

Assessing 2020

Here we are on the last Sunday in this year. I dare say a many event occurred which we could never imagined in our wildest dreams. From measles cancelling a lectureship at Florida College, to a pandemic which crippled a nation, we can say this has been one for the history books. Of course, every year eventually becomes the past. There are certain things which we have learned from 2020.

Wearing mask is not cool. Nobody but nobody has said, "I really like wearing those masks." They can be hot, it is sometimes hard to hear what people are saying, we miss seeing people's faces, and inevitably I forget to have one until I am five steps from the store in which case I have to turn around and go back to the car. But most of us have adapted and look forward to the day we can throw those masks away.

Some of the regulations concerning social distancing and shopping make no sense at all. You can go to Walmart to shop but not a small mom/pop grocery store? Standing six feet apart and wearing a mask is essential unless you're at a protest? I realize many of the regulations are intended to protect people and health officials have been learning as they go along so I am going to be kind and say, perhaps with some regulations they now know better.

We should take nothing for granted and be thankful for all our blessings. Admit it, you probably never thought much about the supply of toilet paper until last spring. Shelves which used to be full have been found empty as supply had problems keeping up with demand. Mostly we should not take the people around us for granted as some are no longer with us.

Social distancing creates distance in relationships if we are not careful. The very terms "social distancing" and "quarantining" have become part of our vocabulary. While there have been times when it has been essential for health reasons, it can create distance in our fellowship. I fear many congregations have been hurt by 2020 because division has occurred. We must endeavor to keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of unity as Ephesians 4.3 says.

Finally, 2020 has tested us in ways we never thought possible. Which means it has shown the foundation of which we have built upon. Matthew 7:24 "Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: 25 "and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. 26 "But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: 27 "and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall." Perhaps some of us were not as strong as we earlier thought and others may have revealed a better foundation than they thought possible.

My hope is next year will find you withstanding the storms of life and growing closer to God and those around you. - - Dennis Tucker