

Monday 8th June 2020

Our Journey with God.

'Life is a journey, not a destination,' wrote Ralph Waldo Emerson, the eighteenth century American philosopher.

For some people reaching their destination is all that matters. Having a destination to aim for is a good thing in many ways. Without a clear destination a journey loses its focus. However, for others, making plans for the journey and enjoying the journey while heading for their destination are important.

We should enjoy the journey, wherever we go. Whatever we do, life is full of challenges. We may aim for many things: to leave school, to be an adult, to have a qualification or a specific job, but the journey and what we experience on it, helps us to make us the people we are. If we aim to be Christians we need to follow in Christ's footsteps. The Christian life of following Christ is like being on a journey where we take time to enjoy what we find on the way.

Our journey with Christ never ends. We need to pray, listen to God's voice and follow Him. In taking our time stopping and listening to what we are told, we are taking, not only a journey, but an adventure. We have been called to follow Jesus like those of long ago. When we think we have reached our destination, change hits us. We are being asked to change our lives and to go in the direction God takes us.

It takes courage to travel where we have not been before. We may encounter trouble on the way. While on our journey here on this earth, one of the great tests of Christian maturity is overcoming difficulties. We can bring our problems to God and, in doing so, provide him with opportunities to bring grace and healing in our lives.

When we go through personal trials, we discover the kind of courage and faith we have. James said that God wants us to have the kind of faith that overcomes. (James1:12) *'Happy is the person who remains faithful under trials, because when he succeeds in passing such a test, he will receive as his reward the life which God has promised to those who love Him.'*

Peter agrees with James. (1 Peter4: 12-13) *'My dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful test you are suffering, as though something unusual were happening to you. Rather, be glad that you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may be full of joy when His glory is revealed.'* Trials on our journey with God reveal our faith and develop our character.

Amen