

Does anyone know how many days are left in this year? Many have seen the meme from the Back to the Future movie, with the DeLorean car, time travel, Fluxcapictor, and says, *whatever you do don't go to 2020*. It just keeps piling up this year and when are things back to normal. Who doesn't find themselves stressed out at time.

It's all quite sad. A time of great conflict, division, stress. Our world is divided. Our nation, communities divided. Families, friends divided. From religion to politics to protest to economics to virus to values, there's constantly fighting. And we are tired of it. We think that at least our faith should bring calm, tranquility then you get words today from Jesus, like many others, that speak of division, conflict.

When things are like this, there may be a temptation to keep up with it all, the temptation to think this is what matters. Repent of being more concerned about the news, more consumed with news, setting your mind on the things of men more than the Good news, on the things of God, of what Jesus has to say about these times we live. And the wisdom He has for us. This text, follows Peters, great confession, not of flesh and blood but faith given by the Father to confess, **You are the Christ**. And now, Peter's being called satan, heart set upon flesh and blood, about the safety of life, that wants an easy life, certainly not one that has any suffering or death in it. It is satanic if anything that stands in the way of the cross, our Lord's passion to save mankind, the suffering Savior Isaiah spoke to heal our wounds, what the Christ MUST do, for Peter, them and you.

There are no shortages of a Christ-less Christianity, a cross-less, non-suffering savior; any place that does not proclaim a cross, Christ crucified for the forgiveness of sins -that's a place Satan delights in it, a place with less fighting, a place the world will love.

To deny self, lose your life (repentance), that He is your life. The Christian life is one of bearing the cross, standing at odds with enemies. You have enemies. These enemies are significant. Not like the enemy of the 5th grade bully. But enemies of the world, the devil/ demons, and even your own sinful flesh -that work against you, fighting against faith, fighting against the life Christ brings, fighting against your trust in God, fighting against your love for one another, working on you, to look for security, for life, for help, for true pleasures, for safety in everyplace else but in Christ.

How quickly we focus, like Peter, on the things of men rather than the things of God. And then what happens in these days. You're short-tempered, take your stress out on others, you're nervous, you get intimidated, frustrated, angry, sad, depressed, you worry, are afraid, some kind of fear shows up. Stop.

Set your mind on the things of God. In His Word. In what His Sacraments bring you. The point Jesus makes, a life following Him, a life of the cross, a life confessing Him, a life in Him -is the only life there is. And you know how your life will end. He says that amazing thing, **Truly I say to you, some standing here, who will not taste death until they see the Son of man coming in His kingdom.** True for them ...And true for you. The son of man, title of the Christ, His kingdom breaks forth at the cross, where the only love and truth and life this world has ever know flows from it. And He is the Lord whose love you cannot stop. No matter what you've done. No matter how many times you fail to trust, fail to confess Him before others. You cannot stop Him from loving you, showing compassion. He loves sinners. We are worth it to Him. You are worth it to Him. Unlovable and unloving though we are. You will not taste death. You bask in His kingdom. You follow Him in the only safe, true life there is. His glory is being crucified for you. You will see His full glory, while veiled in these days, His glory fills this House.

You cannot fully fathom the tiniest portion of what God is up to in this time of crisis. You do know what He did on the cross. You know He works His greatest blessings through crosses. You plunge all your questions into the wounds of Christ. You know He was pierced for your transgressions; crushed for your iniquities and with His wounds you are healed. His cross, His works shall and must, must work together for good, for your good, for everyone. 125 days left in 2020. **Set your mind on the things of God**, His things given you here. He has given you the privilege to live in these times, to show your family, neighbors how you set your mind on the things of God, to live Christian. Let it be said of you in these days, you lived as a baptized child should. It will be well for you. He is your life. Pray Thy will be done and Deliver us from evil.