

**Thursday, June 18, 2020**  
**Devotional Thoughts from Pastor Jim Murr...**

**"But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty."**

2 Timothy 3: 1

If you are a politician and are running for office, you are likely to say things like: "Our best days are ahead of us" or "Together we can become a great nation," or some such thing. It would be unlikely for a politician to get elected if his/her mantra was, "Things are only going to get worse moving forward!" That statement will almost certainly not get you elected!

The idea behind politics is the belief that things will get better if a particular party takes the reins. The Bible has a different message. It's a message that very few people want to acknowledge, and that message is that the closer we come to the Second Coming of Jesus Christ, "there will come times of difficulty."

I don't know what the future of our country holds. I don't know if the threat of COVID-19 will one day be over, or if it will stick around until the end. I also don't know if all the civil unrest (and that's putting it mildly) will ever be resolved. If these things are somehow resolved, you can bet that something else will come along. The passage from 2 Timothy goes on to say this: "For people will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, heartless, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good..." I'll stop there, even though the list goes on for another verse or two.

God's Word isn't running for Office. God isn't running for Office! He's already IN OFFICE! He doesn't need to tell people what they want to hear. He tells us the truth.

I know that you like to read these devotional messages to find comfort. And that is always my intention in writing these messages. But I don't want to give you false comfort. I don't want to tell you what the Bible doesn't tell us. No elected politician is able to curb the powerful influence of sin in the world, no matter what his/her slogan may be. There is only One Person who makes a difference in our lives and Who tells us the Truth, and that Person is Jesus Christ.

Jesus was crucified because God wanted to provide a means for the ungodly to go to heaven. That refers to you and me as well. So, here's the comfort that we find in the words of our reading at the top of this page. The comfort is this: The worse things become, the closer we are to the Last Day. And on the Last Day, Jesus will come and separate the Sheep from the Goats. Those who have been waiting for His coming can lift up their heads because their redemption is drawing near.

We have no way of knowing when the Last Day will come. It could be TODAY! It might not be for a long time. (Although I personally don't think it will be too long.) Maybe the problems we are facing today will slowly become just a part of history, just like other hard times of history. But no matter what, we know that we are inching ever closer to the Last Day when Jesus Christ will be revealed from heaven, and those who have trusted in His death and resurrection will be called to live with Him in eternal peace and glory.

God's peace!  
Pastor Jim