

SOME C'S THAT I NEED

About two weeks ago my Keurig coffee maker stopped working. Both Nadine and I tried to fix it but nothing seemed to work. After disposing of it, I had to rely on my old coffee maker which makes six cups. My old coffee maker is okay, but I admit I prefer my Keurig. I thought about waiting until Easter to get a new Keurig as a gift from my mom, but I could not wait. Last week after doing some searching online, I found that Walmart had certain kinds of Keurig machines on for \$59.00. One morning after dropping Coral off at high school I went up to Walmart. When I got to the Keurig section in the store, I could see the machine that was advertised for \$59.00, but at first glance they did not have any on the shelves. My next option was going up to a price of \$99.00 which I did not want to do. So, I searched through the inventory again and found the one and only \$59.00 Keurig unit they had left. I was happy to say the least.

Now that I had my need for coffee fulfilled, I decided to go over to the cereal aisle before leaving to see if they might have my favourite brand on sale. Finding my favourite cereal has been as much of a challenge for me at times as finding the last Keurig on the shelf. You have probably experienced the same thing that I have in cereal aisles where the shelves are rather bare. When I do see my favourite cereal, sometimes they are charging \$5.00 a box. I love this brand of cereal, but I am also cheap and will not pay above a certain amount. Sure enough, Walmart had my cereal on sale for \$3.00 a box. I got three boxes and proudly walked out of the store carrying my new Keurig as well as my cereal. When I got to my car, it hit me that I was able to get two C's that are important in my life - coffee and cereal. I prefer cereal for breakfast and for a late-night snack over anything else. Most people who know me, realize how much I love my coffee too. Last week, I was able to fulfill two very important C's in my life, getting my favourite cereal on sale, and brewing my coffee again in a Keurig.

That was last week. This week I am reminded of two more C's that are necessities in my life, namely the **cross** and **Christ**. Holy Week has begun and by the time you read this message Good Friday might just be hours or a day away. Good Friday focuses on the cross and what Christ did for us by dying in our place on it. Whenever we hear the stories of Jesus' death on the

cross, or watch movies depicting it, we should be humbled and appreciative of what He did for us out of love. When it came to my need for the two C's of coffee and cereal I was able to provide them by opening my wallet. When it came to my need to be forgiven, and to have the way opened for me to experience eternal life with my Father in Heaven one day, Jesus had to pay the price needed for this necessity. This week brings to the forefront the necessities of what Christ did for us on the cross that we could not do for ourselves.

When we think about our necessities, we are referring to things that we feel are required or indispensable in our life. I shared with you how my two C's of coffee and a certain brand of cereal are necessities for me to enjoy each day. I look forward to eating my preferred cereal each morning and evening. Eating any other kind of cereal just does not feel the same, nor bring the same level of contentment for me. My family would say the same thing about coffee. If I go too long without a cup of coffee during my day, I get a bit antsy and grumpy. Nothing relaxes me like a good cup of coffee a few (okay several) times each day. These two C's have become necessities for me to enjoy each day. I am sure every one of us has certain foods, or routines that are necessities for us to experience each day in order to bring us some happiness or joy. These necessities might be gardening, walking, reading, exercising, or sipping on a cup of tea. These have become necessary things we must experience each day to bring us some joy.

The two C's of coffee and cereal are necessities of mine every day, but so too are the C's of the cross and Christ. Christ Jesus as my Saviour is someone I need in my life every day, as well as the hope, power, and love reflected in the cross. Many of us will focus on the two C's of the cross and Christ this week, but are they a necessity for us every day? I think this is an important question for us to consider this week. While Christ and what He did for us on the cross gets our attention this week, do we tend to forget about it in the weeks that follow Easter? I think this is a mistake unfortunately many people make not seeing the cross and Christ as an everyday necessity for them. By making this mistake, so many people may be missing out on the **daily fulfillment** that can be found in having Jesus as a constant companion to guide us, bless us, and help us face the challenges that each day brings. By forgetting about the necessity of the cross, we may also struggle with forgiveness at times, or

hope, or the love that God has for us. I hope that the two C's of Christ and the cross are necessities we not only consider during Holy Week but every day. Having these two C's as daily necessities for us will bring so much more peace and fulfillment to every day.

It is about 1:00 p.m. when I am finishing writing this message. Too early for a bowl of cereal but I think it is a necessity for me to have a coffee from my new Keurig right now.

God Bless and Keep Safe

Pastor Dean

P.S. At 7:00 p.m. I was telling Nadine and Coral about my mid week message of the C's that are necessary and the best thing in my life. They laughed immediately and replied, "What about Coral? Remember her name begins with a C!" Oops. I won't live this one down any time soon.