**CONCERNING THIS CURRENT DISTRESS** by Al Diestelkamp

Our “current distress” due to the Coronavirus pandemic and unrest over racial and political issues is nothing in comparison to what Christians were facing when the apostle Paul used that term. I have no desire to get involved in controversies created by the responses, except to remind us all that we are in “uncharted territory,” requiring extra care in “endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace” (Eph. 4:3).

People are hurting. Many have lost loved ones, and have not even been able to get “closure” by honoring them with friends and relatives. Stay-at-home orders have created anxiety and depression among many, especially the elderly who feel isolated and lonely. Many have lost their jobs. This is a time for compassion and understanding—and above all, love (Col. 3:14).

***A Personal Loss***

On May 31st Covid19 claimed the life of my 96-year-old mother-in-law, Virginia M. Hennecke. Preceded in death by her husband, Fred Hennecke and her eldest child, Connie
Diestelkamp, she is survived by three other children, Karl Hennecke, Matt Hennecke, and Ardis Howell. Also surviving are seven grandchildren, 26 great-grandchildren, and 18 great-great grandchildren. She died in the Lord.

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