



September 2022

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Greetings in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ. I hope you have a wonderful Labor Day weekend.

Two years or so ago, I watched a real life story TV series about a Chinese woman, who became a legend. The name of the series was “Nothing Lasts Forever”. A man had adopted her as his daughter, but he was a homeless drifter, who loved to drink alcohol and he remained homeless for the rest of his life. However, she grew into a very wise and intelligent woman, who had some natural talents for doing business. She became very entrepreneurial and led the family who had adopted her in many successful business deals, especially after her husband passed away and she took over the family business.

The series showed the viewers the many changes that China was going through at that time and also the physical and mental changes that took place in the area where she was born. Among these changes were the attitudes of the people, the governments, the culture, politics, and the economic changes that produced a lot of tensions between the people and their government. It also showed how new immigrants from England were perceived. The series presented all the biases and prejudices the Chinese people had against the people of England. At the end of the series she died, but the series showed how different people react to cultural, political, and economic changes. She was the main character in the series and she was a woman who was capable of adjusting and implementing new ideas according to the situations that changed radically in her society. In the end, she was a very successful woman in all her endeavors.

Watching that series brought me to thinking that never before have we had to live in a time with so many radical changes taking place in our global society as we are now. These radical changes are producing in us a sense of uncertainty, and perhaps insecurity. There has been a revolution in the way we are communicating. Thanks to the use of smart phones, the internet and web pages, we are able to communicate with each other faster than at any previous time. The Covid-19 pandemic resulted in a sense of panic in many. Then there is the conflict between Russia and Ukraine, and many consequences due to the embargo imposed on Russia, which has increased our financial crisis and made the cost of living increase to what seems to be the sky's the limit!

The domino effect upon our economy, jobs, cost of living, cost of gas, plus the fears of many people may have us thinking that we are looking at the birth of the New World Order. All the different crises have had a domino effect on our economy, government, health care system, job market, religious activities, and perhaps even in rethinking and formulating new moral values. Furthermore, several different denominations here in the USA and around the world have been affected by divisions caused by different ways of interpreting the Bible, human sexuality, marriage, what we ought to believe and what we ought not to believe in relationship to those issues. Many of these ideas we have either agreed or disagreed with each other about for many years,

so we now have different points of view, and therefore, conflicting ideas and different opinions and interpretations.

John Wesley considered himself a man of only one book...the Bible. For almost two thousand years, the majority agreed on the basic principle that the Bible is the inerrant Word of God. Some no longer believe this is the truth. According to some, we need to interpret the Bible in new ways, adjusting the Bible to the present times. Some disagree with the notion that the Bible is even the Word of God.

In the political arena, we used to be able to manage to leave our political thoughts outside our daily routines, but that is not true anymore. The truth of the matter is that we debate, we fight with each other as enemies, and we are divided politically, theologically, and morally because what was true years ago, is no longer held true anymore. There is no doubt that the world we are living in at this present time is not the same as it was in the past.

In spite of the many ways our society and our cultural values have been shifting in the last three years or so, the uncertainty of the present financial crisis is also related to the increase in the cost of living, which is contributing to an increase in the level of stress these problems are causing us. We have reached an unprecedented level of stress in our global society and we see this resulting in increased crimes, shootings, and killing of people due to this tension level. There has also been an increase in suicides all over the world and a sense that life has no value or meaning at all.

Therefore, I do believe that at this present time we are called to pray for our world, our country, and our family members. At the same time, we have the need to recognize that we are part of the human race and accept the Lordship of Jesus Christ over all his creation.

Pastor Rey Díaz