

RESPONDING TO CORONAVIRUS IN THE LIGHT OF ETERNITY





TRUE COMFORT IN GLOBAL CRISIS

Germs, pathogens, viruses—we live in a world full of health concerns. However, at times we become more aware of sickness when the risk of disease and death increases. We wash our hands, disinfect surfaces, and avoid personal contact. These measures can protect our physical health, but what can we do for our spiritual health? Uncertainty can turn to anxiety, fear, and even panic. Times like these point out the need that we all have for a source of security, something or someone in whom we can place our full confidence. Jesus Christ is that source of peace.

The natural question is how can someone who lived over 2000 years ago give you real peace in a current global crisis? This is a valid question. Jesus Christ is God. It is a historical fact that He rose from the dead three days after He was placed in the tomb. Jesus is alive right now. Before He returned to heaven he said: "My peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." (John 14:27). This is an assurance directly from God. Jesus offers security in two main ways. First, He will hear us when we pray for the crisis to be resolved! More importantly He offers eternal security, the forgiveness of sins, to all who receive Him as Savior.



THE FEAR OF CORONAVIRUS

The coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak has shocked the world. Quickly spreading across the globe, it has affected hundreds of thousands of lives. Recorded deaths grow steadily by the day. This points out a reality: What would happen if I were to be infected? Would I die? Most likely not. But if you were to die (and one day we all will), where would you go? Would you go to heaven, or would you go to hell? This is a serious question needing a good answer.



THE SPIRITUAL PANDEMIC OF SIN

Because of sin, the breaking of God's law, death and sickness are a part of our world. When Adam sinned in the Garden of Eden, mankind became infected by a rebellious nature against God. We are sinners both by nature and in action. Romans 3:23 tells us, "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;" God is perfect. Because of our sin, we fall impossibly short of His standard. Imagine trying to leap across the Grand Canyon in a single leap. No matter how hard you try, you will always fall short! Likewise, no matter how hard you try to please God, you will always fall short of his standard of perfect holiness.



THE JUST PENALTY FOR SIN

The penalty for our rebellion and disobedience towards God is clear in Romans 6:23: "For the wages of sin is death." This does not refer to a mere physical death, but rather refers to eternal separation from God. God, who is perfectly just, must judge sin.

The Bible says, "Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?" (Genesis 18:25). The punishment for our sins is death in hell. Revelation 21:8 says, "And all liars shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire, this is the second death." Jesus, who cannot lie, described hell as "everlasting fire" (Matthew 18:8).

Whatever illness we may experience in this world does not compare to the suffering a person will experience in hell. We fear the coronavirus because we are afraid of death. Here is the honest truth: If you have never been forgiven of your sins, you have every reason to fear death. Here is a fair question: According to the truth of God's Word, if you died right now, where do you deserve to go?

† THE FULL PAYMENT FOR SIN

Although we all deserve hell there is good news: You don't need to fear death! God has given us a solution and cure to our most important need. John 3:16 says, "For God so loved the world, that he gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. "Jesus Christ, the perfect, divine Son of God, took the punishment we deserve for all of our sins!

Peter 2:24 says, "Who His own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed."

When Jesus died on the cross, He cried, "It is finished." At that moment the debt for all your sins was paid in full! Three days after Jesus died, He rose again from the grave, defeating sin and hell. His bodily resurrection proves His victory: He now offers to forgive your sins, place His righteousness on your account, and give you eternal life! It is an amazing offer!



THE SIMPLE CURE FOR SIN

How then does this cure, this forgiveness of sins, become yours? It is very simple. The Bible says that it is accepted by faith. Again you cannot work for it; it is the gift of God, not of man's works, lest anyone should boast.

Here is the simple decision: You need to ask for this gift of salvation. Romans 10:13 says, "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." I urge you to call upon the Lord! Trust only in Him for salvation. He promises to forgive all those that call on Him! Will you accept His free gift of salvation? Believe on Jesus Christ today and you will have the assurance that your sins are forgiven and that your eternal home is in heaven. You will never need to fear death again.