

BIBLICAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS CONCERNING EPIDEMIC SICKNESSES AND DEATH

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Almost every day we are able to watch a press conference that features data charts connected to the Coronavirus. Those charts are designed to show what is happening medically from the past, what is taking place in the present and what we may anticipate in the future. These data charts are helpful because those charts give information as to what people can do to avoid total catastrophe tomorrow.

There is another data chart that needs to be carefully studied now because it gives information as to what is happening theologically. This data bank gives not only helpful information, but eternal information as to what people can do to avoid total catastrophe in the future. Just as serious minded medical doctors study their data systematically and scientifically for years, so do serious minded students of Scripture.

That is what we have been doing with the Bible for over 40 years. We have literally, systematically crawled through every verse in the O.T. and N.T. We have literally examined every doctrine. We have carefully analyzed the data and we can say with the Apostle Paul we have declared “the whole counsel of God.” Just as it is vital to understand accurate things medically, so it is vital to understand accurate things Biblically.

People are scared. People are sick. People are diseased and people are dying. People not only need to know facts and truth from a medical perspective, they need to know facts and truth from a theological perspective and they need to know it now.

There are many reasons we are doing this study and one of the reasons is because of the recent Coronavirus outbreak, there have been some bizarre religious things that are happening from so-called ministers who are nothing more than religious charlatans who do not have sound minds and they do not have sane faith.

One minister got arrested last week because in the midst of an epidemic that is killing people, he refused to heed medical counsel to prevent large social gatherings. He claimed this is what God wanted him to do. But when we square what he did with God’s word, it is not what God wanted him to do. He certainly was not putting the needs of others ahead of himself as Paul said he was to do and he certainly was not a shepherd trying to protect his flock as Jesus said he was to do.

Another TV minister dowsed his hand with oil and said if you touched your TV screen while he was on it, you would be healed and then he started screaming “Thank you Jesus.” He dogmatically declared the pandemic will soon be over. His charismatic antics may fool some people, but it also may kill them. Because if you touch a TV screen and then go out and get this virus, you may die.

Another minister said, “I curse the virus in Jesus name.” As if he is in some special position to put some curse or hex on a worldwide pandemic. He then commanded the virus to “disintegrate, dissolve like dust in Jesus' mighty name.” Well it obviously didn’t work because the virus is still here.

Yet another minister came up with some type of marketing medicine that he claimed was a special sanctified medicine that can keep people from getting the virus. The sad reality of this is that some people dangerously fall for this stuff.

This kind of nonsense is not based on true Biblical data and what we need right now is not a bunch of emotional, irrational, sensational religious con men; what we need is a careful and accurate analysis and understanding of God's word when it comes to epidemic sicknesses and death. There are many false notions about God because of these kinds of religious imbeciles. People's lives are on the line here. People's eternities are at stake here.

What I would like to do for the next few minutes is to give us a clear, accurate, sound and sane Biblical perspective of the doctrine of epidemic sicknesses and death. I am going to do this in a very systematic way. I am going to ask and answer seven questions that are pertinent to this pandemic.

Before we begin, let me encourage all watching or listening to this to pray. Pray to God and ask Him to intervene and save people physically and spiritually. As we will show, God is over this pandemic and He can remove it. We need to pray that He will. More than _____ people have died of this virus in the world and more than _____ people have died in the United States and we need His grace and mercy right now so pray for it.

QUESTION #1 – Does the Bible teach that God is sovereign over all things including a disease like the Coronavirus?

This pandemic is not taking God the Father who is the first member of the Trinity or God the Son who is the second member of the Trinity or God the Spirit who is the third member of the Trinity by surprise. In fact, for some reason that only this Trinity knows, they have permitted this.

Both the Old Testament and the New Testament teach that God is sovereign over all things. Let's be very clear on this point. God is the supreme and sovereign ruler over all things including this Coronavirus. This disease falls under the umbrella of the sovereignty of God. I do not presume to know why God is doing what He is doing, but I do know He is completely overseeing every bit of this. I could cite many texts that prove the point, I'll cite eleven:

I Chronicles 29:11-12 - God has total dominion over all things and He rules over all things and He has the power to strengthen everyone.

II Chronicles 20:6 - God rules over all nations and uses His power to do what He wants. He specifically says in **verse 9** that He sends pestilence and when He does His people need to stand before Him and cry for His deliverance.

Job 42:2 - God can do whatever He wants to do and no one can stop God from doing it.

Psalm 22:28 - God sovereignly rules over all nations of the world and one day all nations of the world will worship God.

