

Daily View

“But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called ‘today’” Hebrews 3:13

June 18, 2020



Let's go with a calm, peaceful view from the porch of the Abendblume B&B on a morning in Leavenworth, Washington, 2015

Comment and Update

“The way of peace they have not known...”

I made the mistake of getting onto Twitter today for a little while and I can't believe what is going on in Seattle, Atlanta and several other places in the US. We're all familiar with the high profile cases involving the police. But there are other disturbing actions caught on video that are not being reported on.

For example, a young man slugged a 92 year old woman and knocked her down as he walked by her on the sidewalk. Turns out the young man has been arrested 104 times.

A young woman grabbed another young woman — who had a baby in her arms — by the hair and pulled her across the grass in a park. Others have been dragged out of cars and beaten just because they took a wrong turn. Another video shows a young man viciously swing his skateboard at an unarmed youth, knocking him out. Videos of this kind are going viral all over social media.

I'm not ignorant of nor insensitive to the concerns that are being raised but the media's reporting is one-sided and selective. Violence is never the answer yet it is a pandemic in many areas of the country right now. We should call it what it is regardless of who is responsible: It is sin, sheer ungodliness.

If Romans 3:13-18 doesn't describe what is going on right now, then I don't know what does:

“Their throat is an open grave;
they use their tongues to deceive.”
“The venom of asps is under their lips.”
“Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness.”
“Their feet are swift to shed blood;
in their paths are ruin and misery,
and the way of peace they have not known.”
“There is no fear of God before their eyes.”

Enough said...

On a positive note...

All three counties (Sacramento, Placer and El Dorado) are, as of June 17th, meeting the threshold criteria set by the California Department of Health (see <https://tinyurl.com/y83x9olv>). That means the case rate, hospitalizations and hospital capacity are at or below the thresholds set by the state — and that's good. These numbers need to stay where they are for us to move further into Stage 3 and then Stage 4, which is back to normal, although true “normal” is not likely to happen until there is a cure and/or vaccination for the virus.

Assemblies and Classes

We officially began using the building for assemblies last week and we are planning to begin using it for Bible classes starting on Sunday. All of our meetings at the building will take place with the same health and safety protocols in place. We are concerned about keeping everyone virus-free — of course. But we also feel that in-person Bible studies are far more effective than from behind a screen.

This week, our 5 PM young people's class (and another earlier class) will be held in the auditorium. The auditorium gives us plenty of room to socially distance. More information will follow in emails.

Quote

“The reason why it's tough speaking of Jesus is much the same reason why they kicked him out after his first sermon at Nazareth — Jesus spoke of and enacted a Good News which assaulted our settled definition of news.”

— William Willimon, *The Bible and the NYTimes*