



Monday Morning Missive

“It all depends on how you look at it.” How many times have you heard or said that? Do you see the glass as half full or half empty? That depends on whether you are an optimist or a pessimist. When you look at a 747 sitting on the runway, it looks huge, but when you look up into the sky and see it flying at 30,000 feet, it looks tiny. Perspective is everything.

So, how are you doing with this Covid-19 stuff? Are you overwhelmed? Tired of all the restrictions? Afraid every time you go outside you are going to catch it? Ready to jump right back into life as it used to be? It all depends on where you are spiritually, emotionally, and physically. Please don't think that I am being judgmental towards either side of this argument. In fact, I think there has been way too much of that going on in recent weeks, months, and years. We have been conditioned to automatically assume that because someone doesn't believe the same facts that I believe

or respond like I respond that they are either idiots or part of some vast conspiracy. As believers, we should be better than that. We should give everyone the benefit of the doubt – or at least look at them with compassion in our hearts. Let’s leave the judgment to God, okay?

I say that because I know that as we begin to talk about “reopening” on May 31, there are people who think we are going too fast. But guess what? There are others who think we are going too slow – that we should be meeting together this Sunday. Let me assure you that your church staff has been praying over this ever since this all started. We have been consulting the experts and seeking counsel from our church Leadership Team. Our hearts long to be together with all of you as soon as possible, but we feel strongly that we must do this right so that we can be a shining light to our community without risking anyone’s health.

That's why I am asking you to pray for all of us as we make this decision trusting that God will lead us. When we open, we want everyone to feel comfortable coming into our facilities, so we will be spending

these next couple of weeks making sure everything is sanitized. We will be laying out seating arrangements to provide 6 feet of social distancing between families. We will be looking at “traffic flow” in our hallways and through our doors to do the same. And we are going to encourage everyone who attends to wear face masks. Please know that those of us who will be leading the services will also wear masks, but we will take them off on the platform. And there are probably many other things that we will have to discuss before that time comes.

And here is my heart. If you don't feel comfortable coming to the service, please feel free to stay home. If you are in the category of people who are more susceptible to the virus, please stay home. We will not judge you. We promise to continue to provide our Livestream Sunday School and worship services for you and our community. And, of course, we are going to be trusting EVERYONE to use good judgment about staying home if you have any symptoms or have been exposed to someone who has the virus during the previous 14 days.

With that said, I agree with Bro. Zack's Sunday School

lesson yesterday. We need to look at the way we have been doing things, the way we are doing things, and then decide how we need to be doing things in the future. We were in the midst of lots of planning, and with what has happened, we need to go back and re-examine everything to see if our priorities and needs are the same as they were two months ago. My only goal from the time that I came to Dadeville as your pastor has been and always will be to keep our church right in the center of God's will. I pray that is your goal, too. Let me know how we are doing and if you have ideas for new ministries moving forward.

I love you, church. You truly are my family.

Bro. Ben

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