

***"While you have the light, believe in the light so that you may become children of light." Jesus said this, then went away and was hidden from them." (John 12:36)***

We have all heard the phrase, "The memories we make with our family is everything." This phrase feels a little painful in this time. I really miss my close-knit family. That is what I think we still are, but it is hard to tell. With different views on the recent politics, religion, and opinions of the Covid virus, I feel a bit estranged from my kids. My girls are learning that they are very different than the other too, and they are finding it difficult at times to even talking to each other. I think these painful and negative feelings are because we haven't been together hardly at all to be **family**. I saw my kids 2 full days this past year and that was during a very difficult funeral service with my son-in law, as his father suddenly passed away. This virus had had a huge negative impact on families all over the world. It's time to stand up do what can be done to make a difference in this darkness.

So, I saw the light! I felt inspired this past week and Carol and I have decided that **now was the time** we go see them for a while. No reason but to simply "be" with them. It's time. I don't care what their schedules are like... we will be there. We decided to leave after Sunday services and drive back to California pulling the RV camper. We didn't even have to stay in their homes... we brought our own. If Covid is a problem, we will sit outside on chairs 6 feet a part. Funny thing is... the girls agreed that this will work!

It's like God's light just shone on me and commanded, "Go see them!" This was a light I was not going to let dissipate! God knows In time of test, family is best. Over the years in over-functioning in ministry I have forgotten that my family is my life, and everything else comes second as far. This is what is important to me.

A loving family is a treasure from God. If God has blessed you with a close knit, supportive clan, offer a word of thanks to the Lord because God has given you one of God's most precious earthly possessions. And it's your responsibility to praise God for that gift and to act accordingly.

In this scripture verse from John, it is stating that Jesus, in a very literal sense, is telling people that His earthly ministry is coming to a close. Their opportunity to hear and respond to Him is slipping away (John 12:23). I realize that my girls and my Grandson, Grayson, are growing up and that we haven't been there this past year to see them in this light. I was not going to miss this period in our family life.

Those who reject God's words and Jesus' message are risking being left in the darkness (John 12:35). More generally, Jesus is speaking to anyone who hears the gospel or sees the myriad evidence available for truths about God. He's warning all people that only those who become "children of light" can avoid being overtaken by darkness.

What has this virus taken from you that is a vital part of your life and relationship with God's other children? Is it time to do something about it?

Carol and I will be back later this week. We will be here Sunday with you and our church family of God!  
AMEN

Pastor