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NEWS & EVENTS – April 2023

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I read a lot of documents, email communications, and text messages that bother me at times. The words are frequently misspelled, misused in their meaning, or generally miscommunicate the message intended. Even advertising announcements or directional information can have glaring errors that catch our attention, and we wonder if there was actually a proofreader for that message that went out. Maybe we all need a proofreader. When we do take the time to do it ourselves, we often don't get it right. Maybe we don't see our errors as well as they stand out in others. Some trust the word processing programs on our computers to do it for us...like you can really trust that!

Once I was involved in a parking lot construction project where a large grocery store chain was preparing for their grand opening. The striping of the parking stalls was being accomplished, the directional arrows were painted in the right direction, and the lettering was being stenciled in the fire lane at the front entrance. I left the project while the finishing touches were in progress and went to my office. It was before the age of instant communication of cell phones, email, and electronic media and all the blessings they can bring. (*Sarcasm intended by the author here*). But I still enjoyed the advantage of phone messages left for me when I came into my work office. There were quite a few stacked up that basically said the same thing. *Have you seen the parking lot striping???* Several of the callers represented the owner of the facility being built. There was a couple of messages from the construction manager. My next thought was that I'd better go take a look. The parking lot striper was our subcontractor. He worked for us. We were responsible. When I arrived at the jobsite, there was a small group of people looking at the stenciled yellow paint on the freshly paved black asphalt at the front entrance that read: FIRE LANE NO PARKING. Immediately I saw there was a *kink* where a *king* belonged. I learned that day that wherever humans are, whatever humans do, we should expect things out of order. The errant subcontractor came back and arrived while I was now in the group looking at the error and hearing his remedy. "*No big deal. I can fix it. I'll just blot out the K with black and repaint it with a yellow G!*" For those in the group it was a big deal. For him, not so much. I guess it's all in how you gauge the scourge of disappointment. All humans live with disappointment...because humans will disappoint humans.

Back to the first paragraph. Why am I bothered by the words I see that are out of order? Even I will send out letters and messages, sometimes hurriedly, without taking the time to proofread the product, and I am horrified to see that I made a mistake! Disappointment in self when you expect more is another level of human disappointment. Compounding this, we are often disappointed at such things when others don't seem to be disturbed at all. They may say, *Oh well, you know what I meant*. And we expected much more. Sometimes we are disappointed with God. And we think He didn't meet our expectations. This is a serious escalation of expectation. A lack of understanding of who He is and who we are inflames this condition.

Consider this Word from God: *and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us. (Rom 5:5)* Consider another Word from God: *For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I will know fully just as I also have been fully known. But now faith, hope, love, abide these three; but the greatest of these is love. (1 Cor 13:12-13)* What can human meaning-makers make of this thing called disappointment? Can there be a remedy for this condition...for now...and forever? Here's the takeaway from this consideration of what God has to say. What is our directive that informs us earth dwellers that are inundated and distracted by misinformation and the distraction of human disappointment? Can we hope for more? Do we expect too much? Humans will be disappointed... But God has a plan. His plan is to *perfect the imperfect*.

Humanity is booked for an appointment with Almighty God. And the ones born of God will not be disappointed. He said so. Consider what God the Son has to say: *You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and that your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you. This I command you, that you love one another. (John 15:16-17)*

Let's learn to live in our disappointment in view of our appointment by God and our appointment with Him. Let's learn to live in His love...especially when it's hard...especially when we're disappointed with man.

Let's remember the Day that Jesus gave up the Ghost...a day of disappointment for many of those disciples.

Let's remember the Day that Jesus gave up the Grave...the day of destiny for all disciples of Christ the King.

Let's learn to live above our disappointment and not crawl back into the grave we've been called out of. See what I did there? Ending with a preposition can be disappointing to some. Hope you know what I mean!

Blessings to all,
Pastor Sam