

Thoughts from Pastor Rodney
March 31, 2020

Worship

Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song. For the LORD is the great God, the great King above all gods. In his hand are the depths of the earth, and the mountain peaks belong to him. The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land. Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the LORD our Maker; for his is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care.

Psalm 95: 1-7

The physical isolation of COVID-19 has caused a conspicuous end to current sporting events. My TV is filled with “classic” basketball games and past gloried Super Bowls. I’m watching pre-recorded events that may have never made it to prime time television. The other day I watched Juggle Dodge Ball. Two teams play regular dodge ball. However, each team has someone behind it juggling five clubs. The team that forces the other team’s juggler to drop his clubs wins. (The things we do in the name of competition, and the things we watch when we are bored.)

I enjoy sports. I enjoyed playing them and I enjoy watching them, especially football. I love the game. I only played in jr. high and high school, but I loved all parts of the game. I remember going to a game after I graduated high school. It wasn’t the same. I was used to participating in the game. Now I’m just in the stands watching. I was used to hearing the grunts and feeling the hits. I liked the smell of the grass and the celebration of touchdowns. As a spectator, I missed those things.

Sunday, I watched church on Youtube and on TV. Some had singing, some had announcements; all had preaching. They were all good services and the word of God was proclaimed and His name was exalted. But it wasn’t the same. You see, I am approaching the longest time I have been away from church in some time, and just being a spectator is not enough. I’m used to participating in the service. I’m used to hearing the amens and feeling the love. I like the color of the stained glass and the celebration of lives being changed. At home, I missed those things.

Worship is a contact sport for me. It's a time that God makes contact with me and I respond to Him. I know that I don't have to be in church to worship. God seeks to contact us everyday, and we can respond to Him at any time. That is worship. But when we have opportunity to share how God has contacted us and how we have responded to Him, it then becomes blessed worship. We are blessed to share His glory. We are blessed to share His goodness. We are blessed to exalt His name together. We are blessed to respond to His greatness as the body of Christ.

I pray that you miss our time of blessed corporate worship. I pray that we continue to allow God to contact us everyday, and I pray that we will individually respond to Him. I pray that these days will help us to yearn for and treasure those times ahead when we will no longer be a spectator, but we will be a participant in blessed worship.

*In Christ,
Pastor Rodney*