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July 2020 Newsletter Article: "A World Turned Upside Down"

An old expression that I recall from years back declares, "Stop the world: I want to get off." Given the way that 2020 has gone so far, I wouldn't be surprised if many of you have felt this way yourself. So far, we've had the Covid-19 pandemic and the months' long lockdown that has affected our health, jobs, mobility, and even our ability to gather together as congregations for live, in person services. There has also been the widespread unrest in the aftermath of the tragic death of George Floyd. Then, a Supreme Court decision redefining the meaning of sex and sexuality may well have long term implications for any Church body, such as our own, which upholds the Bible-based teaching that marriage, and the sexual relations reserved for it, is to be between one (biological) man and one (biological) woman (Genesis 2:18-24, Matthew 19:4-6).

It seems that our world as we knew it—even since early March—has been turned upside down. We're all struggling with how things are at present. Many of us are fearful as to what the not too distant future might hold. Some of you have even expressed to me the thought that all these things are signs that the final stage of the End Times that will immediately precede the Second Coming of Our Lord is now upon us. And just think: The Year 2020 is only half over!

I will admit that much of what has happened this year has brought me to my knees as I've wondered, even pleaded, "Lord, what does this all mean? Where is this all leading us? Why have you allowed all this to take place?" Then again, I have also been brought to my knees asking, "Lord, in these tumultuous times, I need the peace, strength, and direction that only you can give because I'll never find it on my own."

And so I pray for the peace that passes all understanding (John 14:27, Philippians 4:7) to not only be with me, but with all of you. I pray that the Lord would show us how we are meant to be His people in this world turned upside down. I pray for direction and I await His answer—for myself and for us all. He may not answer us in the way that we expect, but the gates of hell itself will not prevail against us (Matthew 16:18). Yes, the world has been turned "upside down". But Jesus Christ has turned us, who believe in Him, "right side up". The world may well marginalize us, but in the end we will prevail!

May we, who are in Christ, endure unto the end (Matthew 24:13).

Your Brother in Christ,

Pastor Bill