difficult. The circumstances and situations of living can be complex and challenging. Christ Jesus, present with us always, leads to victorious living. Grow always in the love and knowledge of Jesus Christ as LORD. Be blessed in your living; know what is good and what is acceptable and what is perfect.

In Christ forever,

Pastor Kevin.