

President's Message August 2020

I noticed a meme circulating on social media that showed a long line of people and the ones way up at the front of the line were being taken up into the clouds. The caption read *"Every minute someone leaves this world behind. We are all in 'the line' without knowing it. We never know how many people are before us. We cannot move to the back of the line. We cannot step out of the line. We cannot avoid the line"*. Then it ended with *"So while we wait in line"* and then it listed a lot of good things we should all do such as: make moments count, make someone smile, tell someone you love them, make the time, make peace, etc.

This really struck close to home since in recent months several friends have passed on to life eternal. I think to myself I wish I would have visited more often or said this or told him that and now I can't. How many times do we hear this from people and how often have we also lamented the fact ourselves? And then this plague we are suffering through has added insult to injury—to not even be able to go to a funeral or memorial service and pay respect and grieve with loved ones.

Life is so short. Every day is a gift, and whether we're young or old, we never know whether today will be our time. "Being in the line" is part of the human condition; we are all bound to physical death—there is no escape even though we will overcome that death because of the resurrection of our Lord, Jesus. The question is what are we doing with our lives while we are passing through here? As Christians while we "are in line" (to play on the metaphor), we are called to use every minute of every day to reflect the love of Jesus to those around us—forgiving, loving, sharing, caring, helping.... doing unto others. A friend of mine recently shared some words written for a eulogy: "Don't wait—don't wait to say 'I love you'; don't wait to say 'I'm sorry'; don't wait to say 'I forgive you'; don't wait to say 'I'm there for you...and mean it, really mean it'".

While the meme that got my attention is surely secular, the list of things about getting one's house in order by being kind and caring to others was quite Christian—especially the final thought, 'make sure you are ready'. Every Advent season (which isn't that far off) we are reminded to be prepared—for we know neither when our day will come nor when the Lord will return. Either way, we need to make sure we are ready and if we did as the Master has asked, well, we may just hear our Lord say "Well done, good and faithful servant".

Blessings,
Will Harmon