

“Thoughts During a Pandemic”



Well...June is here, and I can't believe that we are coming to the half-way point of 2020. It has been a strange time for all of us. For some it's been difficult, for others, not as bad. One thing is for certain though, everything has changed. Nobody could have predicted where we would be when this year started and for so many, we had resolutions, plans, and aspirations for this year. I know that many of you have learned some things about yourselves during this time and as I think about the last couple of months a few things come to mind that I would like to share with you.

First, we are absolutely made for relationship. God knew this when He created mankind. The Bible tells us that God said "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper corresponding to him" (Gen. 2:18, HCSB). None of the animals or any other part of creation could fill this void and so God caused Adam to succumb to a deep sleep. God took a rib from Adam and formed Eve (Gen. 2:21-22). We see the importance of this relationship and how the two shall become one based off of the relationship of Oneness between the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit in creation when the Bible tells us, "Let *us* make man in *our* image according to *our* likeness" (Gen. 1:26, italics mine). Being apart from one another has not been good. We are created to have relationship with God, through Christ, by the Holy Spirit. Through this relationship, we relate to each other in love, mercy, grace, kindness, and gentleness. We certainly need the Lord and in times like this, we certainly need each other. I have known this and taught this, but at no other time have I realized this more than I have in these last few months. I pray you have recognized this as well.

The second thing I have been meditating on is this. God's plans are not our plans, His ways are not our ways, His understanding is not our understanding, and His thoughts are not our thoughts (Is. 55:8-9). I know for our family, personally, many of our plans have changed over these past few months and many plans for the coming months have changed as well. As far as our church is considered, all of our plans have changed. I know for our students it has been difficult not being able to have the experiences of their senior year that so many of us had growing up. Now that the school year is over, the questions of the future still linger. I am reminded of James 4:14-15, "Yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring—what your life will be! For you are like a vapor that appears for a little while, then vanishes. Instead, you should say, 'If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.'" This time has reminded me that my plans and desires should be built on God's will and His desires. Whatever we do and whatever we look forward to in the future should be predicated on the biblical teaching, "If it be God's will." I pray that you see this during this time. I pray that you would live in accordance with God's will and that we, as a church, would continue to seek the will of God in all we do.





The third thought that I have been meditating on during this time is the faithfulness of God. We have so much information coming at us through health departments, websites, news media, and daily government announcements. It's hard to make out exactly what is truth and what is fabricated, what is minimized and what is overstated. We certainly want to be responsible and we want to be safe. If we have learned anything during this time, it's that we cannot put our faith in the things and people of this world. We must put our faith in the One who is always faithful. The Bible tells us, "Know therefore that the LORD your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commands" (Deut. 7:9, NIV). God's faithfulness is an attribute that cannot and will not ever fail. It's by His faithfulness and goodness and love that He has given us the ability to have faith in Him and use sound judgment during these times. We are not left to ourselves. He is with us and He is faithful to guide and direct us in wisdom and in truth. "For God has not given us a spirit of fearfulness, but one of power, love, and sound judgement" (2 Tim. 1:7, HCSB).

These are just a few of my thoughts and things that I have been meditating on during this time. While so many things have been stripped away from us, the one thing that can never be taken is our Lord. Focus on Him. Trust in Him. Lean into His mercy, grace, and faithfulness during this time. He will never leave you nor will He forsake those who have a relationship with Him through Jesus Christ. I pray you have been looking to God during this time. I pray you have been seeking His truth and wisdom as well.

I would love to hear from you concerning what God has been teaching you during this time. How have you been growing in the Lord? How has your focus changed during this unprecedented time? How has this impacted your family? How has this time impacted you? Please don't hesitate to call and let me know how you are doing and what God is doing in your life. We can mourn together, celebrate together, and encourage one another because of the Spirit of Christ that bonds us together in Him. Please know that I am praying for you all. May God's mercy and faithfulness follow you all the days of your life.

*In His Amazing Grace,
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