

PAUSE TO THINK ALONG THE WAY

Scripture: Romans 8:6-11

March 28, 2020

When I look around my apartment, I see things like a Keurig, an air-fryer, toaster oven, a refrigerator that has food in it, a television, furniture, etc. I even have a nice bed to sleep in. I am blessed to have these things. There are folks that don't have those things. Folks who are less fortunate than us that are looking for a warm place to stay for the night because sleeping under the bridge would be too cold. Hungry children sleeping on the floor or on a mattress on the floor, because addiction has taken over the lives of their parent(s).

This passage should give us all a "cause to pause." What would Christ think about the life you are living? What would Christ say today about your spending habits? Pause, because everyday life as we know it is really the good life. Pause, because we have been blessed to have had jobs that allow us to have some of the finer things in life. Pause, because we take care of ourselves and don't look beyond our own "needs." Pause, because what we perceive as a need is really just something we want out of selfishness.

In this season of Lent, some perceive that we should "give up something." I challenge each and every one of you to pause before you buy the next thing you "need." Is it something you really "need" or is it a "want?" If it is a true need, buy it. If it is a want, not something you really need, find a box or a jar, or even a baggie and put the amount of that "want" inside. Do this for the remainder of the Lent, or better yet, the remainder of the year. Then donate the money to church, the food pantry, one of the missions in our Conference, UMCOR, buy Christmas presents for a less fortunate family or children on a giving tree.

Prayer: Gracious God, You give us all "Cause to Pause." Help us to live into the Spirit of Christ, Your Spirit, by exemplifying Christ-like behaviors and not selfish behaviors. Amen

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