

Ponderings from Pastor Paul – January 2021

The world is different today than it was a year ago. Our lives are forever changed. What kind of a world did we bring our children and grandchildren into? If this is today, what will tomorrow bring? We could probably add a sentiment here regarding something about a handbasket as well.

Current estimates regarding worldwide deaths due to the coronavirus could be incredibly skewed. However, more and more of us know someone who has suffered, if not died as a direct result of covid-19. This is serious stuff and 2020 has been a difficult year we will not forget.

Or perhaps we will forget very quickly. In my experience, I find we have rather short and biased memories. We must be reminded of the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. We have all but forgotten Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. And we almost intentionally ignore the fact that perhaps more than 200,000 people died in the United States attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki on August 6 & 9, 1945. And how about the more than 40 million deaths worldwide from abortion every year. Chaos and death are nothing new.

No, I don't believe 2020 will stand out for very long.

Now don't get me wrong. I am not ranting about Al-Qaeda, the Japanese, or America. This is not a pro-life diatribe, though I proudly admit that is my stance. I am simply hoping you will recognize that we remember what we choose to remember, and we tend to let other events get pushed aside.

There is no question about it. Our world is messed up. It has been since Adam and Eve took the bite of that fruit. But God fulfilled his promise to make things right 2000 years ago. He didn't make the world right. That is still to come. However, God did make us right through Jesus' death and resurrection. We don't have to agonize over the events evolving in our sinful world. We have been made right because of Jesus' actions. We must remember this above all things!

I believe it is time to get past the disruption that 2020 brought to all our lives. I believe it is time to remember that God has brought us through the past. I believe it is time to remember that he has used the tragedies of the past to provide for our future, including the death of his Son. I believe it is time to embrace the days God is providing for us today. I believe it is time to quit looking back and instead

look forward to the day when he will bring us completely through our trials at the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Many of us are hoping and praying 2021 will bring a brighter future. I am praying for this as well. It looks like a coronavirus vaccine will help us return to some sense of normalcy, but life will be different than it was. And eternal life will be so much different than life is here.

There is no vaccine that protects us from sin. We have already been infected. But there is a cure for this malady, and you have already been given the antidote. It was not developed by a drug company, but rather designed from before time by God himself. The name of that cure is Jesus. In this, there truly is cause to remember and rejoice.

God loves you and so do I!

Pastor Paul