

So Much I Wish For Right Now

I have been finding myself saying over and over again this past week the words “I Wish” as I endure another week of COVID-19 and watch the video of the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis and the demonstrations that have followed. Some of the things I have been saying and thinking are:

- *I wish we were not having to go through this pandemic.*
- *I wish things could just return to normal.*
- *I wish my daughter could have finished her Grade 8 school year and all of the meaningful experiences that come with that.*
- *I wish she could be hanging out with her friends.*
- *I wish that her basketball season had not been cancelled.*
- *I wish a vaccine could be found sooner than later.*
- *I wish we could get back safely to worship.*
- *I wish businesses and restaurants could reopen.*
- *I wish there were no outbreaks in long term care facilities.*
- *I wish with all the sacrifices and efforts made in flattening the curve that people would not ignore warnings of mass gatherings like we saw happen in the that park in Toronto.*
- *I wish George Floyd had not been killed because of the actions of the police officer in Minneapolis.*
- *I wish racism against somebody’s skin colour was no longer an issue.*
- *I wish the people who are rightly protesting what happened to George Floyd would not damage businesses and property and loot stores.*
- *I wish we would be seeing the best of society on display right now.*

There is so much I wish for right now and I imagine you do as well. Part of me also wishes that Jesus would return now as He has promised so that we could say goodbye to disease, death, racism and hatred and experience instead the new Heaven and Earth as described in Revelations 21. As I have gone through my share of “I wish” statements, I began to wonder if God is not expressing His own statements of “I Wish” as He sees all of this going on in our world. What might God’s “I wish” statements be?

- *I wish my children would trust me and my promises as they go through this pandemic.*
- *I wish my children would stay calm and know that I am in control.*

- *I wish people would desire to have a relationship with me as much as I desire to have one with them.*
- *I wish people would repent and believe in me now so that I could come sooner.*
- *I wish people would love their neighbours as I have commanded regardless of their skin colour.*
- *I wish people would stop judging others, and that they would leave judgement to me.*
- *I wish people would follow my 10 Commandments so that they could live in harmony and peace with one another as well as with me.*
- *I wish people and nations would put me at the forefront once again.*

I can't help but think that God is looking down at all that is going on in our world right now and wishing that we could realize all these things and so much more that He wishes and desires for His creation. As we wish for certain things right now may we remember that God is doing the same right now. This reminder will help us take our focus off the bad we are seeing and instead put our focus on the good and love that can be found in God through our relationship with Christ. I paused after I wrote that last sentence and began focusing on God. Immediately He led me to 1 Corinthians 13 and these two verses:

Love does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.

This moment of interaction reminded me of what God's love does. When we pause and put our focus on Him rather than ourselves, He speaks to us in ways that provide us with hope and assurance. Look how these words from 1 Corinthians do that for us in light of the pandemic we are seeing, and the injustice done to George Floyd:

- *It reminds us that God is not happy with the injustice that happened.*
- *It reminds us that God will ensure the truth will win out and justice will be served.*
- *It reminds us we can remain faithful and hopeful through all of this.*
- *It reminds me that with God's help we will endure through our current circumstances.*

I wish people would see how God keeps us hoping, believing, and loving of Him and others even in times like we are experiencing right now. There may be many things you are wishing for right now, too. Each time you find yourself wishing, keep in mind what God is wishing for as well. You might just find God will do for you what He did for me as I wrote this with you in mind: *remind me of His Love and why my love is well placed in Him.*

Keep safe, prayerful & hopeful.

Rev. Dean