Psalm 103:19 - God's sovereignty rules over all.

Psalm 135:5-6 - God does whatever He pleases in heaven and on earth. In this Psalm it mentions God smote many nations and slew many kings.

Isaiah 43:13 - When God decides to act in judgment, no one can reverse it.

Jeremiah 18:6 - God is the sovereign potter and people are the clay and all are in His hands.

Daniel 4:35 - God does whatever He wants to do with angels in heaven and people on earth and no one can stop His hand from doing it and no one can say what have you done. Is there any person on this earth who can explain why God has permitted this? We may speculate, but that is all because God's secret, silent, sovereign hand is at work.

Ephesians 1:11 - God "works all things after the counsel of His will." In the context He says He does that so that people would place their faith and hope in Jesus Christ, which ends up glorifying Him.

James 4:14-15 - God sovereignly determines everything about what will happen to us today and tomorrow.

I have just scratched the surface of verses that deal with the sovereignty of God, but this theme runs throughout all of Scriptures. He controls today and He controls tomorrow. He is a sovereign God and wise are people who bow to His sovereignty.

So based on Scripture, we would conclude that God is a sovereign God over this pandemic coronavirus. That is not my opinion; we draw this conclusion from Scripture.

QUESTION #2 – Does the Bible teach that God is sovereign when there is a worldwide epidemic sickness and does the Bible teach that God can actually cause a pandemic and specifically target areas for sickness?

There have been several medical scientists who have concluded that the Coronavirus started in Wuhan, China, in a laboratory that was using blood and urine from horseshoe bats. What we certainly know is that this virus has spread. So could God still be sovereign in the spread of a pandemic sickness?

Both the Old Testament and the New Testament teach that God is sovereign even over worldwide epidemic Sicknesses. The Bible does teach that God can target areas and send destructive things to those areas.

We need to be careful here because when Jesus Christ was on earth, according to Luke, who was a medical doctor, there had been a terrible industrial accident that occurred. The tower of Siloam collapsed and killed 18 people. Many said God targeted those 18 and killed them because they were the worst sinners and Jesus said, no that is not why that happened (Luke 13:4-5). But the fact is at times God does target an area and as a form of judgment can actually send destructive judgment that kills people. We could cite Sodom and Gomorrah as an example; we could cite Jerusalem as another example. When Jesus was here, He said because they rejected Him, God would send a judgment and that Temple would be torn down and people would be killed. That Temple is still not standing because God sent a judgment against Israel and in it, according to Josephus, over one million people died.

There are over 200 countries that have been infected by this virus all over the world. Here is a critical point that most people seem to be overlooking. **God is a God who can actually send pandemic sicknesses to the world and He is the same God who can put a stop to a pandemic sickness.** In fact, there have been times in history He has done that.

Now the fact that God sends sicknesses is not just my opinion. This is what the Bible says. I could cite several texts that teach this, but I'll cite six:

Deuteronomy 28:58-61, 66 - "If you are not careful to observe all the words of this law which are written in this book to fear this honored and awesome name, the LORD your God, then the LORD will bring extraordinary plagues on you and your descendants, even severe and lasting plagues and miserable and chronic sicknesses and He will bring back on you all the diseases of Egypt of which you were afraid and they shall cling to you. Also every sickness and every plague which, not written in the book of this law, the LORD will bring on you until you are destroyed." Then God says in **verse 66** - "So your life will hang in doubt before you and you shall be in dread night and day and shall have no assurance of your life."

God says if you do not turn to Me, I will send a sickness upon you that will be so scary that you will not have any assurance that you will live another day.

Deuteronomy 29:22 - "Now the generation to come, your sons who rise up after you and the foreigner who comes from a distant land, when they see the plagues of the land and the diseases with which the LORD has afflicted it will say...Why is this great outburst of anger?"

II Chronicles 6:28-31 - "If there is famine in the land, if there is pestilence, if there is blight or mildew, if there is locust or grasshopper, if their enemies besiege them in the land of their cities, whatever plague or whatever sickness there is, whatever prayer or supplication is made by any man or by all Thy people Israel, each knowing his own affliction and his own pain, and spreading his hands toward this house, then hear Thou from heaven Thy dwelling place and forgive and render to each according to all this ways, whose heart Thou knowest for Thou alone dost know the hearts of the sons of men, that they may fear Thee to walk in Thy ways as long as they live in the land which Thou has given to our fathers."

God says every person who is infected with a sickness needs to reverence God and cry out to Him for His forgiveness and mercy.

