

Pastor Brian's
Mid Week Message
May 15, 2019

PLAYING CATCH UP

Well, I've finally done it. I've caught up with the vast majority of people in this country, and I had to be coerced into it. At the behest of the Trinity Lutheran Church of SW Florida Board of Elders and Church Council I now have a smartphone (although the person using it hasn't gotten any smarter). The reasoning behind it was that my former 3G phone just wasn't going to be able to continue to get the job done for me, as 3G will soon be phased out, along with the fact that I really need a phone number that is within the 941 area code so that those I might be calling no longer see Spokane, Washington on their own phone display. After much cajoling I relented and consented to this change. This is more or less the way I have always been when it comes to personal technology. In the 1980s to early 90s pagers became widely popular. I got my first one in 1998, after about 200,000,000 others folks had gotten theirs, only because it was provided by the TV station in Jacksonville that I was working for. My first cellphone didn't come until 2007, a flip-phone, long after smartphones had made the scene. In this case I only did it because my wife demanded I do so after my forgetting a dinner engagement and heading for home one evening between newscasts and she couldn't get ahold of me to alert me of my folly. So, now I have a smartphone...oh boy. I was perfectly happy with my slider-phone and iPad, but I know that I'll get by. As I sit here and write this, I'm thinking how I'm going to tie a spiritual aspect into all of this, and I'm still wondering. Maybe it's that being slow...I'd prefer the term deliberate...in making changes is a good thing. In the Church today too many are too quickly jumping into new and false teachings because they might appeal to a culture that is rapidly changing around us. Yes, the changes in people's behavioral patterns and their technologies need to be considered and adjusted too, but when it comes to the teachings of Scripture; the Word of God, making changes based on popular culture is a dangerous and potentially deadly thing to do. Jesus says; *"Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will never pass away."* (Luke 21:33) And the Apostle Paul writes that, *"All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness."* (2 Timothy 3:16) The Bible has been around in its entirety for nearly 1900 years and is by far the best selling book of all time. There is no need to add to it, subtract from it, or change it in any other way. It has always been and will always be the inspired, infallible, inerrant Word of God. It is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes (Romans 1:16)