**Enduring Lessons of 2020**

Sunday, January 03, 2021

Not much we want to carry from 2020 into 2021. We’ll make a huge mistake if we don’t learn from the past

**Having nowhere to go and not much to do is not the same as rest.**

**You’ll never make everyone happy.**

**Save for a rainy day.**

**There is no “normal.” And that’s okay.**

*“Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, 18 yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Savior. 19 The Sovereign Lord is my strength; he makes my feet like the feet of a deer, he enables me to tread on the heights.”* Habakkuk 3:17-19

**Don’t wait. Don’t put it off till later.**

1 Thessalonians 4:11-12, “You should mind your own business and work with your hands, just as we told you, 12 so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody.

Sluggards do not plow in season; so at harvest time they look but find nothing. Ecclesiastes says there is a time for everything. Don’t miss the opportunity. Ephesians 5 and Colossians 4 both talk about making the most of every opportunity, because the “days are evil”

**There’s no room for division among God’s people.**

Favoritism and discrimination cannot be a part of a Christ-follower. James calls favoritism outright “sin” (2:9) and forbids it (2:1). Galatians 3:28, “There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”

We are brought together by the love and sacrifice of Jesus. Paul says Jesus Himself is our peace, bringing us together (Ephesians 2:14).

**You must live thinking of others.**

No issue following Jesus’ words to “lay down your life for your friends,” in John 13. We’ll happily put their needs first.

**But it’s not just friends.** 1 Cor 10:24. “No one should seek their own good, but the good of others.”

Consider others better than yourselves. Philippians 2:3-4. *“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, 4 not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.”*

**Strangers and those who openly and aggressively oppose you deserve better treatment from you.** Jesus taught in Matthew 5:44-45a. *“But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 that you may be children of your Father in heaven.”*

**The overarching lesson learned in 2020** (and all time) should be Luke 6:31. *“Do to others as you would have them do to you.”*