

Sunday - April 19, 2020

## A Message From Your Pastor

God has brought us through another week, and He will bring us all the way through, praise His name! The Coved-19 pandemic has taken its toll worldwide. Our great nation has been hit hard with an economic downfall, and so many are now unemployed due to the closing of businesses. The stay at home mandate and social distancing has been a help. The worst thing is the loss of so many lives, and the impact upon those who have been infected. Our hats are off and our prayers are on for all those working in the medical field, and the many diligent persons stepping up to help in various and unique ways in this time of need. May God bless them.

On the lighter side, we have temporarily become a “masked society” Under normal conditions, picture us walking up to the bank teller, ha ha. Remember, things will get better. (Ecclesiastes 7:8a) – “Better is the end of a thing than the beginning thereof...” Here are a few lessons to be learned.

**NUMBER ONE** – We need a **vision for the lost!** (Proverbs 29:18) – “Where there is no vision, the people perish, but he that keepeth the law, happy is he.” Thousands of precious souls have been snatched into eternity via this deadly disease. Just think how many of them **PERISHED!** Oh, God! What are we doing to reach the lost? There are lost family members, lost co-workers, lost friends and neighbors. There is a Christian song which contains the words: “Win the lost at any cost.” Are you and I willing to count the cost and win the lost? May God give us this vision! Do you recall the last time you witnessed to a lost soul?

**NUMBER TWO** – We need to realize the **value of love.** We must love **GOD!** (Deuteronomy 6:5) – “And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.” This great truth is reviewed and taught by Jesus in the New Testament. When He was asked by a lawyer which is the great commandment of the law.

Jesus quoted this verse. It is very easy for all of us to say: “I love God.” May we prove it by our life-style and our service for God. Jesus took this principle further when He told the lawyer to love his NEIGHBOR! This can be found in Matthew 22:36-40 – “Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, “Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.” This is the first and great commandment, and the second is like unto it, thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.” This does not limit it to those who live next door. The word “neighbor” here means fellowman, a friend, anyone close by. This means that we are surrounded by neighbors. Then we must love ONE ANOTHER. (I John 4:7) – “Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and everyone that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.” As believers, we are bound together by God’s everlasting love. The true born-again people of God have a message of hope. This hope finds its resting place in the bosom of God Himself, for GOD IS LOVE. If we do not openly express this love for each other, both the lost individual and the struggling saint may never know the joy and peace God wants them to have. Remember how much Jesus loves you. John 3:16 sums it all up! “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” Be sure to love the members of your physical family. The family is near to the heart of God, and it was the first institution He established.

**NUMBER THREE** -We must be **volunteers for the Lord** in His service. When you read the New Testament, especially the Book of Acts, you readily see that the Lord’s work involves communion and cooperation. Our church is not a building located at 308 S. Queen St. Rather it is an organized body of believers who serve together to evangelize the lost, edify and encourage each other and exalt the Lord Jesus Christ. Our church needs you, and God wants to use you here in a very special way. Your **attendance** is important. Don’t neglect the

evening service and our Wednesday prayer service, once everything gets back to normal. Your **monetary support** is needed and appreciated. Your **personal involvement** is more than welcomed. Praise God for those who help to take care of the grounds and physical building. This is what volunteering is all about, I realize that everyone is not able to help in this manner, so your prayers are vitally important for the operation and functioning of the church.

I am looking forward to being back with you all in the very near future! Be a volunteer for Jesus. Look for opportunities to serve the Lord through our local church, or right where you are. It is an important choice to make. Joshua made the right choice for himself and his family. “..but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.” (Joshua 24:15b). There will be plenty of opportunities ahead when you can be a volunteer.

God bless you and keep you.

Note: from Bro. Matt McBride, requested that you send your tithes and offerings to his home address, because he is using electronic deposits. He asked that you **do not send cash**. The checks can be made out to SIBC and sent to Mr. Matt McBride, 90 North Blackberry Lane, Fayetteville, PA 17222