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“From the Pastor’s Desk”

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WHEN FACING UNCERTAIN DAYS

I was awakened this morning with the lines of a certain song that was written by Bill Gaither, which went like this.... *“How sweet to hold a newborn baby, And feel the pride and joy he brings; But greater still the calm assurance: This child can face uncertain days because He Lives! Because He lives, I can face tomorrow, Because He lives, all fear is gone; Because I know He holds the future, And life is worth the living, Just because He lives!”*

This song has been placed in a hymnal that is entitled “Songs that Changed the Church.” Well, if there was a period that needed a song to change the church maybe the period is now, therefore it would do well to sing that song once again....because we are definitely facing a time of “*uncertain days*” in regards to this election. We surely cannot trust the media to tell us the truth as to what this month of November holds.

But even for others in regards to their employment, their health, their children’s future, as well as a host of other unanswered questions we all probably have something which still hangs in the balance which tends to trouble and concerns us.

DAVID AND JONATHAN’S AGREEMENT

This past month I have been giving lessons from the Book of First Samuel in regards to Jonathan, the son of Saul, whose future also hung in the balance because of the fact that he was not chosen to be the next king. If there was one concern he had it was in regards to his family’s future.

Jonathan believed that God had destined David to be the next king of Israel. So he appealed to David to make an agreement with him to preserve his family’s life. (1 Sam.20: 12-17). Jonathan knew he had shown David kindness even at the risk of his own life. Thus he wanted David’s word that once he was established upon the throne that he would not forget the covenant that he had made with him concerning this.

While Jonathan was uncertain as to his own personal survival he was determined to have his children’s lives spared. Jonathan repeated this request to David when they would meet from time to time (1 Sam. 20:42). The good news about that agreement, David did keep his word (2 Sam. 9:1-12) when he invited Jonathan’s son, Mephibosheth, to eat at his table like one of the king’s son’s as well as to inherit the land that had been destined for Saul and Jonathan’s family in the future.

THE CHURCH AND ITS HOPE

Much, as most of you know is unknown and uncertain in regards to this coming election. I know many people are in one sense “*holding their breath*” in regards to the Presidential election as well as which party will hold the Congress in control. We have witnessed total chaos in the streets of our major cities, as well as the turmoil which is taking place in our Nation’s Capital and Wall Street. We all are concerned about our religious freedom as well as the economy. While others seem to be concerned about women’s rights in regards to the abortion issue. With the Covid-19 crisis we have witnessed the death of many of our senior citizens and the disruption of our daily life.....yes, truly we are facing an uncertain future.

The question that we all have is what is going to happen if Mr. Trump is not elected? On the other hand what is going to happen if he is? Some have predicted continued chaos regardless of who is elected. We don’t know. But neither did Jonathan know whether he personally would survive. Well, Jonathan died on the battle field as did his father. But Jonathan died knowing that he had a covenant with David that would be kept. And he was also convinced that David would survive to keep that covenant. Well we serve one who keeps His covenants!!!

CHRIST LIVES AND HE KEEPS HIS COVENANT

So the question is what should be the Christians thoughts be concerning this election and our nation's future? Well there is another song that we sing most often times at Easter which may be good for us to sing in the coming days ahead: It goes like this.

*I serve a risen Saviour, He's in the world today.
I know that He is living, whatever men may say.
I see His hand of mercy, I hear His voice of cheer,
And just the time I need Him He's always near.*

Chorus

*He lives! He lives! Christ Jesus lives today!
He walks with me and talks with me along life's narrow way.
He lives! He lives! Salvation to impart!
You ask me how I know He lives? He lives within my heart.*

*In all the world around me I see His loving care,
And though my heart grows weary I never will despair.
I know that He is leading, thro' all the stormy blast;
The day of His appearing will come at last.*

So what I suggest for my readers, if your mind is disturbed by what is happening around you at this present time. I suggest that this is a time to sing. Sing the songs of faith and praise. Sing the songs of victory and joy. Sing the songs that remind you and I of the faithfulness of God. And sometimes you will need to turn the volume on the news down or off in order to sing. But sing!!!

And then I would suggest that you read things which give you peace and uplift. We have been urging our people to read a devotional this past year written by Paul David Tripp *New Morning Mercies*. When I have asked our people if Paul Tripp's book has been inspirational they have all responded in the positive. So, I suggest that as well...along with the reading of the Scriptures. The Psalms are most helpful in times of uncertainty because if there was one who lived in such times as these, it was the Psalmist.

You see we were made to not only have a relationship with other people in this life, we are also made to have a daily relationship with God. This means that everything you do or say, think or believe, even the choices you make shapes your life are somehow, and in some way done in reference to God. We may make the mistake of ignoring His existence, and even think that theologically speaking that there is no God. But we cannot escape the fact that we were crafted in His image and are connected to Him by means of His creation. We all have come from God, we all exist through God, and all that we do is meant to be done for Him.

Without God there is so little we can do even to the point of our existence. Those who have tried to live their life without Him have for the most part been pretty miserable if they would only admit it. But we humans can be pretty stubborn and set in our ways. Like Saul we sometimes are unwilling to wait for God or his prophets. We rush in where angels fear to tread. We do things that shock the world and we produced evil from the very pit of hell and then wonder why we live in misery.

When Jesus came, he came not only to die for our sins, but left us an example how to live better lives. But he leaves that decision to us. He will never force Himself upon us. We must open the door and let Him into our lives. He wants to come in and take up His abode in us. Oh that we will allow Him free reign into our lives. Then we too can sing with the Church of the redeemed that we serve a risen Savior who is in the world today, and though my heart grows weary I never will despair. I know that He is leading, thro' all the stormy blast; the day of His appearing will come at last.

*“He lives He lives! Christ Jesus lives today!
He walks with me and talks with me along life's narrow way.
He lives! He lives! Salvation to impart!
You ask me how I know He lives, He lives within my heart.*

Amen