

RELIABILITY HAS BEEN ON MY MIND

Ever since I ended last week's message questioning the reliability of my Toronto Maple Leafs watch, this desired attribute of keeping proper time has been at the forefront of my thinking. It started last Thursday when somebody noticed my back tire was almost flat. I was able to inflate the tire but realized it obviously has a slow leak and that I need to get it looked at. With Nadine away in Nova Scotia, I still had our other car so I decided not to drive the vehicle with the slow leaking tire until I could ensure its reliability.

On Saturday I had to drive my daughter and two of her friends to the east side of Toronto to attend a concert. I apologized to her friends that I had to cram them into our smaller car for the journey because I could not guarantee the reliability of driving our other vehicle with the slow leak in the tire. I don't think they had a lot of leg room in the back of our car, but they did not care as long as I got them to the concert on time.

On Sunday morning I decided to wear my Leafs watch for the first time in a while. I looked at it as the time to start church was approaching and second guessed if it was the right time. I decided to ask somebody else to tell me the proper time because I still did not trust the reliability of my Leafs watch.

On Monday when it came time to decide which watch to wear, I decided to put on my more reliable Blue Jays one because I had a few appointments that morning that I could not be late for. You can now understand why reliability has been on my mind so much these past five days.

Before sitting down to write this message I asked Google to provide me with various synonyms for the word "reliability." Google told me it could provide me with 51 different ones if I desired, but I decided to ask for the first five. It provided me with synonyms like trustworthy, dependable, decent, tried and tested, and honest. Reliability is something we desire in others whether it is in finding a contractor, a mechanic, a person to handle our finances, or in a friend or spouse. God knows how much we desire "reliability" in our interactions with others and that is why He keeps sharing with us in the Bible how this desirable quality is part of His very being and nature. David came to see this in God as seen in these words from Psalm 33:4:

**For the word of the Lord holds true,
and we can trust everything He does.**

If you get the chance afterward to read this psalm in its entirety, it will be very evident how much it positively impacted David knowing God is always reliable and dependable. We see David singing with joy in this psalm, reflecting on God's majestic power, and being filled with hope as a result. David discovered all of these positive blessings as a result of coming to know how reliable God truly is.

Reliability is a quality we desire in our interactions with others. Sometimes we find somebody who is reliable and other times we do not. Even when we find somebody who we think is reliable, sometimes this attribute may not always be consistent with them. Reliability may not always be consistently found in people, but it is when it comes to God. He does not lie, forget, change His words, or leave His promises unfulfilled. A blessing David discovered, and I pray each one of us has as well, is to find joy, peace and hope from a relationship with our holy, trustworthy, reliable, and unchanging God.

I do not have full reliability yet that my Leafs' watch will keep proper time, nor do I have it with the car that needs the leaking tire checked. I do have this with God however, and for this I am truly grateful and blessed.

Keep safe and God bless,

Pastor Dean