

Has the Novelty Worn Off Yet?

If 2020 has indeed been a year of perfect vision, as many have declared it would be, what have we seen? Surely, we have seen that prayer can no longer be considered a novelty by the western church -or any demographic of the church for that matter. While culture wades through the maelstrom of politically correct terminology to help make sense of the impact of the COVID-19 virus, terms like *essential* and *non-essential* become more relevant than ever. Imagine Jesus telling Martha that her sister Mary had chosen what was ultimately most essential in life as she sat at His feet.

In a generation that majors on fascination with distraction the scripture exhorts us to live as sober, watchful and hopeful. Jesus uniquely connected these ideas to the place of prayer. *"Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation."* With multiple, and often contrasting, narratives flooding the cultural, political and religious landscape, the temptation to plug our ears or put off until tomorrow the essentials of watchful prayer are more potent than we would imagine. The rest of ease and comfort will need to be shaken if we are to endure and emerge victorious in this hour.

"For My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations." -Isaiah 56:7