



A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

“Being justified by faith we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Romans 5

Here’s something to think about . . .

We all have certain things that we believe about life . . . things of which we are certain.

How do we know that those things are correct? On what basis do we make whatever judgments we make about that kind of thing? Do we, for example take someone else’s word about what is true? Or do we choose to think that things are correct because it “makes sense to us?” Or do we say, “I need to check this out for myself to be absolutely certain.” Or do we say, “I’ll believe it when I see it.” Or we may ask, “Is this scientifically verifiable?” Or we may ask what is it to “believe” at all? What is “faith”? How is faith different / the same as “opinion”?

Right now our book group is reading a book that asks those kinds of questions. . . how peoples’ “faith” or belief have changed in the last 1000 years or in the time period that goes back to the early Middle Ages. It’s titled, The Birth of Modern Belief. It’s a history book about beliefs written by an English University professor.

One of the points the author of the book is trying to make is the observation that over the course of the last 450 years (beginning from about 100 years after the Reformation) those kinds of questions about how and why “modern” people “think about things” has changed. It notes that we don’t “think” like people did 500 years ago.

So (for better or worse) that has happened and “modern” people think about things differently. What has happened has been both widely discussed with many differences of opinion. Many persons have disagreed on the subject.

It seems to me that those changes have created some difficult results among which are the polarities that have enveloped our society. These realities and questions are among the most pressing and have created some of the differences we experience today.

In the Church we talk and think a lot about “faith”. So what do we “believe” about “faith” today? Does that matter? It seems to me that it’s in all of our best interests to be paying some attention to the matter of how people “think about” things today . . . and what they believe.

. . . Something to think about . . .

God bless you and bless us all as we wait for summer to come.

Pastor T.