

## 2020 March Pastor's Newsletter Article

Dear Friends in Christ,

The words I hear from people, and with good and understandable reasons, is "I'm so busy!" Individuals, couples, families with 1 child and families with many children, and of course most any group or organization.

There seems much less time to hang out with people, call someone up and just talk for a while, enjoy a nice long walk or book or whatever it is one enjoys when there is leisure time. Even young people are busier than ever.

Of course, being busy to a certain extent is part of life, which it has been since the days of Adam and Eve! In fact, you could argue people were busier before with hunting, gathering, staying safe and alive, and fending off the next threat or attack. And in some places in the world, that is still the way life is and it's a daily fight that can determine life and death.

For us, we usually are concerned about things that people in some parts of the world could only dream of having. And during this time of Lent, which began the 40 days on Ash Wednesday, February 26. The last week of Lent is Holy Week, from Palm Sunday, April 5, to Holy Saturday, April 11. And of course we celebrate with Easter, which is on April 12<sup>th</sup>.

Though it doesn't hurt to do so throughout the year, I encourage you to take time to pray and ask God to help you in a world that often screams to you that you must be so busy for this or that reason, to find how in your busyness that you're being busy not only living life and doing what you have to do, but also busy in how you are a living witness of Christ in your family, among your friends, and in your various groups and community.

I also encourage you to consider what it means to have a day not only to rest once a week, but to also rest in the Lord. The rest we have with God is an active rest that includes worshipping God. I am aware and understand that some of you have to work on Sundays. And God also understands that.

As a pastor, I used to joke with people who said they were too busy for church that if I weren't a pastor that I just might be too busy for church too. But I know don't use the word "church" anymore. Instead, I put "God" in the place of "church." And it's not only about Sunday, which of course is incredibly important, Sunday worshipping together that is, but also about every single day that we must not say that we're too busy for God. Christ not only died for us so that we could have eternal life when we die or when he returns again, if he does before we die, but also that we may live, truly live every day. And that includes Christ calling all of us, no matter what our state in life is, to daily take up our cross and follow him (Luke 9:23). Then when we feel so busy, when we've done all that we have to do day in and day out, we will surely not feel like it's been in vain or all for loss. We all have burdens to carry in life, some we never chose and some we have. In Christ we have a daily choice. So during this Lent, take time to pray and ask God for ways for you to make more time for the God who is always with you.

Blessings,

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