

Michael's Message

Some people think that the world is coming to an end or that things are seriously wrong. With the string of pandemics and severe weather events, some people have concluded that Jesus will be returning soon while others think that climate change will bring an end to the human race.

With SARS in 2004 and MERS afterwards, Ebola in 2014, and Covid 19, we have had to face new and sometimes virulent viruses. With hurricanes like Harvey and Maria, extreme flooding in the Midwest, and fires in California, we have had unusually strong storms and intense fires recently.

How does a Christian face these problems? Christians recognize that Jesus told us that there would be times like this and that they would not be the end times. He told us that there would be wars and rumors of wars and natural disasters. So, it is possible that these are the end times, but we have had plagues, famines, earthquakes, and severe storms before. In addition, Jesus informed us that no one knows the time of Jesus coming.

Christians believe that we are stewards of the environment and that we have the responsibility to maintain it so that future generations can enjoy God's creation as we have. God tells human beings to take dominion over the earth, the sea, and the sky in Genesis. I believe that having dominion over something requires us to take care of it.

Christians then believe that we must repent over any actions that we take to needlessly damage the environment. We can't just act as if the environment is one gigantic trash can as human beings have done. Nor can we believe that there is only one way to protect the environment. We must work together so that the burdens of cleaning up the environment does not fall upon any one group of people.

I think this leads to an even larger issue. How do we see ourselves? Do we see ourselves as lords of the universe with no responsibility to anyone but ourselves or do we see ourselves as citizens of God's kingdom knowing that God is our judge? Do we recognize that we are totally dependent upon God for our life, Jesus Christ for our salvation, and the Holy Spirit for our direction?

Christians do recognize that these are perilous times, but they know that the most dangerous times are in God's hands. We do not fear even when the sea roars or the earth shakes or plagues ravage, because we know that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ.

I believe that when we place everything in God's hands, we discover that the world runs much better. When we act as God's creatures, recognizing the limits of our knowledge and skills, we become more careful, less egotistical, and more willing to listen to God's voice and obey God's word. When we realize that we are truly God's children, we experience God's peace which surpasses all understanding.

Michael

Rev. Michael Sydnor's home phone number (712-275-4691) and email address (mdsydnor@schallertel.net)