

A forest fire was raging and a news photographer couldn't get the angle he needed to get a good picture of the event. He called the station manager and asked if he could arrange for a plane or chopper to get a better look. The manager told him to head over to a nearby airport - that the plane would be on the runway waiting for him when he got there. He slid his news vehicle to a stop at the airport, grabbed his camera and rushed to a small plane that was idling prepared for take off. He jumped in the plane and yelled, "Go, Go, Go." The pilot zoomed down the runway and as he got airborne the photographer told the pilot to circle around behind the smoke and get him in close to the blaze. The pilot asked "why?" "So I can get some good footage of this for the news!" The photographer barked. The man behind the controls barked back, "you mean your not the flight instructor?"

The cliché "haste makes waste" seems to sum up what happened with those guys. Who of us hasn't felt the pressure to speed up even when we don't know why. Or, in our haste we cast ourselves at the mercy of a "solution" that we know nothing about. This whole year has felt a bit like what those guys must have experienced and I'm all for slowing down!

Some of you no doubt felt like that pilot at times. Don't worry, when we figure out how-we'll land. Others feel like that photographer wondering what you've climbed into. Isn't it great to know that someone in that tower can get us safely to our destination. But we must listen and obey. And I would say- enjoy the flight while it lasts! Might as well make the most of the adventure.

This has been a tough year for many, but we have much to be thankful for. This would be a good time to take time to reflect on the past few months and thank God for how He has grown us and blessed us through our circumstances.

Some of how He's blessed us was to help us reach our goal of paying down our building fund balance to below \$500,000.00 and Chase Bank will no longer be looking over our shoulder to check our financial viability. (Not that they've really done that- they have been great!) We have been financially healthy as a church and that is all to God's Glory and your faithfulness!!!

I want to say thanks to our leadership team and all those who week in and week out keep on quietly doing what God leads them to do. And, our staff who make my life and work a joy. We are blessed indeed.

Last of all I want to thank God for what He is going to do in the coming year. Not only is He gonna keep us out of the flames and land us on the solid rock but he is going to continue to give us a better view of life. Praise His Name! *Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be the glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever, amen. Ephesians 3:20-21*

To the big picture,
Pastor Mark