

Pastor's Thoughts of the Week

II Corinthians 11:3: But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

Our text affords us insights into the beguiling subtlety with which Satan deceives the unsuspecting. Our current distress affords to us an object lesson in the devices of Satan's schemes to destroy humanity. The coronavirus and sin are both invisible enemies. One can see the evident consequences, but the attacker infects stealthily.

In Luke 21 we find these words: "*and take heed to yourselves lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting and drunkenness and cares of this life and so that day come upon you*". The greek *aiphnidios* means suddenly and unexpectedly we are today in the throes of a pandemic that no one expected at the beginning of the year and now has suddenly taken control of American society. The pervasiveness of this disease has brought the word pandemic into common vernacular. Epidemics are widespread through a specific location, whereas a pandemic is worldwide and knows no boundaries.

Sin is ubiquitous it infects everyone everywhere. Ecclesiastes 7:20 says "*For there is not a just man upon earth that doeth good and sinneth not*". Satan is a roaring lion on the prowl going "to and fro in the earth and from walking up and down in it". The influences of his temptations have infected every man, woman and child since Adam and Eve fell in the garden. Covid-19 is a deadly virus and is indiscriminate toward its victims. In Jeremiah 9:21 "*We find for death is come up into our windows and is entered into our palaces to cut off the children from without and the young men from the streets*". Even Prince Charles of England has been afflicted with covid-19 reminding us that sickness and death is no respecter of royalty, rank or social status. Sin has an inevitable consequence for the "*wages of sin is death*" and "*sin when it is finished bringeth forth death*".

Mankind's best and brightest have not been able to mitigate the spread of this highly contagious plague. Epidemiologists tirelessly work to find a cure but every effort has been in vain. And so Psalm 39:5 "*Behold thou hast made my days as an handbreadth and my age is as nothing before thee. Verily every man at his best state is altogether vanity*". The insidious nature of viruses is that we have no cure for them we can arrest symptoms and offer supportive care but cure the virus we cannot. And added to the complication is that viruses mutate as though it had a mind of its own and changes its composition to resist any antibiotic that scientists come up with to combat its progression. Likewise, sin is hydra-headed and adapts to exploit the weakness of the sinner host. Satan employs a vast array of sinful actions to ensnare his victims. When one may find deliverance from certain proclivities, the devil will find some new form of temptation to recapture his prey.

Defeating the virus of sin requires more than man's best efforts. As the song says: "What can make me whole again? Nothing but the blood of Jesus" it is now being posited that by collecting the blood from recovered covid-19 patients and introducing it into the infected patients that the immunity of the recovered victim may be transferred to the sufferer. What a marvel when one considers that Christ was infected with our virus of sin and now through his blood we can be cured from the plague of sin. That Christ became a curse for us to redeem us from our impurity is the very foundation of our salvation. I encourage every listener to be transfused with the blood of Jesus Christ and be eternally healed from the curse of sin.

Have a blessed day .

Pastor

Faith cometh by hearing; and hearing by the word of God Romans 10:17