

September 2020

From the Pastor



How to Handle the Darkness

It is a very difficult time for parents with school is just around the corner. Decisions had to be made to either home school, do the hybrid plan, or go virtual all online. Schools have presented their plans on starting back up; however, even that can change from day to day. There are schedules with students who will be in person just one or two days a week (depending on the school district) and home the other three or four days, which presents an additional stress for families if the single parent or both parents are working during school hours. College students may have had to be tested before coming on campus. Then if they are "Covid-19 free," they can come to classes. Some colleges had plans in place and at the last minute had their students stay home to take online classes.

That is the rub, the virus Covid-19. It is lurking in the shadows of every move we make. We don't take vacations without wondering about the risk. Our church activities are tempered by caring for the safety of our church family. Our government monitors our freedoms to keep us out of danger. All this transpires due to what is lurking in the darkness.

We have an enemy lurking in the darkness. In this scary time consider what is said in Psalm 91.

Psalm 91:5-10

⁵ You will not fear the terror of the night,
nor the arrow that flies by day,
⁶ nor the pestilence that stalks in darkness,
nor the destruction that wastes at noonday.

⁷ A thousand may fall at your side,

ten thousand at your right hand,
but it will not come near you.

⁸ You will only look with your eyes
and see the recompense of the wicked.

⁹ Because you have made the LORD your dwelling place—
the Most High, who is my refuge—

¹⁰ no evil shall be allowed to befall you,
no plague come near your tent. (ESV)

This is a time of fear, frustration, and worry. We don't know if we will have enough funds, because we have to stay home with our children. We don't know if we will be the next person in the ICU on a ventilator. However, during this uncertainty we know we have a God who mightily cares for us. He will protect us in this scary time.

We may have hard times here, but in the end, we come face to face with a God who loves us. This is the hope we have. This is the anchor we have. Our dwelling place is with God. He is our hope.

The enemy lurking in the darkness will not conquer us, because God is our protector.

In Him and for His glory,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Art". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "P" and a stylized "A".