

July 25, 2020

Five months from today is Christmas and I wonder how that will be and what we will know that we do not know now.

I have to admit that this last week sort of undid me and I lost my focus and let my mind drift into distractions and diversions and my posts were mostly windy words.

The rising numbers of infections and deaths as reported in recent days was a mental setback, although, I had not let down my guard too much, I did let my mind relax and think that things were getting back to normal but that does not seem to be the case and the anxieties of last March and April returned causing a new wave of distress at the actual uncertainty that we face.

My fears and anxieties and disappointments, as yours, I suspect, get the best of us tied up in knots that bind us to a way of being in the world at this time that is frustrating, unsettling, and sad and while I resist any chipper “sweet Jesus” kind of piety, I want to be “real” and be somewhat more attentive to the possibilities of a more personal, creative and ethical response to this present moment.

I do not want to force optimism on myself, but I do want to find hope even though I cannot control any of the bigger picture, I can exercise some control over my own state of mind and heart and soul.

That being said, I want to return to a thought in one of my earlier posts and that is, how is God loving me today.

I do believe that the whole arrangement of creation is ultimately an arrangement that is driven by a non-abandoning love and that we find that arrangement as we go through life as we come to discard the identities that we give ourselves or the identities that we allow others to give us in a process of coming to know ourselves as we are known to God.

To be clear, God is the word that I use as do others to signify or name an intuition, experiences, or insights that cause us to think that there is more going on than we know, can control, or defeat, and that these “goings on” are benevolent and loving toward us in spite of all appearances to the contrary.

The more I think I know about God the less I must admit I know otherwise I create just another false god.

The second reading this weekend from Saint Paul's Letter to the Romans says this: Brothers and sisters:

We know that all things work for good for those who love God,  
who are called according to his purpose.  
For those he foreknew he also predestined  
to be conformed to the image of his Son,  
so that he might be the firstborn  
among many brothers and sisters.  
And those he predestined he also called;  
and those he called he also justified;  
and those he justified he also glorified.

I need to think and pray about these words.