

Pastor Brian's
Mid Week Message
January 27, 2021

"GOD FILLED!"

"Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 18:3

I don't know about you (actually, I do know a little about you...some more than others), but it has gotten really hard for me to watch the news on TV. Sure, there are political biases that are blatantly obvious, but it goes far deeper than that. Even with any biases removed the "days news" is a very troubling buffet of entrees that, if you allow them to, will scare you to death. That's another problem I have with TV news, that's part of the intent, and I've known that for decades from working inside TV newsrooms. I've been thinking a lot about all of this through the week so far, as this is in part what I plan to preach on this Sunday. On the way to the church this morning I was contemplating life in the 21st century world, specifically in 21st century America, and something hit me. Fortunately, not another car. I was taken back to simpler times when I was much younger. These were more carefree and stress-free times. The times that I grew up in. That was back in the 1960s. Now I know that for many the 60s were anything but care and stress free. But for me, a wee lad of 11 years or less, I was mainly oblivious to all of that. I watched Walter Cronkite on the CBS Evening News (only channel that our black and white TV picked up) and was informed about the Viet Nam War and riots in many of our American cities. I watched as we sent men into space, and ultimately to the moon. I thought that was pretty cool. And I remember something called "the generation gap", which seemed to be linked to an expansion of something called "drugs". I remember all this stuff, but I also remember not being all that concerned about it. What was happening in other parts of the country and the world had very little impact on what I perceived as the world around me. I was too young to understand it all. In my world I didn't worry about who was in power in Washington DC, and political agendas. I didn't have concerns about our family not having enough to put food on the table. Dinner was served yesterday, and today, so it seemed logical to believe it would again be available tomorrow. Dad, and ultimately Mom (once I got into 1st grade) went off to work and somehow provided a roof over our heads and clothes on our back so I never really thought much about not having enough. I was very blessed to be born into a loving middle-class family with a Dad and a Mom both present, and three older brothers, although there were times when I didn't consider them all that much of a blessing. What I'm getting at here is that as a child I wasn't all that concerned about my circumstances, and what was going on politically, culturally, socially, and economically around me. On the spiritual side of things we were in church and Sunday School every Sunday. I was being well cared for and naturally assumed that things would continue on as they always had. As I assess the situation of life in the world today, I wish that I could go back to those simpler times. That brings me to ask myself the question...well, why not? Why don't I spend less time tuned into the world and all of the trouble that it dredges up and spend more time connect to Jesus. He's the Vine by the way, and I'm a branch, one of many. (John 15:5)

As I approach my 63rd birthday I have to confess, dinner has been on the table every yesterday that there has ever been, it will be today, so why should I worry about it not being there tomorrow? I have a heavenly Father who created me in His own image. I have a Savior, Jesus, who came from heaven to live with me and for me and gave His life so that mine could be saved eternally. I have a Spirit that proceeds from both the Father and the Son, God the Holy Spirit, and lives within me to empower me to believe and trust in God for all things (I repeat ALL things). During His time on earth Jesus commands us to have faith as of a little child, a faith that doesn't have to have all the answers, a faith that focuses not on the mountains of trouble that appear before us, but rather the One who creates and moves mountains. Yes, as a citizen of these United States I will participate in the political process and in the culture and society, but much more important than those things is that I *fix my eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our (my) faith.* (Hebrews 12:2) As I look back some 20 to 30 years the person occupying the White House has had little bearing on my life and well being and that of my family. God has provided for us more than we could have imagine, and certainly so much more than we deserve. Why in the world would He stop now? That's a rhetorical question because we know that He won't stop now! Things in the world will certainly change, and not for the better, but we who are in Christ are not of the world, just in it, at least for now. Our future is built on the foundation of Christ, and He is our Rock, the Rock of our salvation. Empowered by the Spirit I choose to trust in Him and not in the institutions of this world. He is the only source of true peace. The world will never be a place of peace, not until Christ returns in glory. So, for today Lord Jesus let me climb into Your lap, be enfolded in Your arms, and be comforted in Your power, protection and provision. Amen!!!