

New Life Riders

Motorcyclists Serving God and Community
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June 2020

Dear Friends,

As I write this morning, the sun is shining beautifully, with storms predicted later in the day. Getting wet is a given for those of us who ride! What great stories we love to share about our experiences!

We have been riding into strange new times during this Covid-19 pandemic. As many of you know, local and national charity rides have been postponed or canceled. Our thoughts and prayers are with the organizations that depend financially on the funds from these events.

As some businesses are beginning to open up, we need to be even more vigilant in our call to care for each other. Social distancing and wearing masks, etc. are important in keeping one another safe and preventing another wave of the virus. These times are not easy.

The Apostle Paul, may have been reflecting on the dangers and hardships he endured on the mission field as he wrote at the end of the eighth chapter of his epistle to the Romans, "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril or sword? Then he quotes Psalm 44:22, 'For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.' He goes on in verse 37, Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 8:35-39 (NKJV)

It sounds like Paul, in this intense passage, is writing about the trials that he encountered during his missionary journeys. It is like he is talking about the difficulties, the illness and death of dear friends and the loss of jobs that we are experiencing right now in 2020!

Even in terrifying times, Paul is assuring us that **nothing** can separate us from God's love. When it seems like the world is crashing down around us, **nothing** can separate us from God's love. These trials do **not** separate us from God's love, they bring us closer to Him. The passage describes the triumphant, overwhelming love of God making us more than conquerors because we have the Good News-God Loves us and **nothing** can separate us from that love and our security in Him is absolute!

We will **not** meet for dinner on June 5th. Just because we can gather or that we have the right to gather doesn't mean it is the right thing to do or the safe thing to do. Our number one priority will be to love people by caring for their health and well-being.

In Eugene Peterson's paraphrase The Message, he put it this way, "Looking at it one way, you could say, 'Anything goes.' Because of God's immense generosity and grace, we don't have to dissect and scrutinize every action to see if it will pass muster." But the point is not to just get by. We want to live well, but our foremost efforts should be to help others live well." I Corinthians 10: 23-24 (The Message)

If you have not invited Jesus into your heart and life, I would urge you to do it today. Let Him take control of your life. When we turn our lives over to Jesus and let Him be the Rider and we the passenger, it is a blessing to know that He is in charge. He knows what lies around the next corner. He knows how fast we can take the curves and He knows how to maintain us and keep us going. When we want to shout directions from the pillion seat, God will not force us to go down the roads that He knows are best. However, what a blessing when we allow Him to take us where He wills.

We update the New Life Riders website <u>www.newliferiders.com</u> frequently. Please keep checking it for canceled and rescheduled biking events and activities. We are endeavoring to keep you informed during all the changes that are taking place. Continue to let your light shine by keeping in touch with one another. Be a blessing! Don't underestimate your ability to make a difference in someone's life and don't miss any opportunity to make an impact on the world

My wife, Kathy, and I pray that you and your families are abundantly blessed, staying safe, and are in good health and virus- free.

As always, I look forward to seeing you down the road.

Until next time...

God bless Riding with Jesus, Bob Dillon