

# A Message for This Time

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These have been very difficult times for the people of God as our access to social interaction and particularly worship have been steadily restricted. It is all too easy to become frustrated and even angry (I know I have!) when decisions are being made that restrict the most intimate and important parts of my spiritual life. In the last couple of weeks I have been forced to step-by-step to make decisions I hate about the congregation I love. It is all the more annoying when those decisions are being made by self-serving politicians based on media-hype. But God always shows us his way. This afternoon I was working on Bible class notes, and I was directed to Genesis 50 and the wondrous words of Joseph to his brothers who had betrayed him and sold him into slavery. As I read them I was humbled to recognize how much greater Joseph's trust in God was than mine! "Fear not, for am I in the place of God? As for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good that so many people should be kept alive." (Genesis 50:19-20)

As I read those words I remembered that all things will work together for good to them that love God. Even being banned from our churches and robbed of our direct fellowship for a time. The Word still has its power - even over the accursed internet. That's what it must always be about whether we are together in our beautiful sanctuary with magnificent music from Jeff on the organ and choirs and bells, etc. it must always be about the Word. Whether it was whispered in the dusty catacombs of ancient Rome, or shared by a handful of the faithful hiding in secret rooms from the inquisitor. Perhaps it was for those few brave souls who dared to hide Jews in their homes and then praying over their Bibles as they waited for the SS to come. It has always been about the Word. And it is still about the Word today. I'm told that almost 500 people watched the internet service. God meant it for good!

Absence makes the heart grow fonder, the old cliché advises. Perhaps we will have a greater appreciation for all the blessings we so often take for granted. Perhaps whenever we are allowed back into our beautiful sanctuary, with our spectacular music, able to hold and hug each other again and shake the rafters with joyful song, we might appreciate it a little more and recognize what wondrous blessings we have been given. We might even make it a higher priority in our lives!!

In the meantime, remember "God meant it for good!" All of this mess is part of his loving plan for you and me and America. Trust him! Thank him! He will bring us through this by the power of his Word, and somehow it will all be a blessing.

*Pastor White*