

**Tuesday, December 29, 2020**  
**Devotional Thoughts from Pastor Jim Murr...**

**"This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior,  
who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.  
For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men,  
the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all,  
which is the testimony given at the proper time."**

*1 Timothy 2: 3-6*

Are you becoming skeptical about the things you read or hear in the news about COVID and about the vaccine? What about what is being said about social distancing and mask wearing? And, even since we have heard about the new strain of COVID-19, we have already heard different information about it. I believe that I first heard that the new strain was something to be concerned about. Then I heard that it was not a concern and that the vaccine would likely handle that strain as well. But now more recently I read that it IS a concern. In addition to all this, the percentage of vaccinations that it will take for us to believe we have achieved "herd immunity" has changed from what it was originally.

WE WANT THE TRUTH! But then again, maybe WE CAN'T HANDLE THE TRUTH! (Reference a Tom Cruise/Jack Nicholson movie.) Do we really want the truth, or do we want to be told what makes us feel better? I think that maybe we don't really know the whole truth about anything having to do with this pandemic. This isn't necessarily because the people "in the know" are purposely giving us false information. That may be so, even if not for malicious reasons. It could just be that as finite, limited human beings, they are doing their best with the information they have at the time.

How great it is to have the Word of God! If we WANT THE TRUTH about what matters the most, God's Word stands ready to deliver it. And the Word of God has not changed. People's interpretation of God's Word may change, but God's Word will never change. This is especially true of what God's Word teaches about salvation. Take note of the above Scripture reading. It says that "God wants all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth." And the truth about salvation is that Jesus Christ is the "one mediator between God and men" and that He "gave himself as a ransom for all."

There will never come a time when the Bible will say, "Oops! We were wrong. Salvation is found in someone or something else." Human beings may say that. But the message of salvation that comes from the Bible remains forever. The Book of Galatians says, "But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed."  
*Galatians 1:8*

Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. He is the way to God. He always has been, and He always will be. No matter how other news bounces us around like a ball in a pinball machine, God's Word is a straight and dependable message. The Bible is what keeps us sane in an insane world. Read it. Study it. Learn it. Believe it.

God's Peace!  
Pastor Jim