

SO MUCH CONSTRUCTION

It is almost impossible to drive anywhere in Brantford without encountering some road construction. For anyone who lives in the west end of Brantford, the situation has become worse of late with the reduction of lanes on Colborne Street West and some closures on adjacent streets as well. During the morning and evening rush hours it is not uncommon to see a long line of cars and school buses trying to get through this part of town.

It is not just in the west end of Brantford where I seem to be running into construction of late. I have run into it at times on Highway 401 driving my daughter back and forth from university. Whether it has been during the day or at night there has been lane reductions due to construction activity that slows things almost to a halt. I tried taking a back route home from London recently in order to avoid some construction. I was travelling along smoothly and planned to cut back onto the 401 at County Road 6 but discovered I could not because there was a bridge under construction. I drove another 10-15 kilometers down the road and encountered more construction. This time I had to take a detour that cost me more time in getting home.

I thought it was just me becoming frustrated by all the road work going on lately. I was at a meeting recently with several people who do not live in the Brantford area. Before the meeting started the other people began talking about all of the construction going on in their towns and cities. They seemed to be equally frustrated at how long all of this road construction seems to be taking. I understand the necessity to have these repairs and upgrades done to our roadways, but they are an annoyance and inconvenience while they are being undertaken. I do not know how long it will take for some of these construction projects to be completed but it seems to me that more road work is being started before completing what is already on the go.

Just as a township or city plans to make improvements on the roadways we travel, I was reminded how God undertakes making constructive work within us in order to improve our spiritual journey with Him. The apostle Paul reflected upon this undertaking God makes in our lives in **Romans 12:1-2:**

And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give our bodies to God because of all He has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice-the kind He will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship Him. Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

Paul understood from his own personal experiences how it was God's desire to transform him into a new person by changing the way he thought and by leading him to learn the Lord's will and plans for his life. Paul shares how it is God's desire to do the same in us, but in order for this to happen we need to allow the Holy Spirit to make constructive changes within us. Through the assistance of the Holy Spirit, we will begin to put away our own desires and begin following and trusting God with a renewed mind and heart.

We all have probably felt at times that dealing with construction can be frustrating, annoying, confusing, and time-consuming to navigate. Perhaps some of these feelings are causing us to avoid letting God do the construction needed in our hearts and minds in order to truly live a life pleasing to Him. God the Father has already shown us that He wants what is best for us by giving us His Son to die on the cross for our sins so that this new and transformed life is possible. If we have been resisting letting God constructively change and transform us for the better, let's not delay the process but rather show our gratitude for all Christ has given us by allowing this constructive work to be undertaken to improve our way of thinking and living. These kinds of improvements take time but one thing we can guarantee, God will do them right, because everything He does is good.

Every time I see construction when I am driving, it reminds me that God still has a lot of construction going on in my heart and mind to improve my journey with Him. May your encounters with the construction be a reminder to you of the same.

Keep safe and God bless,

Pastor Dean