

Pastor Brian's  
Mid Week Message  
November 11, 2020

**“RANDOM MUSINGS AS A HURRICANE PASSES”**

*And He [Christ] is before all things, and in him all things hold together. Colossians 1:17*

As I sit in the office this morning, and yes, a little wind and rain is not going to keep me from my appointed rounds, I want to offer a few thoughts on the current situation. What this means is that I came here without a topic on which to pontificate. The wind and rain has kept me off the tennis court today, as my usual routine is to attempt the sport on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday mornings, so I guess you could say that my physical fitness is a victim of Hurricane Eta. We went to bed last night under the impression that Eta would pass far enough to the west of us to not have a major impact on us, but along about 3:00 this morning the sound of wind driven rain on the windows told us otherwise. Kay actually got up to take a look at the radar. I've trained her well in that regard. Now as we proceed through the rest of the day my prayer is for health and safety for all, and that the power here at the church and at home doesn't go off, at least for any significant length of time. I only have so much battery power in my technological devices. Now in the midst of a tropical storm or a hurricane things can seem awfully chaotic.

As a matter of fact, there is a lot of chaos all around us. Just turn on the TV news (I say this as a metaphor not a command or even a suggestion) and you're bombarded with political, health, economic, social, and cultural chaos, all bent and spun one way or another based on the agenda of the news outlet. It can get very difficult to deal with, as bad news has always, at least since I can remember, crowded out any good news that might take place from the rundown of newscasts, from the national down to the local level. The old adage is, "If it bleeds it leads". I recall one late evening newscast out in Spokane, Washington where our lead story was a tire fire in Tulsa, Oklahoma. My question of the producer, after the fact was, what relevance is there to people in Eastern Washington and North Idaho in a mound of tires burning in Oklahoma? The response I got was that we had video of flames and smoke so that made it newsworthy 1500 miles away. I have no qualm with leading the newscast with an Okie tire fire, if at least we were in Oklahoma!

Given the chaos, what should we do? What can we do? We can do the same thing that we always should do, trust in the Lord! God, through Christ, created this universe and everything in it, and He most certainly has everything under his control. In the verse above from Paul's letter to the Church in Colossae God tells us that everything is held together in Christ. The verse right before speaks of creation, *For by him [Christ] all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.* (Colossians 1:16) Christ is before all things and in all things holding them together. Let me add one more verse...number 18. *And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.* "Preeminent", that means supreme...surpassing all others, in everything. Christ is above the chaos. He rules over the chaos, and only He can make sense of and order the chaos for us. Think of the universe as a massive box, with physical dimensions of length, width, depth, and time. We who exist in the box are bound by these, but God, our Creator, dwells outside the box, without any limitations. At the same time, He is present and working inside the box for the good of His creation, for our good. Without him the chaos would overwhelm us. With him it we can endure and rise above it. *Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.* (Proverb 3:5)