

Another Word June 8, 2021

To our family and friends of First Christian Church

What a reminder we had Sunday of the beauty and surprise of God! We were having a perfect day of worship together at the pavilion when we were graced with the appearance of one of God's special creations. Thank you Lana for getting a picture of the beautiful and inquisitive deer that came to worship with us. What a true gift we all shared!

Donita and I would like to again thank you for all the cards we received, and for all who came and celebrated with us on Saturday. The outpouring of love you showed us was almost overwhelming, and is something we will never forget! Jesus Bless you all!

As I write this note, George is in Columbus having a checkup. He is recovering at The Arbors at Mifflin. If you would like to send him a card, the address is; The Arbors at Mifflin 1600 Crider Road, Mansfield, Ohio 44903.

Our scriptures for this Sunday are: Psalm 9: 9-20, and Mark 4:35-41, "Strength to weather any storm." The Elder is Matt Henderson.

May we pray together.

Holy and gracious God. We give thanks for the beauty and wonder of Your creation. We marvel when You show us a sample of Your love and dedication to us. You provide to us our every worldly need. May we never forget to thank You for Your blessings. We continue to hold up to You our friends, family, and all who need healing. Please continue to

protect and defend all who have pledged their lives to unselfish service and protection for us. We most of all thank You for guidance as we travel the roads of life, and for the gift of Grace and salvation provided by your Son, Jesus. In His wonderful name we pray, Amen.

Last week I wrote about roads leading to destruction and a good road leading to eternal happiness. I would like to expand on that a little more this week. Let's look at the journey on the road.

Over my career as a manufacturer's rep., I drove upwards of 2 million miles. (Yes, I kept records) In all that time, I rarely became lost and knew the right roads that I needed to travel in order to arrive safely at my destination.

I remember waking one cold and wintery Friday morning in Baltimore Md. It had snowed all night and the roads were a mess. Realizing that most of my customers would not be opening their stores for quite some time, I decided to just phone a few people and head for home. The trip home was normally an 8 hour drive in good weather.

The first thing I realized was that I was the only one on the highway heading west. Not even a snow plow was out. (Should I turn around?) Half way across Maryland I turned on the radio and heard there was a driving ban in effect for the whole state. (Oops, maybe I shouldn't be out, or maybe I should look for an alternative route.) Oh well, at least I was leaving a trail for the plows to follow, and the state troopers would be able to track me. By the time I got to Breezewood, Pa. the roads were finally beginning to be plowed, so I continued on, making good

progress until I was just West of Akron. As I passed the exit to Wadsworth, the traffic came to a complete stop at the edge of the deep and wide valley that continues in a downhill run for over a mile. Either the steep road was impassible or there was an accident somewhere on the road blocking all progress.

At that point, I had been on the road for over 11 hours. I'm only 35 miles from Ashland, I'm tired from the stress, and I just want to get home. As I sat there, I began to think of a way around the stoppage. Small little county roads that I could take that could possibly get me home. But my way off the highway was blocked by trucks and cars, as well as a 4 foot snow bank on either side of the plowed road. For the next 8 hours, the traffic did not move an inch. As for me, I ran my car now and then to stay warm, did all my paperwork, sang songs, and was entertained by the antics of the people around me.

Then, sometime between 2:30 and 3a.m., the traffic began to move. We had to dodge a few snowmen built in the middle of Interstate 76, but other than that, there was a clear road ahead, and I arrived home around 4a.m., safe and sound. (I never found out what the delay was.)

Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the father except through me." John 14:6. Last week, we were reminded that there are many roads that lead to destruction, and one road to life. Jesus is now telling us that He is that one true road.

I knew the one good road from Baltimore to Ashland, and knew I could depend on it. The road was true, but there were some obstacles and

delays on my journey. If I had wandered off that road and tried an alternate course during my trip, I would have been in danger, and may have never ended up at home. I waited on the Lord, and He brought me home, safe and sound on the one true way.

There are many roads that appear before us each day. Some may look fun, easy, and even beautiful. But what we need to remember is, the one road, the one true way is right there in front of us. The main road called Jesus, which leads to a safe and secure home, in Heaven.

In His peace,

*Rich*