



Living with God in Mysteries

April 2020 Message from Pastor Love

If you were to guess, what would you say is the biggest challenge we face in our daily walk of faith?

In His book, *“Conjectures of A Guilty Bystander,”* Thomas Merton writes: *“Faith tends to be the most challenged and even defeated by the burning presence of God in mystery. The more God is present in mystery, the more likely the individual, confronted with the mystery, will seek refuge from it and God. Seeking to escape the struggle of faith such a mystery causes, the individual will turn to anything that will end the mystery.”*

God in mystery! Sounds like a good novel but in reality it is the way every believer has God. We know about God in mystery. Our life of faith in God began in the mystery of Baptism and in this Lenten season we ponder the mystery of Christ’s death and soon we will celebrate the mystery of His resurrection. But can we handle God in what seems to be “less Sacred” mysteries?

To trust that God is in the mystery of Baptism and the Lord’s Supper creates little or no struggle for us in our faith life. The mysteries that challenge and tend to defeat faith, according to Merton, are those mysteries that seem to have no connection or relationship to God, to faith, or to anything sacred or holy.

How many times do we see or deal with something in our daily lives, (i.e. – abused children, tragic accident, stroke, crippling disability, etc.) that we are unable to reconcile to our belief and understanding of God? The resolution of the most troubling mysteries boils down to the answers to a couple of questions:

- If God really loved me, why has He let this happen to me (or to someone I love)?
- If God is really working all things for my good, why is so much bad happening to me?

What challenges faith is that we are often not given the answer to either of these questions. We are left to live day by day with the mysteries.

Merton is right when he says that many people flee from mystery, or more accurately, from the struggle of faith the mystery causes. We run to some explanation that will solve the mystery and bring us some kind of peace, even if they are contrary to God and His Word. The problem is that if we cannot live with God in the mysteries of our daily life, then we can’t live with God in the blessings of eternal life.

To refuse to see God in the unsacred mysteries of life is to refuse the same God who works in them and through them for our salvation and to draw us closer to Him. God knew that Christians would struggle with His presence in the daily mysteries of life, that’s why He inspired St. Paul to write and assure us with these words, *“We know that in all things God works for the good of them who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose.”* Romans 8:28

It is because we do live each day with mysteries that we live by faith in the mystery of the Cross, where the Son of God died to save you and me from death. The same faith which takes hold of God in the mysteries of Baptism, the Lord’s Supper, forgiveness, the Scriptures, etc., is the same faith which can and must take hold of the same God who is in the daily mysteries at home, at work, in relationships, and even in the midst of a pandemic.

God assures us that we will not always have to live with Him in mysteries. *“Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see [God] face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.”* 1 Corinthians 13:12

Our hope in all the mysteries of this life is not that we know the answers to them, but that we are known by God in the midst of them through faith in Jesus Christ. May the resurrection of our Lord Jesus give us the assurance that we are known and loved by God.

In Christ’s service and yours, Pastor Love

