

What Has This Year Taught Us?

Sermon by Andy Sochor

Text: Ecclesiastes 1:9

With a global pandemic, lockdowns, economic woes, a contested Presidential election, and more, this has been quite an unusual year. “There is nothing new under the sun,” but from our perspective, things may seem unprecedented. As the events of this year has unfolded, there are some important truths that have been highlighted. These have always been true, but they are more apparent in light of recent events.

The Future Is Unpredictable

- Many plans made for this year had to be postponed, altered, or cancelled altogether – future plans have never been guaranteed, but this year made this reality even clearer
- No one knows what will happen, or when (Ecclesiastes 8:7) – our life is a vapor (James 4:14)
- This year should remind us – we cannot predict what will transpire in the days, months, and years to come

Man Does Not Have All the Answers

- This year the world was faced with a previously unknown virus – despite the best efforts of doctors and government officials, no one was sure of the best way to handle it
- Man will never find all of the answers he’s looking for (Proverbs 25:2) – better to trust in the Lord (Psalm 118:8-9)
- Many tell us to trust the scientists or government officials – we need to trust in the Lord first

Life Is Fragile

- Many people have died from the virus and related complications – death is always a certainty (Hebrews 9:27), but the constant news coverage and effects on personal acquaintances brought this to the forefront of our minds
- Again, life is a vapor (James 4:14) – we may live seventy or eighty years, but the end comes soon (Psalm 90:10)
- We will not live here forever – whether of a virus or something else, one day we will pass from this life

Brethren Need One Another

- Many churches have shifted from regular assemblies to virtual “assemblies” – many others have not assembled due to health concerns; isolation has taken a toll on mental health*
- We are to assemble to encourage one another (Hebrews 10:24-25) – about more than just worship and our obligation to God
- During difficult times, brethren need this encouragement from one another even more

Our Hope Must Be in the Lord

- No one knows when the current situation will improve – when life or the economy will ever return to “normal”; from our limited human perspective, it’s possible conditions could even get worse
- As Christians, we have hope beyond this life (1 Corinthians 15:19-22) – take courage (John 16:33; cf. Romans 8:37)
- Despite all the negative things that happened this year (and maybe beyond), we have hope through Christ

Conclusion

- As we approach a new calendar year, let’s remember what the Bible teaches on these points
- Moving from one year to another does not change the truth of what God’s word has said
- No matter what happened this year or what’s in store for the next, let’s keep our hope and trust in the Lord

* Gallup survey: [American’s mental health ratings have dropped to a new low among every demographic except one – those who attend religious services weekly.](#)