

Signs of the Times

When bad things happen ... what do we do? (Is our faith a source of Comfort?)

My recent example ... of losing my job after 35 years

Other examples – Death, Illness, financial pressures, stress, depression

- Find comfort in Prayer and encouraging scriptures
 - Find comfort in Church literature or sermons
- When Tragedy Strikes** by Ron Dart is a booklet still offered by Cgi.org & CgiCanada.org



- Life is short ...

Psa 90:12 So teach *us* to **number our days**, That we may gain a **heart of wisdom**.

Psa 90:13 Return, O LORD! How long? And have compassion on Your servants.

Psa 90:14 Oh, satisfy us early with Your mercy, That we may **rejoice and be glad all our days!**

Psa 90:15 Make us **glad** according to the days *in which* You have **afflicted** us, The years *in which* we have seen evil.

Psa 90:16 Let Your work appear to Your servants, And Your glory to their children.

Psa 90:17 And let the beauty of the LORD our God be upon us, And establish the work of our hands for us; Yes, establish the work of our hands.

- Accidents & Mistakes will happen ...

Ecc 9:11 I returned and saw under the sun that— The race *is* not to the swift, Nor the battle to the strong, Nor bread to the wise, Nor riches to men of understanding, Nor favor to men of skill; But time and chance happen to them all.

- It's the response to tragedy that counts ...

Ecc 7:13 Consider the work of God; For who can make straight what He has made crooked?

Ecc 7:14 In the **day of prosperity** be joyful, But in the **day of adversity** consider: Surely God has appointed the one as well as the other, So that man can find out nothing *that will come* after him.

God has balanced prosperity and adversity against each other

- Find comfort in Brethren, Family, & Friends
 - People reach out to let you know similar things have happened to them! And to encourage

• **Holmes & Rahe Stress Scale** (“Life Events” that can lead to increased chance of Illness)

- 1 Death of spouse (100)
- 2 Divorce (73)
- 3 Marital separation (65)
- 4 Jail term (63)
- 5 Death of close family member (63)
- 6 Personal injury or illness (53)
- 7 Marriage (50)
- 8 Fired at work (47)
- 9 Marital reconciliation (45)
- 10 Retirement (45)
- 11 Change in health of family member (44)
- 12 Pregnancy (40)
- 13 Sex difficulties (39)
- 14 Gain of new family member (39)
- 15 Business readjustment (39)
- 16 Change in financial state (38)
- 17 Death of close friend (37)
- 18 Change to a different line of work (36)
- 19 Change in number of arguments with spouse (35)
- 20 A large mortgage or loan (31)
- 21 Foreclosure of mortgage or loan (30)
- 22 Change in responsibilities at work (29)

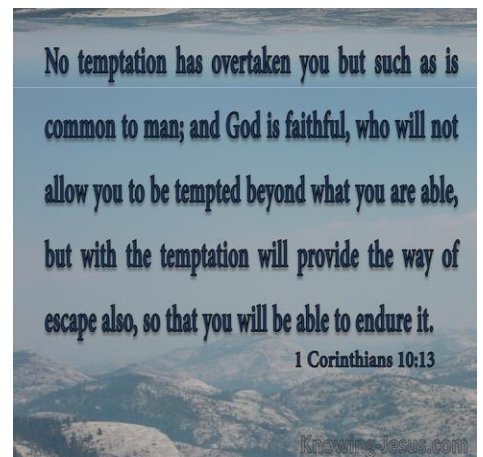
- 23 Son or daughter leaving home (29)
- 24 Trouble with in-laws (29)
- 25 Outstanding personal achievement (28)
- 26 Spouse begins or stops work (26)
- 27 Begin or end school/college (26)
- 28 Change in living conditions (25)
- 29 Revision of personal habits (24)
- 30 Trouble with boss (23)
- 31 Change in work hours or conditions (20)
- 32 Change in residence (20)
- 33 Change in school/college (20)
- 34 Change in recreation (19)
- 35 Change in church activities (19)
- 36 Change in social activities (18)
- 37 A moderate loan or mortgage (17)
- 38 Change in sleeping habits (16)
- 39 Change in number of family get-togethers (15)
- 40 Change in eating habits (15)
- 41 Vacation (13)
- 42 Christmas (12)
- 43 Minor violations of the law (11)

Score Comment

- 11-150 ... You have only a low to moderate chance of becoming ill in the near future.
- 150-299 ... You have a moderate to high chance of becoming ill in the near future.
- 300-600 ... You have a high or very high risk of becoming ill in the near future.

With this list... I am reminded of one of the **techniques of Satan** with Job – to pile up tragedy!

- Sabeans raiders kill servants and steal all his oxen & donkeys
- “fire of God fell from heaven” kills servants and all his sheep
- Chaldeans kill servants and steal all his camels
- Great wind killed all his sons & daughters Job 1
- Then Job’s health was taken Job 2



1 Corinthians 10:13

Knowing Jesus.com

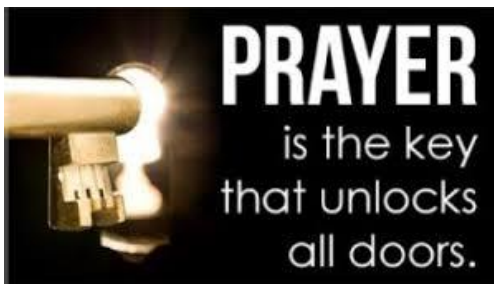
- A chance to practice more of the **7 Laws of Radiant Health** (HWA)

- 1) Food and Fasting
- 2) Cleanliness and Dress
- 3) Sunshine and Fresh Air
- 4) Exercise
- 5) Sleep and Rest
- 6) Avoid Bodily Injury
- 7) Build a POSITIVE Mental Attitude

One “life change” I have been implementing is walking with my “fitbit” to count steps... (My daughter Shannon has lost 125 pounds by walking & hiking & diet changes).



