



Beloved,

As you are aware, our country is facing a major health crisis and it is changing hourly. To that end, bible study, prayer meeting, choir rehearsal and any other meetings/activities for this week are CANCELED. Our Sunday Worship Service WILL CONTINUE as planned, but know that it may change. So, stay tuned.

While most, if not all, did not see this coming, our Sovereign God did. To that end, let me encourage us to remember three things during this time, and at all times.

Remember the God Who Raises the Dead

As Christians, we don't give in to panic, nor to fear. In fact, we are the realists because we know the real God. This pandemic is real and we do NOT deny it whatsoever. At the same time, we don't give in to fear because we think and respond like Christians who possess an unshakeable confidence in the God who raises the dead.

This does NOT mean we are to be nonchalant and tempt God regarding the Coronavirus. We should take proper precautions and do what is responsible knowing that as a sparrow will not fall to the ground apart from His will (Matthew 10:29), He will not withhold anything from us which we need (Romans 8:32).

We can sing with joy, "Great is Thy Faithfulness. All I have needed, thy hand hath provided" as we seek to live humbly, boldly, and wisely in this world of sin, death, and yes, even viruses.

Remember the God Who Protects His People

Psalm 91 is full of instruction and comfort for God's people as we go through this crisis. While I cannot cover in this letter what I shared in Sunday School this past week, I encourage you to read and mediate upon it and be at peace knowing that no matter what takes place, God still has His people in the palm of His hand.

So, take God at His Word. Believe and remember what He has told us and what He promises us in Christ. He delivers us from "pestilence" (vv. 3, 6) and even from the "plague" (v. 10).

Does this mean that no Christian will ever die of disease? Of course not. But what it does mean is that our times are in His hands and no virus will overrule His eternal purpose – including the day that has been appointed for our death. "My times are in thy hand" (Psalm 31:15a; Ecclesiastes 3:1-11). Finally, ...

Remember the God Who Tells Us to Love Our Neighbor

As fear gives way to more and more panic, God's people must remember to show love to our neighbors – love that is motivated by our supreme love for Him. So, when others hoard, we share. When others steal, we give. When others hide, we serve. When others give way to fear, we comfort in the hope of knowing that our God loves us, is for us, and nothing shall separate us from the love of Christ (Romans 8:35-39).

Beloved, God has given us another opportunity to glorify Him. . "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear" (1Peter 3:15). Truly, we have hope in this crisis and it is our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

May the Lord enable us all, during this trying time, to live like people who know the risen Savior and whose hope is anchored steadfastly in Him. Let us pray for each other as we go through these uncertain times, knowing that we serve a certain God who is in control and is STILL on the throne!

From my heart,

Pastor