

“Reality Check?”

Over the past couple of weeks you may have discovered the reality of the old adage: “You don’t know what you’ve got till it’s gone.” Maybe it’s the freedom you **had** to function normally in your contacts with others in your daily activities or routines, which makes life right now inconvenient. Maybe it’s the products at the store which you **used to** acquire so easily. Maybe it’s the job and/or income which you **need** to support your living. Maybe it’s even your health which is being **challenged** in the midst of a pandemic.

“Had . . . used to . . . need . . . challenged”—all words which throw you into assessing your current life which can make you feel like you’re forced into what some call a “reality check.” The struggle with such an assessment is it assumes that “reality” is only the bad, negative and suffering circumstances in life. While it may be a reality check within the adverse situation, making you thankful and appreciative of what you do have, hopefully it will cause you to understand reality differently.

When it comes to the reality of your life you are actually in the same spot whether in good or bad times. Daily we witness how fleeting this life actually is with the certainties it claims to offer. Just ask the parent whose life is changed within a second when news comes of her child being killed in a car accident. Just as the couple who weather the tornado which completely destroyed their home and spread their possessions for miles. Just ask the employee who has worked for a company for thirty or so years who came to work that day only to find his job terminated.

If there is any “reality check” within the wake of this pandemic it should be coming face to face with the object of your faith. As David prayed to God for help while dealing with enemies who were trying to kill him, in Psalm 31:15 he confessed to God: *My times are in Your hand*. How many people view this virus as an enemy which is trying to take their lives? Could it be a “reality check” so that the object of their faith is the LORD and not their efforts to control their “enemy”?

David goes on to pray: *Make Your face shine on Your servant; save me in Your steadfast love!* (cf. Psalm 31:16) The reality which needs to be embraced is the “idolatry reality check”—that is, how you’ve lost sight of being God’s *servant* and only expecting to be served . . . or . . . thinking you’re in control . . . or . . . desperately panicking to gain control, etc. Rather, in humble repentance you confess the sin of idolatry and cling to God’s *steadfast love* for you.

That *steadfast love* brings you the stability of pressing forward with the proper object of your faith, Jesus Christ. Romans 5:8 says that *God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us*. The reality is that your *times are in* the hands scarred with the nails prints from Jesus dying on the cross for the forgiveness of your sins. The reality is that only in Him will you be able to live confidently, not just day to day in the changes and uncertainties of life now, but also in eternity with *Jesus Christ, Who is the same yesterday and today and forever* (cf. Hebrews 13:8). Be assure: Jesus has your reality in check.

— Pastor