PENINSULA CHRISTIAN F E L L O W S H I P

Is That You God?

An optimistic realist

- Optimistic is the adjective
- **Realist** is the foundation

In a single phrase or word – tell me **something** about 2020

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What do you think about **2021** in light of 2020?

- The virus, social tensions, the economy, politics...
- Are you hopeful, apprehensive, or even pessimistic?

What do you think God will do in 2021?

..... Looking back at Christmas...

- How did God get Joseph & Mary to Bethlehem?
- Did He use priests or prophets?
- Caesar commanded a worldwide census
- Did people think it was **God**, or the devil?

He gave Joseph (the earlier one) prophetic dreams!

- How did He make it happen?

His brothers sold him into slavery... after deciding not to kill him.

- Did anyone think it was God?

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Jesus told His disciples to spread out over the whole world

Mark 16:15 & Acts 1:8

"Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone."

You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and **to the ends of the earth**.

Who did God use to help them get out there?

Titus. No... not that Titus

The brutal Roman General **who crushed** Jerusalem...

- Causing everyone to **run for their lives**, or die right there.
- Jesus prophesied that one

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Psalm 66:8-12

Does God intend blessing? Yes ...

*He also calls His people to confession, repentance <i>and purity***.**

Matthew 7:13-14 & 21-23 (Luke 6:46)

I John 1:5-10

I Corinthians 6:9-11 & Galatians 5:19-23

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What is **our testimony in the U.S.** these days?

1962, Banned God from public classrooms (Football coaches now fired for praying with players)

- 1973-now 60 Million innocent children legally killed
- Every sexual sin protected & promoted (taught from Kindergarten & depicted on TV commercials)
- A sex change man named "Woman Of The Year" by Time magazine
- Same sex marriage
- Anyone calling sin, sin, is condemned for Hate Speech

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What might God do?

Romans 1:18-32

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What shall we do?

- Pray for the convictions of The Holy Spirit & repentance...
- And live as Christ did among a lost world

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Do Not become self-righteous and condemning...

Become a loving example of **who Jesus is**...

- First to each other (John 13:34-35)
- Then among those who don't know Him yet
- Acts 2:42-47 is still how it's supposed to work

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- *Love loves FIRST! (I John 4:19)
 - And 2nd, and 3rd... and Last!
 - Love NEVER Fails! (I Corinthians 13:8)

Love like Jesus, and you may be treated like Jesus...

- That's when it matters most!

We can't represent Him by being unlike Him

Decide that ahead of time – before it happens