

Ponderings from Pastor Paul – September 2022

I bought a new car recently. Well, not exactly new. It's actually 58 years old. It's a 1964 ½ black Ford Mustang. I've been saving up my pennies for at least a dozen years and I finally decided it was time to take the plunge. I wanted to be able to enjoy it before I can't drive anymore.

I bought the car from a guy who lived over two hours away. I decided not to drive the car home on the freeway, because you can never tell how a car that old will do at highway speeds for that distance. I thought it would be a nice relaxing drive home on the back country roads. Was I ever wrong!

On top of being nervous about driving an old car 130 miles, it also happened to be one of those sunny 90-degree days in July. Did I mention the car is black? Did you know they didn't put air conditioners in all cars in 1964? The "wing" windows only helped a little, and I was a sweaty mess. In addition, there were deer and turkeys who decided to take a walk on that beautiful sunny day. On top of that, a truck hauling a fifth-wheel pulled right out in front of me. And then some bugger who couldn't have been paying attention to the world around him, did the same thing.

Doesn't the world know I'm driving my new baby! That two-and-a-half-hour drive was more stressful than the last two and a half years. I wanted to enjoy some time with this vehicle that I love, but I didn't want anything to happen to it. I began to understand why some people just leave their old cars in their garage.

I wonder if that's just a taste of what God feels. He wants to be with us and to have us enjoy life and to enjoy a relationship with him, but there are so many dangers. On top of all our faults that get us into enough trouble on our own, there is a world out there that wants to see us fail. And how about the devil, who pulls out into our path to intentionally create a wreck of our lives?

But God loves us too much to have us sheltered in a garage... I mean church. There is a journey of life for which we were built... I mean created. We were intended to live in a loving relationship with our owner... I mean Creator. In old cars and in life, there are tremendous hazards. God promises to be with us in the midst of the trials, but he needs us to be out there if we are to have a full life.

It might take a while, but I need to learn how to drive my Mustang with a heart of joy rather than stress. To love it as it gets me to where I need to go. I think I

understand God's heart for me just a little better this month. I understand his love for me as well as his fears for me. I pray we can all learn how to live and our relationships with God with love and joy, as he pursues a relationship with us.

God loves you and so do I!

Pastor Paul

P.S. – More Mustang stories to follow. I promise.