

“God Help Us In These Uncertain Times”

Was There Ever a Certain Time?

Wednesday 22 September 2021

6:30 PM-8:00 PM

Opening Prayer

Background

“A friend is always loyal, and a brother is born to help in time of need.” *Proverbs 17:17*

What are certain times? What does certainty resemble? When have we had it? I grew up during the Cold War when the United States and the Soviet Union were sworn enemies. During those years we practiced crawling under our desks or marching to the basement to avoid a Soviet nuclear bomb. Neither of which would have been effective. Matters were complicated by growing up in a segregated South where some white men would likely murder you as say “Good morning.” And then they would get away with it. Times seemed rather uncertain, for sure. While those things are now behind us, life has not grown more certain with constant wars, terrorism seemingly everywhere, political strife, economic decline, diseases, and so much more. So, why do these times feel particularly uncertain?

It is likely because we are for the first time in our experience separated from the familiar, from what we have known as our routine experiences. And particularly, we are separated from the people, the community, that define normal human interactions. That community is in fact now presented as a danger to our health, even our life. That is what is so abnormal. That is the cause of the deep sense of

uncertainty. We have lost our normal connections and do not know when they will be returned to us. Our community has been disrupted as never before in our experience and it is profoundly unsettling.

“God is our refuge and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble. So we will not fear when earthquakes come and the mountains crumble into the sea. Let the oceans roar and foam. Let the mountains tremble as the waters surge!” *Psalms 46:1-3 NLT*

Questions to Consider

1. How do you define certain times? When have you experienced certainty?
2. What have been uncertain times for you in the past? How did you respond? Was God a part of your response?
3. Is certainty a reality or a myth we have created to make life more manageable? Explain.
4. How have past times differed from the current time?
5. How has your faith helped you in past difficult times?
6. Is this current time different for you? How? How does your faith help you?
7. Is trusting in God more difficult now than in the past? If so, how is it different now?
8. Since we cannot come together in community as we have done in the past and we cannot have our normal social interactions, how can we support one another, be a friend, as we try to find God and peace in the uncertainty?

Closing Prayer