Dear Open Door Family,

We are hearing a lot about the economy in the media. We hear bad news all around us. We hear of bail outs, and economic stimulus packages. I even heard on the radio today that the company that makes Twinkies may be on the verge of going out of business. So, of course, loyal customers are urging a Twinkie bailout. I have to be honest, it is all confusing. And, I believe the reason a lot of it is happening is that we live in a "me first" culture. We place a value on the things that we own or wish to posses. As Christians we do need to live in this world but we do not have to value the things the world values. Oh may we value our relationship with Jesus Christ more and more during these troubled times.

2 Corinthians 5:14-15 *(ESV) For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; [15] and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.*

2 Corinthians 5:15 *(NIV) And he [Christ] died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.*

"Christ died that we might live for Him does not mean that we might help Him. ...What Christ died for is not that we might help Him, but that we might see and savor Him as infinitely valuable. He died to wean us from poisonous pleasures that enthrall us with the pleasures of His beauty. In this way we are loved, and He is honored. These are not competing aims. They are one." (Fifty Reasons Jesus Came to Die - Piper pg. 83)

PRAYER: Lord, today may I live for You, to see and to savor You in all Your awesome beauty and all Your wonder. Help me to see You as infinitely valuable. Help me to be filled with the pleasure and joy of pursuing You.

Pastor Mark Kieft
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