

Joyful in Hope – 27 – April 17, 2020
(thoughts and ideas to encourage and challenge)

“Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.”
Romans 12:9

I suppose it's not that big a deal to have a 'stay at home' order that includes not working in your garden, or at least, not buying the things you need to work in your garden – when it's SNOWING! What a crazy day. The white stuff has been falling all day long. We are nearly forty days into spring, for crying out loud!

I know, I know, that's Michigan for you. Tomorrow will be sunny and 55 degrees. Heat wave. I'll take it.

Actually, you know what is so interesting about today's snowfall? It's been coming down steadily all day, but nothing is sticking. I mean the grass is green, the streets and sidewalks are just wet. There's been plenty of snow in the air all day long, but there's nothing on the ground.

I feel like if Jesus were here, he'd have something to say about that. About snowing all day with nothing to show for it. About words without actions, about talking the talk and not walking the walk. About whitewashed tombs full of dead men's bones. About not hiding your light under a bowl, rather putting it on a stand to give light to everyone in the house.

These days, it's pretty easy to go unnoticed. We stay at home and don't have much of an impact on anyone because we're not in direct contact with anyone. It's kind of like snow falling to the ground that doesn't stick. No big deal.

I challenge you to live your life in such a way, that the things you do and the things you say will stick to someone, have an impact for good on someone. Lighten someone's load. Lift someone's spirits. Encourage and touch someone's heart.

Even during this time of social distancing and staying at home, find creative ways to blanket others with the warmth of Christ's love. Don't let another hour go by before you make a phone call, write a note, face time, put an encouraging sign in your front window, tie a blue ribbon on your tree, put a bear out, paint a rainbow. Make it stick.

***Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved,
clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.***

Colossians 3:12