Now some are probably saying well those are O.T. verses and they are aimed at national Israel and we are living in N.T. times. Well the same God that says this in the O.T. says it in the N.T.

I Corinthians 11:30-31 - “For this reason many among you are weak and sick, and a number sleep. But if we judged ourselves rightly, we should not be judged.”

Revelation 2:21-23 - “And I gave her time to repent, and she does not want to repent of her immorality. Behold, I will cast her upon a bed of sickness, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation unless they repent of her deeds. And I will kill her children with pestilence, and all the churches will know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts; and I will give to each one of you according to your deeds.”

Revelation 6:8 - “And I looked, and behold, an ashen horse; and he who sat on it had the name Death; and Hades was following with him. And authority was given to them over one fourth of the earth to kill with Sword and with famine and with pestilence and by the wild beasts of the earth.”

When we read these passages, it is clear that God is sovereign over worldwide epidemics of sicknesses and diseases. It is clear this is true nationally, internationally and individually. God does target people at times and He does send sicknesses that can destroy them. God can target cesspool areas and destroy them.

What is also pointed out in these passages is that nations and individuals need to turn to the LORD and cry out to Him for His forgiveness, mercy and healing.

QUESTION #3 – Does the Bible teach that the government has a right to request that people stay home from church and isolate themselves to keep this disease from spreading?

The Biblical answer to this question is yes they do. According to Romans 13:1-5, Paul said God establishes political leaders, and part of the job of a leader is to protect the people. Government has the responsibility to reward the good and punish the bad. In fact, according to this text, the government is a minister of God to do what is good. We do have a responsibility to submit to God-ordained government. The Apostle Peter said we are to submit to our governmental leaders for the Lord’s sake because this is the will of God (I Pet. 2:13-15).

President Trump has been ordained by God for this time in history and it is his God-given job to protect the citizens of the United States.

We may recall when we went through Leviticus 13 that God, Himself, established a law of quarantine for one with leprosy. He was to live outside the camp of Israel for several days.

Now what is interesting about this text in Leviticus is that one of the first things the priest was to look for was a reddish white spot (Lev. 13:19). My sister is a nurse and she was reading a medical article that featured an interview with Chelsey Earnest, who is a nurse from the state of Washington, who has seen multiple people who have had the coronavirus and according to her observation, she said above the eyes where women typically put eye shadow, it appears reddish in the coronavirus patient. She said I have observed this in about every one of them. I watched an interview with someone with the virus and sure enough, it was reddish. In any case, the government does have the right to ask people to isolate themselves for a while.

Now someone has said that this is the same as what Hitler did in Germany, when he closed down the churches. That is not true. That is not comparing apples with apples. Hitler's motive was to shut down churches; President Trump's motive is to save lives. There is a big difference. The President wants churches to open as soon as they can. He is a God-fearing man, with a God-fearing Vice President.

QUESTION #4 – Do we expect to see a major revival in places that have been hit hard with the Coronavirus?

I have looked at the charts where the virus has curved downward and have not heard of any major evangelistic revivals taking place. In fact, a few days ago, Mike Lindell, the “My Pillow” guy who is a tremendous believer in Jesus Christ, said at a press conference that people needed to believe in Jesus Christ and read the Bible and some mocked him. You are not seeing major revivals in these places.

Based on what Paul says in II Thessalonians that as we near the Rapture, lawlessness will increase and based on the fact that in Revelation, when God is pouring out His judgments on the world, people will not repent; we do not expect to see a great revival out of this.

In other words, you will not see New York or New Orleans become a bastion of Christianity. You will not see a bunch of Muslims from Detroit give their lives to Jesus Christ.

What God may be doing, and I say may because I do not know, He may be bringing in the final number of sheep all over the world for the Rapture. I do believe we are nearing the Rapture of the Church and this coronavirus may cause the final number, whatever it is, to believe in Jesus Christ so He will then Rapture us.

Remember when Jesus was here, He said all the Father gives Me will come to Me and I will not lose one of them. This may be a worldwide round up of the final number of believers before the Rapture.

If you are not a believer in Jesus Christ, my admonition is to believe in Christ right now. You do not want to be on this earth after the Rapture. Once the Rapture occurs, the world will be catapulted into the Great Tribulation and in that time of wrath, 1 out of 2 people will die all over the world. So my advice is to believe on Jesus Christ right now and you will escape that.

QUESTION #5 – Should we defy orders to stay at home and go to church anyway because we are not to forsake ourselves from assembling together?

How bad would you feel if you went to church and learned that someone you saw got this virus? The answer is no. Daniel was not able to corporately worship for 70 years. