

Daily View

"But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called 'today'" Hebrews 3:13

July 27, 2020



Pacific Coast Highway (PCH)

A steep and winding road...

While driving from Monterey to Santa Barbara on the Pacific Coast Highway on Saturday, I was alone with my thoughts because Christie had fallen asleep. She's not crazy about heights and the road up the hill was getting steeper and windier so I told her to take a rest. I didn't have the radio on, so it was just me and my mind.

On the way, I'm thinking, first, about keeping the Rogue on the road and, second, about stuff like "this would be a bad time for an earthquake." That caused me to be more aware and to pray a little more, too. Keeping the car on the winding road was not hard, but it took more energy and attention than driving through eastern Nevada. There, the roads are straight for miles and miles and the biggest challenge is staying awake. If you do that, you put the car on cruise control, cue up your Spotify playlist and you're golden.

But I had only my thoughts to accompany me and it occurred to me that life in Christ isn't like that road in eastern Nevada. Not that it ever was, but if we're not learning that lesson now, I'm not sure what it would take to learn it. There are so many things going on that make the walk steeper and windier. The inability to attend in the way that we have been accustomed is definitely an issue for me. I know many others feel the same, because they've told me and I've seen posts on social media to that effect.

The weird things going on in the world may affect our journey with Christ as well. "What's the world coming to" is a really good question right now. The world is coming to what it's coming to because the world has gone away from God.

Judges 2:10 seems so relevant right now: "...there arose another generation after them who did not know the Lord..." Need evidence? Driving down the coast, I recalled that there were churches in several of the towns I passed through but those churches are gone now.

The lack of a consciousness of God in society in general makes the road to heaven tougher to navigate. The road of true discipleship is a winding one and there is danger at every curve. It's never been a freeway, but now it's PCH — *with potholes*. Speaking up for God or simply quoting his word may get you fired, or worse. All of us need a new shot of courage and resolve or we're liable to go off the side of the hill.

Jesus constantly warned his disciples to "drive" carefully: *"Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak"* (Matthew 26:41). But we've also been warned that the final "earthquake" could come at any moment. Paul said this, in I Thessalonians 5:1-4:

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves ~~ARE~~ fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief.

When I jokingly said to myself, while driving the winding, steep road, "this would be a bad time for an earthquake," I wasn't thinking about the second coming of Christ. But come to think of it, I want to "drive" through life in a such a way that when the earthquake comes, I'll be ready for it.