

Pondering April 2021

While Texas is warming up rather nicely, I am sitting in a hotel room in Kansas City working on the pondering for April. The reason for my trip up north is a three day event called “National Church Protectors Conference”. Last year our church hosted two training events by Strategos International concerning church safety and security. Vaughn Baker and Mark Warren are the leaders who made this event possible.

Joshua is joining the US Coast Guard as we speak and their motto is “Semper Paratus”, which can be translated, “always prepared”. As our church is continuing to open up and offer services and opportunities for worship and discipleship it is paramount that we prepare for all kinds of circumstances.

“Always prepared” is pretty close to a passage out of Paul’s second letter to Timothy, in which he states, “I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is the judge of the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction.” (2 Timothy 4:1-2)

This monthly newsletter should hit your inbox or mailbox during Holy Week and it seems that this is one of those time spans where the Good News of Jesus Christ is “in season”. However, there are fifty days after the resurrection where there were no ground-shaking general revelations. Jesus met with his disciples on more than one occasion, and he affirmed that he was resurrected in a bodily manner and not “a ghost”. He was speaking to and encouraging his disciples by explaining Scripture (Luke 24:27), and speaking concerning the Kingdom of God (Acts 1:3).

We are entering into these fifty days of “Kingdom-Introspection”. Nothing seemed to happen outwardly, we even know that the disciples had closed meetings and prayed together, but no general outreach. We are entering a season of preparation to be ready to represent announce, and move forward the agenda and reality of the Kingdom — sphere of influence — of GOD.

“As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.” (Proverbs 27:17) This conference is a sharpening opportunity with classes on verbal de-escalation, the importance of a godly warrior mindset, how to maneuver through darkness, times of fellowship, and worship. Most of this is happening in 90 minute blocks, one gentleman said, it was like drinking water from a firehose. It is not so much that a conference like this could make you perfect, but you will become aware of certain areas that might need attention and improvement, because you finally begin to know what you do not know. This meeting is an invitation to go deeper. It is also a great opportunity to refresh old friendships and make some new ones.

And in a sudden it becomes clear that we are not the only ones struggling with the “how to” of ministry in P.C. (Post Covid). We listen, learn, and share with each other. Just on a side note — most of us have no idea how blessed we are to live in a freedom loving state like Texas that respects individual liberties.

In ten days we will celebrate the resurrection of our Savior and LORD, Jesus Christ. ALLELUIA! But how many of us really explore and know what consequences the Kingdom of GOD will have for those who ignore it or willfully work against our GOD? Reading Matthew 25 raises one’s awareness that there will be a judgment of all nations, of every individual, and everyone will have to give a report how they spent their life and how they related to the One we are calling “the Way, the Truth, and the Life.” (John 14:6) I invite you to make the Word of GOD a priority between now and Pentecost. If you would like some guidance how to do this join one of our adults Sunday School classes, ‘dial into’ Facebook for “Wednesdays in GOD’s Word become part of Tricia Boll’s Zoom Bible Study, or feel free to send me an email (pastorbruhn@live.com) or call the church office (830-584-0300).

Let us use the seven weeks after Easter to prepare ourselves so we can be faithful witnesses of Jesus Christ inviting others into a living and life-giving relationship with Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

In CHRIST’S Unfailing Love

Pastor J. Paul Bruhn <><