

CHANGING THE WAY YOU THINK (1)

- I shared with Consistory in November what I believe the Lord had shared with me:
 - The word **“Transformation”** and **Romans 12:2** for 2021.

Romans 12:2

Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but **let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think.** Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

- We ended 2020 with questions to ponder that provided us a compass in navigating this new year.
- The **“Transformative”** Question of **“What is God Doing in the World Right Now?”** is one that has profound dynamics.
 - One of those dynamics is that What God is Doing, **He is Doing** in **His Time** and in **His Way**...
 - Which we must remember is **ALWAYS different** from our timing and our ways

“My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts,” says the Lord.

“And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine.

For just as the heavens are higher than the earth,

so my ways are higher than your ways

and my thoughts higher than your thoughts.

Isaiah 55:8-9

- So, doesn't it follow that we will often see things unfold in our lives, our community, our nation, our world... in a way that we would not have guessed, organized or arranged?
- Doesn't it also follow that these things would be quite frightening, maybe terrifying -- and full of intense anxiety, if we did not know WHO was behind it all, working HIS WILL, IN HIS TIME?

So, Why Am I **Worried** Why Am I **Afraid**? Why Am I **Frustrated**, or **Angry**?

The Psalmist wrote... **“Why so downcast Oh My Soul...” (Ps 43:5)**

Like you, I can come up with an impressive list of circumstances...

(“Good Reasons” to be worried, afraid, frustrated, angry)

- COVID 19
- Sickness
- Sheltering In Place
- Stress
- My Spouse's Shortcomings
- My Son or Daughter's Choices
- My Job or Job Search
- Finances Not Being Where I Wanted Them to Be...
- Failure
- Insecurity: Uncertainty of the Future
- Not Knowing What to Do
- Waiting...

Because We Ultimately Believe These Circumstances Have the Potential Power to Control Our Destiny

RE-MINDING

“Causing someone to remember something they have forgotten...”

Matthew 6:25-34

Don't worry about everyday life—whether you have enough food and drink, or enough clothes to wear. Isn't life more than food, and your body more than clothing? ²⁶ Look at the birds. They don't plant or harvest or store food in barns, for your heavenly Father feeds them. And aren't you far more valuable to him than they are? ²⁷ Can all your worries add a single moment to your life?

²⁸ “And why worry about your clothing? Look at the lilies of the field and how they grow. They don't work or make their clothing, ²⁹ yet Solomon in all his glory was not dressed as beautifully as they are. ³⁰ And if God cares so wonderfully for wildflowers that are here today and thrown into the fire tomorrow, **he will certainly care for you. Why do you have so little faith?**

³¹ “So don't worry about these things, saying, ‘What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?’ ³² These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but **your heavenly Father already knows all your needs.** ³³ **Seek the Kingdom of God above all else**, and live righteously, and **he will give you everything you need.**

³⁴ **“So don't worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today's trouble is enough for today.**

- Illustration of Our Kids Going Off to College

1. God is Your Provider in Everything
2. God Knows in Detail Everything You Need
3. God Has & Will Give You Everything You Need

SO

Seek the Kingdom Above All Else
&
Live One Day at a Time

- “Why do you have so little faith?”
- **Sometimes We don't know what or how much we believe until it's tested...**

Why are you in despair, my soul?
And why are you restless within me?
Wait for God, for I will again praise Him
For the help of His presence, my God.

Psalm 43:5