

“Walking by Faith”

Faith is not a foreign concept to people. It touches every area of our lives, as we are well aware over these past days with the concern about what or who we touch. Ever drive down a two lane road? How do you know the person coming toward you at 65 mph will stay on his side of the road? Faith. Ever give your money to a bank for safe keeping or investment? How do you know you'll get it back from them? You trust. I'm sure you can think of tons of everyday activities which you do by faith.

Since everything we do in life is an act of faith it is very easy to take faith for granted . . . until a pandemic arrives. All of a sudden those actions which we simply took for granted “by faith” can make us face our mortality. Knowing or not knowing what part we may play in the spread of a life threatening virus we desire to be **faithful** to the object of our faith—Jesus, Whom we confess as our Lord and Savior. Here are some thoughts about being **faithful** to Jesus:

- Philippians 2:3-4 → *Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.* We have the obligation and desire to protect others in love for the Lord and them.
- Titus 3:1 → *Remind them (i.e. Christians) to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work.* In our desire to protect others we want to follow the guidance of our governing authorities.
- Luke 12:32 → Jesus said: *Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you (i.e. Christians) the kingdom.* In our desire to protect others we function from faith rather than fear, knowing that we have a peace which the world cannot give (cf. John 14:27), the peace that comes when the object of our faith is Jesus.

Within the context of speaking about our mortality, the apostle Paul makes this statement: *we walk by faith, not by sight* (cf. 2

Corinthians 5:7). While the Christian does desire to be with Jesus eternally he does not have a death wish either. He simply recognizes that his time is in God's hands (cf. Psalm 31:15) and lives each day, facing whatever challenges lie before his eyes under His grace.

In our relationships with others we do have to walk by sight, making personal decisions about our contact with people based upon information and the best educated guesses during this time. However, we do so in faith, not fear. If any fear comes to play in this walking it is a respect of the far reaching affects of this virus while our faith provides a respect for One much greater than it—Jesus, Lord of lords and King of kings (cf. Revelation 17:14). Thus, in those decisions, personal and corporate, we work from peace, not panic, practicing sanctified discretion, giving witness to the peace of the Lord.

— Pastor