

Pastor's Weekly Devotional- April 27, 2017
“Kind Abandonment versus Divine Abandonment”

It came to my attention recently that the country which has the highest rate of infant mortality is Guatemala – not India or Africa. Oftentimes, many of the mothers would give their babies to people who can feed, house and educate them. This has to be a heart-wrenching act for these mothers. However, despite their pain and inner anguish, they see it as “Kind Abandonment.”

Wow! That is new to me! But it is something for us to think about! “Kind Abandonment.” It means “giving the children a second chance at life.”

This reminds me of Jesus' cry on the Cross: “My God, my God, why have You forsaken Me?” It was not a cry of “Kind Abandonment;” rather, it was a cry of total divine withdrawal; divine abandonment; total separation from God.

Jesus' cry was not for His benefit. It was for ours! He identified with us in every way, form and circumstance. He was abandoned by God so that we can be accepted by God. He suffered so that we can pray for physical, emotional and relational healing. He was condemned so that we can be justified (“just as if we never sinned”) before God. This darkest hour in Jesus' life became the brightest hour in our lives.

On the Cross, Jesus took our place. He became our Substitute. He bore our sins. He received the penalty for our sins. He made a full payment for us before God by offering His life. His for Ours! He did “The Great Exchange” as our Substitutionary Savior.

Now, what does all this mean to those who trust in Jesus? It means:

- We aren't called to live under the condemnation of sinful guilt. We are totally forgiven – not pending anything! There is “no catch” to this.
- We are called to live life to the fullest. We have new lives in Christ. Simply embrace it!

So, whenever you feel hopeless and helpless, draw near to the Crucified Christ. Pour out your heart to Him. Empty yourself. He has not abandoned you – not even with “Kind Abandonment.” He loves you. He cares for you. He is there for you and He is always with you!

Have a blessed week. See you in church on Sunday.

Pastor Sewdin