

Discussion outline & Questions for Sunday March 22

Question 1: How should Christians respond to this Coronavirus madness?

So our first response to this madness is...

1. Fear not, trust in God for He is faithful.

Psalm 91:3-4

For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler
and from the deadly pestilence.
He will cover you with his pinions,
and under his wings you will find refuge;
his faithfulness is a shield and buckler.

- 1) Talk about or reflect on a time when you felt scared or unsafe and why.
- 2) What eased your fear or comforted you in that situation?
- 3) How does God's loving faithfulness in verse 4 bring comfort in times like these?

As Christians our second response should be...

2. Minister well as servants of Christ.

Find creative ways to help others.

Philippians 2:1-8

So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, ²complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. ⁵Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

- 1) In verses 5-8:
What things are mentioned that Christ gave up for you?
- 2) In light of Christ's example and what we learn in verse 3:
How can we lead an unselfish life during this unique time?

Thirdly, as Christians, our response to this madness should be...

3. Pray, remaining thankful, and find ways to make our time useful.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray without ceasing, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

- 1) Why does God remind us to be thankful during times like these?
- 2) What are some things, even during this time, you can be thankful for?

Ephesians 5:15-17

'be very careful, then, how we live—not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. ¹⁷Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.'

- 3) How can we use our time creatively and grow in the Lord?

Question 2: What are the pros and cons to our current church situation?

Devotional passage: Let's think about our church during this time!

Hebrews 10:19-25

¹⁹Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, ²¹and since we have a *great priest over the house of God*, ²²let us *draw near with a true heart* in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. ²³Let us *hold fast* the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.

²⁴And let us *consider* how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

1) So discuss the difficult things about this situation for our church..

Cons...

2) Discuss the positive things about this situation for our church..

Pros...

Our list...

- Cons - Unable to meet together
Disrupts our habit
Harder to communicate with each other
Missing face to face encouragement
Difficult for accountability & encouragement to take place

- Pros - Be still and know I am God. Life Simplification
Families: have time to talk and do devotions as a family
Singles: Time with the Lord we've always said we needed
Forces us to think and be creative in community
Digital tools help us to stay connected

A Testimony from our church...

During this time of uncertainty and panic we tend to focus on the negative. Our house started out that way too. We focused on all the things we were missing out on and all the things we would not be able to do. However, once we accepted what was, we began to realize just how busy we have been. Our kids are always on the go and someone always has to be somewhere. (I know we are not the only ones in this boat) So this sudden change in our schedule was unwelcomed at first but we quickly realized it was just what our family needed. We are all at home at the same time, we eat dinner at the same time, we get to have family movie night and thankfully our schedule is empty. This time has given us time to reflect on the things that are really important like spending time with family and growing closer and learning to completely trust that the Lord's will is perfect and right and as much as we would love to think we have it all together the Lord really reveals to us in times such as these that we don't. We can't see the big picture of why we are going through this trial we just have to be still and trust in the Lord. A friend and I discussed these matters of busyness the other night and it became so clear again that the only things that really matter or last in our children's lives are the fact that they have a relationship with the Lord. I'm not saying that I want the situation to remain like it is currently or that we can't participate in things we enjoy, I just have delighted in the Lord reminding me to keep my priorities straight. I pray that we will use this time that the Lord has given us to refocus on him wisely.