

GraceNotes

A Monthly Newsletter of Grace Christian Church

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GROWING IN GRACE

“Seeing 20/20 In 2020”

2020.....It sounds so futuristic, perhaps unnervingly so. In his 1970 book, *Future Shock*, Alvin Toffler predicted that the 21st century would be characterized by “the trauma of transition.” It would seem he prognosticated correctly. Even before considering the content of transition, the rate of such is now so fast that “keeping up” is a disorienting dilemma. And when the transition itself is considered, “future shock” becomes a real experience. Global change is dramatic and occurring at “breakneck speed.” To be sure, the effect can be traumatizing, even when the change is good, but even more when the change is bad.

In the January 4, 2019 issue of The Stream, Rob Schwartzwalder suggested that change is happening so rapidly that it may no longer be possible to have a “defining culture,” or, on the other hand, if there is a culture it is defined as the “experience of change.” It’s hard to live in a world where everything is constantly in flux. So how is a soul to cope in a world where change is so pervasive that ‘anomie,’ or relative normlessness, is the dominant feature? Moreover, how is a Christian to respond when much of the change, especially regarding social issues, fundamentally violates the dictates of Scripture? How about by focusing, fixing, and fastening on that – more specifically, Him – who does not change.

The unchangeableness of God, often referred to as “immutability,” is declared in both the Old and New Testaments. In Malachi 3:6, God says, “I, the Lord, do not change” and in James 1:17 it says, “With God there is no shifting shadow.” It should be added that since God does not change, neither does His Word. Isaiah 40:8 proclaims, “The grass withers and the flower fades but the Word of our God stands forever.” Thus God and His Word provide a clear, unvarying, and, therefore, trustworthy focal point. Indeed, the Bible is our spirit-centering, mind-balancing, and life-orienting benchmark in a world without equilibrium.

In 2020, change will continue at a blinding pace, and much of it will be morally malignant. But we need not lose our footing or bearing. By GROWING IN GRACE we can see 20/20 in the year 2020. In optometry and ophthalmology “20/20” means normal visual acuity. For our spiritual lives it means “fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith” (Heb. 12:2). In this new year, let us do so as a faith resolution for “seeing 20/20 in 2020.”

In Christ,

Ed

