

What a wild ride 2020 has turned out to be!

It seems that the moment we weather one major storm, the next is bearing down upon us. **Wave after wave of bad news continues to billow and break upon the shores of America's communities.** We have shifted from these being "unprecedented times" to these being "unsettling times". For the sake of my mental and spiritual health I find that I have to limit the amount of national news I consume.

So what are we to do?

In Bible College, one of my instructors used to say, "**When faced with something you don't know, fall back on what you DO know.**" I think that is very sound advice for these troubling times. There are many things going on in this nation that I don't understand, however, there are some rock solid Biblical truths that have never changed.

Here's a short list of some unsettling questions:

1. What really is true regarding Covid-19?
2. Are the CDC guidelines of today going to be valid tomorrow?
3. Why are violence, arson and looting labeled as "peaceful"?
4. Why did we wait 200 years to get upset with our Founders?
5. Who can I trust?

Since there are no simple answers to these questions, **I find it necessary to fall back on that which I DO know:**

1. God remains sovereign.
2. I should expect a sinful world to sin.
3. My hope and peace are not rooted in my earthly life.
4. No politician will ever love me like Jesus does.
5. My eternal life is absolutely secure in Christ.

I need to be reminded of these truths often. **Staying in fellowship and in God's Word is so very critical during these trying times.** I know that I can easily be distracted and tempted to drift when I am too focused on current events rather than on these eternal truths.

In the book of Hebrews (12:1-2) we are instructed to lay aside our sin and to **fix our eyes on Jesus.** If we expect to run this race well, we cannot let ourselves be distracted by all of the drama

He brought me out into a broad place; He rescued me, because He delighted in me. 2 Sam. 22:20 ESV

surrounding us. Likewise, when Joshua was about to embark on his grand adventure, **God commanded him to stay true to the Word of God and not to turn to the left or right.** (Joshua 1:7)

We work hard here at the Norfolk Rescue Mission to do just that. For the past 24 years we have been committed to maintaining a straight course; holding onto solid Biblical truth and the firm foundation of the Gospel. **Though everything around us seems to be built on sinking sand, we are wholly committed to standing upon the solid rock of Christ.**

About 150 years ago a man named Philip Bliss was sitting under the teaching of D.L. Moody. In his sermon, he shared about a ship trying to navigate into the Cleveland harbor under a dark and starless sky. There was only one lamp lit in the old lighthouse as the lower lights had since gone out. As a result, the ship struck the rocks and many lives were lost. Mr. Moody declared, **“Brethren, the Master will take care of the great lighthouse. Let us keep the lower lights burning.”** Immediately following the message, Mr. Bliss penned these lyrics.

*Brightly beams our Father's mercy
From His lighthouse evermore,
But to us He gives the keeping
Of the lights along the shore.*

*Let the lower lights be burning!
Send a gleam across the wave!
Some poor fainting, struggling seaman
You may rescue, you may save.*

Will you help us keep the lower lights burning?

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Will', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Pastor Will

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