

Pastor Brian's
Mid Week Message
November 28, 2018

A NIP IN THE AIR!

My day began with a trip to the tennis court...before 8:00am. The temperature at the Venice airport, the nearest official weather reporting station, was a cool 46 degrees, and with the NE wind of about 12 mph the wind chill factor was a rather raw 40. Some of those who I was to play with and against we're encased in multiple layers of jackets on top of sweatshirts and then t-shirts. One of the guys was even wearing what looked like mittens. I donned a sweatshirt atop a very light tee, and wore my usual tennis shorts out onto the court. The reaction I got from most went kind of like this..."What are you, nuts?" Had all of this taken place a year ago, out in Spokane, Washington everyone would have been commenting on what a warm morning it was. You see, it's all a matter of perspective; what the current conditions are compared to what is perceived as "normal" (if such a thing as "normal" even exists!). As we look at our culture in America, and around the world, things seem to be diverging from what we perceive as normal. I hear more and more how the whole world is spiralling downward; that our Christian values are being increasingly ignored and ridiculed. That is most certainly true, but our perception of normal is out of whack as well. The truth is that the "good old days" really weren't as good as we may remember them. Since the world fell from holiness and righteousness in the Garden of Eden sin has ruined just about everything. That cesspool of sin became so bad that God decided to destroy all humanity save 8 people (Noah and his family) along with the majority of all other living creatures on the earth. It must have been pretty horrific to prompt Him to do that! In this world we will always have to deal with sin and sinners, even and especially that which we see in the mirror. Things will not get significantly better until this world's time is up, and Jesus returns to recreate it, and the entire universe, back into a perfect and holy state. Until such time we can brighten and warm the corner of the world that God has planted us in, by living according to His love and commands, and by sharing the warmth of His love with all who are freezing to death in the darkness.