



THINK ON THESE THINGS.....

Reading: 2 Timothy 4:1,2

In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and because he is coming to rule as King, I solemnly urge you to preach the message, to insist upon proclaiming it (whether the time is right or not), to convince, reproach, and encourage, as you teach with all patience.

Reflection:

Pat and I are just back from an early morning cycle. We been leaving around 8am each Thursday since the lockdown begun. One of the things we've noticed is how friendly both walkers and fellow cyclists are these days! Almost everyone gives a cheery greeting as the pass by. It's as though there is a greater awareness of just how special it is to get out into the fresh air and enjoy God's creation.

Paul in his second letter to Timothy encourages his young protégé to keep on sharing the good news of God's presence wherever and whenever possible, and by so doing to keep encouraging people to trust and believe the good news. The church then was still in its infancy and facing huge challenges, and Paul knew that in order for there to be an impact on the society, Timothy had to hold fast to his faith and bring inspiration to those who were perhaps on the periphery, or those who had responded to this new faith but were possibly going through a bit of a tough time.

We all know how difficult it has been to adjust to the restrictions that have been placed on all of us as our country tries to deal with this pandemic. It hasn't been easy. The good news is that the work of the church has continued, albeit in a very different way. As a congregation you have responded amazingly to the challenge of keeping in touch with one another, and have provided such amazing encouragement to those who perhaps are having a bad day.

I have been so encouraged to hear of so many of you who have embraced new technology in order to share in church life – trust me, it has been a massive learning curve for Pat and me as well, but we're up for it!

We are going to be offering you another opportunity to stay in touch with your church family by using "Lifesize" conferencing software, a very easy way to not only be in touch with someone and hear their voice, but also a chance to see and hear several people all on your computer, tablet or phone screen. Your Elders are becoming real pro's at this fantastic way of meeting with each other, and we hope you will enjoy the opportunity as well! I will give more details in my email to you all on Saturday.

Until then, be encouraged in the Lord! Keep on encouraging and supporting one another. Remember this – also highly contagious is kindness, patience, love, enthusiasm and a positive attitude. Don't wait to catch it from others – be the carrier!

Breath-Prayer for Today: Loving God, you call us to follow you every day. We know that being disciples during these times, is very different. Thank you for showing us new ways to exercise our faith so we can continue walking the way!

