

From the Pastor's Desk

Time flies and we don't have a way to stop it. We want to slow it down when due dates quickly approach. We want to slow it down when we are at the end of our vacation time, one that we are enjoying a lot. We want to slow it down when our little ones – either children or grandchildren, or perhaps great-grandchildren – are growing up *too fast* and we haven't had the chance to enjoy them enough. We want to slow it down when we feel the effects of "aging" or when we feel we are not ready for other things.

As the year, quickly, comes to an end, we think ***I wish I had more time.*** We think about how we devoted too much time to some things and/or not enough to others. Priorities are things on which some are better than others, and we begin to reconsider our choices, our past decisions, or how we can reorganize other things. I wonder IF the main issue is not time, but PRIORITIES.

There is something beautiful about God's priorities that we do not think much about. We have ALWAYS been a priority for God. We are ALWAYS priority #1 for God. We can see it on how since the beginning of creation, after sin/the fall, God has always provided ways for Humanity to connect with God. In the beginning, we were taught to come into God's presence with offerings. Then, God spoke to us through God's servants, the prophets; God sent his Son to the world to be an offering, the perfect offering, God in flesh to us so that ***EVERYONE and ANYONE who believes in him does NOT perish but has eternal life.*** God says, ***come to me and I will give you*** (1) refreshing waters, (2) new life, (3) *My Spirit,* (4) will make a way, (5) forgiveness, (6) peace, (7) New Life . . . All that in once in a lifetime deal: ***BELIEVE*** *and* ***Follow-me!***

During what we call the *Holiday Season*, we are called to reflect on and **re**consider what do we want our relationship with our *Creator* and *Redeemer* to be. Do we want it to stop there, *Creator* and *Redeemer*? Or do we also want God to be our forever *Sustainer?* Jesus did not just stay in the manger. Jesus grew, lived, carried his mission, and carried it to the end. I believe he gave us a model to follow: ***birth, growth, maturity, and fulfillment.*** So, the question is, Are we willing to fully surrender to God so that God's ***will is done on earth as it is in***

heaven? (Matthew 6:10) Are we willing to make God our #1 Priority? That is when we will hear God's angels sing, ***"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."*** (Luke 2:14)

Peace'n Grace
P. Liz