



FRANKLIN ROAD

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NEWSLETTER

MAY 30, 2017

A TIME INTENDED FOR GROWTH

PASTOR ANDY JOHNSTON

THAT TIME OF YEAR IS UPON US AGAIN. IT IS THE TIME WHEN THE WEATHER IS WARM AND THE DAYS ARE LONG. IT IS THE TIME WHEN YOU START TO SEE THE GROWTH AGAIN IN THE TREES, FLOWERS, AND GARDENS. IT IS GREAT TO GO TO THE PARK, THE BEACH AND THE BALL GAME. IT IS THAT TIME WHEN IT IS OK TO TIRELESSLY WORK IN THE YARD AND ON THE HOUSE TO SEE GROWTH.

UNFORTUNATELY, IT IS ALSO THE TIME WHEN MOST CHURCHES TAKE OFF. RIGHT WHEN THE WEATHER IS WARMER AND THE DAYS ARE LONGER; WHEN THE JOINTS FEEL BETTER AND THE ENERGY IS HIGHER; WHEN WE FEEL LIKE BEING OUT OF OUR HOUSES AND ACTIVE, UNFORTUNATELY, IS WHEN THE CHURCH TAKES MOST OF THE TIME OFF.

TOO MANY TIMES WE SEE THAT THE SUMMER IS OUR TIME TO RELAX. WE JUST FINISHED A STRENUOUS YEAR OF SCHOOL, FOOTBALL, BASKETBALL, BASEBALL, PLAYS, WORK, AWANA, BIBLE STUDY, ETC. .AND WE ARE TIRED AND NEED A BREAK. I NEED A BREAK AS WELL. I AM TAKING A FEW DAYS IN JUNE FOR REST. WHAT I PRAY IS THAT WE, AS A CHURCH BODY, DO NOT TAKE A SUMMER BREAK FROM VALUABLE GROWTH. II THESSALONIANS 3:13 – BUT AS FOR YOU, BRETHREN, DO NOT GROW WEARY OF DOING GOOD. TOO MANY TIMES PEOPLE FLEE TO SOME OTHER “ACTIVITY” BECAUSE THEY GENUINELY BELIEVE IT IS GOING TO GIVE THEM REST AND WE DO NOT SEE EACH OTHER, AS A WHOLE, FOR THE SUMMER. PSALM 46:1A – GOD IS OUR REFUGE AND STRENGTH. . GOD IS WHERE WE GENUINELY FIND REST. AND YES, THAT CAN HAPPEN FOR PEOPLE WHEREEVER THEY ARE, BUT WHAT ABOUT THE PERSON (THE BODY) OF THE CHURCH. WHEN MEMBERS ARE GONE TOO LONG THE BODY FEELS IT. WHEN MEMBERS DECIDE NOT TO GROW TOGETHER THE BODY FEELS IT.

SADLY, THE CHURCH IN AMERICA TAKES OFF RIGHT WHEN THE OPPORTUNITY FOR GROWTH IS RIPE. WE STILL HAVE BIBLE STUDIES, SUNDAY SCHOOLS, FELLOWSHIPS, DISCIPLESHIP, AND OUT-REACH ACTIVITIES. LET US NOT TAKE TWO MONTHS OF OUR YEAR AND LOSE FOCUS ON THE RACE. ROMANS 12:11 – NOT LAGGING BEHIND IN DILIGENCE, FERVENT IN SPIRIT, SERVING THE LORD.

I LIKE TO WORK OUT, AND IT HAS BEEN SAID THAT FOR EVERY DAY THAT YOU TAKE OFF, IT TAKE TWO DAYS TO GAIN BACK WHAT YOU HAVE LOST. IT IS A WHOLE LOT EASIER TO GAIN FAT THAN TO KEEP MUSCLE. I BELIEVE IT IS THE SAME IN THE CHURCH. II PETER 1:5-8 – 5 NOW FOR THIS VERY REASON ALSO, APPLYING ALL DILIGENCE, IN YOUR FAITH SUPPLY MORAL EXCELLENCE, AND IN YOUR MORAL EXCELLENCE, KNOWLEDGE, ⁶AND IN YOUR KNOWLEDGE, SELF-CONTROL, AND IN YOUR SELF-CONTROL, PERSEVERANCE, AND IN YOUR PERSEVERANCE, GODLINESS, ⁷AND IN YOUR GODLINESS, BROTHERLY KINDNESS, AND IN YOUR BROTHERLY KINDNESS, LOVE. ⁸FOR IF THESE QUALITIES ARE YOURS AND ARE INCREASING, THEY RENDER YOU NEITHER USELESS NOR UNFRUITFUL IN THE TRUE KNOWLEDGE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST.

I PRAY WE AS A CHURCH, THE WHOLE CHURCH BODY, ARE INCREASING IN THESE QUALITIES, DAILY, SO WE ARE NOT RENDERED USELESS OR UNFRUITFUL IN A TIME THAT IS INTENDED FOR GROWTH. MAY OUR EYES ALWAYS AND CONTINUALLY BE ON CHRIST.