In my walks (this week) I came upon Churches that change their sign each week (often to reflect what the next sermon will be covering) ... in June of 2019, here are what the Shepherds in Kingston are presenting to their flocks – and some points to consider:



1. First Christian Reformed Church –
Why Pray? ... when you can Worry

Mat 6:25 "Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing?"

Mat 6:26 Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?

Mat 6:27 Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature?

Mat 6:28 "So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin;

Mat 6:29 and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.

Mat 6:30 Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, *will He* not much more *clothe* you, O you of little faith?

Mat 6:31 "Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'"

Mat 6:32 For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.

Mat 6:33 But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

Mat 6:34 Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day *is* its own trouble.

2. Kingscourt Free Methodist Church –

God is perfectly faithful, merciful & loving, great & good.



This message is **true and wonderful** ... but ... it might also be seen to be very unbalanced because God has some fearful and awesome qualities that *also* make Him God.

Deu 4:24 For the LORD your God *is* a **consuming fire**, a jealous God.

Heb 10:30-31 For we know Him who said, "VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY," says the Lord. And again, "THE LORD WILL JUDGE HIS PEOPLE." It is a **fearful** thing to fall into the hands of the **living God**.

Pro 6:16-19 These six *things* the LORD **hates**, Yes, seven *are* an **abomination** to Him: A proud look, A lying tongue, Hands that shed innocent blood, A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that are swift in running to evil, A false witness *who* speaks lies, And one who sows discord among brethren.

... When we point out that God is **Holy** and **Just** – It means **people need to change** their lives



킹스톤한인교회

Kingston Korean Church

3.

Hey ... I can't read this sign!?!?

Jdg 8:33 So it was, as soon as Gideon was dead, that the children of Israel again played the harlot with the Baals, and made Baal-Berith their god.

1Ki 11:4 For it was so, when **Solomon** was old, that his wives turned his **heart** after other gods; and his **heart** was not loyal to the LORD his God, as *was* the **heart** of his father David.

Deu 12:29 "When the LORD your God cuts off from before you the nations which you go to dispossess, and you displace them and dwell in their land,

Deu 12:30 take heed to yourself that you are not ensnared to follow them, after they are destroyed from before you, and that you do not inquire after their gods, saying, 'How did these nations serve their gods? I also will do likewise.'

Deu 12:31 You shall not worship the LORD your God in that way; for every abomination to the LORD which He hates they have done to their gods; for they burn even their sons and daughters in the fire to their gods.

Deu 12:32 "Whatever I command you, be careful to observe it; you shall not add to it nor take away from it.

4. Kingston Alliance Church –

Coffee Café Open 9:45am ... Worship Service 10:30am

1Pe 4:18 Now "IF THE **RIGHTEOUS** ONE IS **SCARCELY** SAVED, WHERE WILL THE UNGODLY AND THE SINNER APPEAR?"

5. First Christian Reformed Church (... one week later the sign changed)

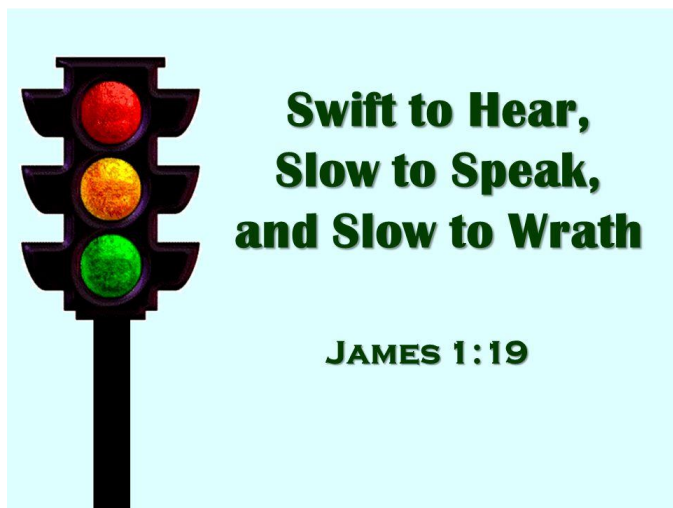
**People with Tact ...
have less to Retract**

Truism ... an undoubted or self-evident truth ... almost too obvious for mention

(ERV) Eph 4:29 - When you talk, don't say anything bad. But say the good things that people need--whatever will help them grow stronger. Then what you say will be a blessing to those who hear you.

(GNB) James 1:26 - Do any of you think you are religious? If you do not control your tongue, your religion is worthless and you deceive yourself.

(GNB) Prov 11:13 - No one who gossips can be trusted with a secret, but you can put confidence in someone who is trustworthy.



Jas 1:19 So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be:
swift to hear,
slow to speak,
slow to wrath;

(HCSB) Ps 141:3 - LORD, set up a guard for my mouth; keep watch at the door of my lips.

(ERV) Ps 141:3 - LORD, help me control what I say. Don't let me say anything bad.

Mat 12:36-37 But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."