

AN ENCOURAGING WORD FOR TROUBLING TIMES #97 (by Rev. Dr. Alice Wolfe, 7/9/20)

“This, too, shall pass...”

When we faced challenging situations in life, my mom would often say, “This, too, shall pass...” And do you know what? She was always right! Some things passed quickly, and others slowly... but they all passed. Right now, I would imagine that nearly everyone on the face of the earth (with the possible exception of manufacturers of hand sanitizers, sanitizing wipes, masks, etc.) would like this pandemic to pass quickly... Our wishes will not make it go away more quickly, but it will eventually pass... Remembering what will truly last will help us survive and thrive during these challenging times.

Jesus said:

“Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come. It's like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with their assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch. Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back—whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn. If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to everyone: ‘Watch!’” (Mark 13:31-37, NIV)

This pandemic we’re facing? This, too, shall pass. The depressed economy? This, too, shall pass. The high unemployment rate? This, too, shall pass. This crazy time when schools are trying to figure out how and where to educate students? This, too, shall pass. This challenging time when seniors and people with health concerns aren’t able to visit with their families in person? This, too, shall pass. This period of social distancing and wearing face masks? This, too, shall pass. But that’s not all... our jobs, our possessions, our social status, our families, our friends, and our lives... They, too, shall pass. What won’t pass? God and his Word. Though everything on earth and earth itself will pass away (as Jesus stated in Mark 13:31), God and his Word are and will always be with us. This should encourage and help us know how to live—especially during these challenging times. First, we can rejoice that pandemics, pain, suffering, struggles, sadness, tears, disease, and death will not last forever. They, too, shall pass. Second, since things on earth will pass away, we would be wise not to invest our lives in earthly things that won’t last, but to invest our lives in what will last—eternal life through Jesus Christ. What would your life be like if your goal was to live for Jesus (as explained in his Word) and to share with others his love and the good news of eternal life through Christ? And third, since we never know when things in this world or our lives will pass away, we would be wise to remain watchful, to be ready—so we can live without regret. If we make the most of each moment God has given us—to live in his love and to share his love with others—then whenever the time comes for our lives on earth to pass, our lives in heaven will be just beginning and we’ll rejoice that the best is yet to come!

PRAYER:

Eternal God, we praise you that the pain, suffering, and things of this world shall pass! We thank you for your Word to guide us and for offering us the gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ! Please forgive me for my sins...; help me turn away from them and truly live for you! Help me to not only experience new and everlasting life through Jesus Christ, but to share Christ’s love with others, so they can, too. Help me keep an eternal perspective of life so I’m not distracted or overwhelmed by the temporary things of this world, but that I am always watchful and ready for Jesus’ return! Amen.

LIVE IT!

What are you struggling with or worrying about today? Let God remind you, “This, too, shall pass.” Look to God and his eternal Word for comfort, peace, hope, and direction. Live each day focusing on Christ and things that last—so you, and others, can live without regret and have everlasting life in Christ

