

May 4, 2020

Good Monday!

If a person is allowed to have a favorite tree, then I would pick a redbud tree. It doesn't provide the shade like an elm tree, or sit majestically like the oak tree. And outside of the spring, the redbud doesn't stand out and cry for attention. The redbud tree gets its attention in the spring. Like right now. In the early spring the red buds blossom into a very pretty violet flower and if you look throughout the community you will see those violet flowers beginning to announce that the season of spring is here. For me it is always a welcome arrival. In fact, I like the redbud tree so well that I had one planted in our front yard 2 years ago—right outside the window of my study at our house. Today I opened up the blinds so that I could see the violet flowers on my redbud tree. It is a welcomed sight. I'm guessing that if you live in Leipsic and drive by our house, you won't help but notice the tree in the yard now.

In less than three weeks, my redbud will not look the same. In fact, it will blend in and look just like all the other trees in the community. The leaves will turn green and it will become pretty non-descript—for a tree. The colorful blooms will be gone, I will prune the branches, and I will have to wait another year to see the pretty blooms again.

As Christ followers we run the risk of “blending in” and not being very noticeable. And now more than ever, we need to make sure that our “bloom” never fades. I'm reminded of what Paul said about we who are in Christ. In 2 Corinthians 5:7 he writes: *“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!”* As new creatures, our “colorful blooms” should never fade into something bland. We should be the ones in this world to rise up and help to make a difference.

All around us are opportunities to bring hope to people who feel hopeless. I encourage you to allow your life in Christ to be the positive influence that people in your family, your neighborhood, and your community are looking for right now. I pray that your “bloom” never fades.

Yesterday I shared a message about being servants. Now more than ever, Christ needs His servants to be there for those who need Him and them. Is there something that you can do to make a difference? Are you using your spiritual gift(s) to serve others? People right now are looking for someone like you to bring them a word of encouragement

I pray that you will have a “bloomingly” wonderful week.

God bless you and please, continue to stay safe!

Pastor Tim