

## THE IF ONLY RIVER

Dear Friend:

Do you know what the widest river in the world is? It's not the Ohio River for sure, it's not the mighty Mississippi, it's not the New River in West Virginia. Spend the day whitewater rafting on the New River like I did with the church group years ago and you discover it's not the widest river, but it is the wildest. Something makes you sit up and notice when your guide begins his talk with this: "I want everyone's attention, if you do not listen to me, someone could die out there today." Suddenly, it got more silent than a library.

Back to the river question... what is the widest river on Earth? The If Only River. Throngs of people stand on its banks and cast longing eyes over the waters. They desire to cross but can't find the ferry. They stand at the dock called regret looking for the ferry to take them to the other side called "The Good Life"... "If only I was thinner, I'd have the good life." "If only I were richer, I'd have the good life." "If only COVID was gone, if only our teenager would stay out of trouble, I'd have the good life."

Have you been on the shore before? Are you there now thinking the good life is "over there"? You know the key to crossing the If Only River? It is not taking a ferry but taking God at his Word and learning the lesson Paul learned. Paul shares the lesson in Philippians 4:6 & 11, "Do not be anxious about anything...present your regrets to God, AND, I have LEARNED the secret of being content in any and every situation." No If Only River in Paul's life, no waiting at the dock of regret.

As you go into 2021, I am almost certain you carry some dis-content in your life. The word "anxious" in Greek has the idea of being tied-up in knots. Some of you have a stomach like that. Looking over the If Only River will do that to you. God wants to carry you over to the good life in 2021, let him ferry you there. The bad news is your circumstances may not change much. The good news is that if you let him captain the ship of your life, you will know what the good life is.

In Christ's Love, Pastor Mike

Prayer Requests: Frank Hammond, vaccine success, and Kelley Ketchum (cancer)

Upcoming Events: Sunday, January 17<sup>th</sup>: Special Music Guests from New Albany Presbyterian