



“Hey Pastor. I just have a question for you: What is your favorite Bible verse - or favorite(s)?”

I’ve been mentioning in sermons a lot lately that there are no coincidences with God (like it was no coincidence that Simeon came into the temple at the exact same time Mary and Joseph brought Jesus in to present Him to the Lord - Luke 2:22-32).

The above question was no coincidence. It came from one of our Confirmation students at the exact same time as I was pondering questions to answer this month.

My answer: “I have a bunch of them, depending on the situation. But there are two that come to mind right off the top of my head today: John 16:33 and Proverbs 3:5-6”

I’ll write them out, so you don’t have to go look them up.

“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” Jesus to His disciples in John 16:33

At Christmas we hear a lot about one of Jesus’ titles: “Prince of Peace.” There truly is a peace that can only come from knowing Jesus is God and came to make peace between us sinful humans and a sinless God - and had to die to accomplish that! A peace that comes from knowing that, because He became human, He truly understands the “troubles” we go through! And a peace that comes from knowing that, because He is God, He doesn’t just understand the troubles we go through - He has the power to get us through the troubles!

I can guarantee one thing about the coming year: you will have trouble. But an even greater guarantee: Jesus has the power to get you through it!

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight.” Proverbs 3:5-6

In other words, Trust that God knows the right thing to do - always!

He sees things you can’t and won’t ever see. He knows things you don’t know and may not ever know. He is not distracted by ... well, anything! And don’t forget: He’s God - and you’re not! He created everything (not you!) and so, HE knows how He designed it to work best. So, trust God, not your own ideas of how you want things to go.

A long time ago I put this verse into one of those nifty (or goofy, depending on your perspective) acronyms: FYGNYF (pronounced: FIG-nif): “Follow Your God Not Your Feelings.”

If we ask God’s help to remember to put Proverbs 3:5-6 into practice each day this year, our 2020 “paths” will end up being straight instead of crooked.

Thanks for asking,
Pastor David

Send your questions to pastor@livingwordlutheran.net