

“God Help Us In These Uncertain Times”

There Are Definitely Better Times Ahead

Wednesday 27 October 2021

6:30 PM-8:00 PM

Opening Prayer

Background

“But the time is coming—indeed it is here now—when you will be scattered, each one going his own way, leaving me alone. Yet I am not alone because the Father is with me. I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world.” *John 16:32-33 NLT*

“And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God’s love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God’s love. No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.” *Romans 8:38-39 NLT*

“That is why we never give up. Though our bodies are dying, our spirits are being renewed every day. For our present troubles are small and won’t last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever! So we don’t look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever.” *2 Corinthians 4:16-18 NLT*

“Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.” *Hebrews 10:24-25 NLT*

“I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don’t be troubled or afraid.” *John 14:27 NLT*

For most of us born since WWII, we are experiencing an unprecedented period of stress and seeming uncertainty. COVID-19 disease has disrupted the way we had become accustomed to living in every way. Our most common activities and rituals pose risks of serious disease or even death. As of this writing, there have been more than two hundred and forty-five million cases of confirmed infection and five million deaths. Each of us knows someone who has been made sick by this infection, including members of our congregation, and some of us know people who have died. And new varieties of the virus keep appearing.

Questions to Consider

1. How can we say better times are ahead?
2. How has the pandemic most affected your daily life? How has it most affected your spiritual life? How has it most affected your personal life?
3. COVID-19 disease will not be disappearing. It is not going away. We will likely go from a pandemic to endemic conditions. Endemic is a term that indicates a continuous low to moderate level of infection in specific populations of people, but not worldwide infection. Is that better times? Explain.
4. What are some positive outcomes of the pandemic?
5. The verses above assure us that God is with us, even in troubles and trials. Do they strengthen you or not? Discuss.

Closing Prayer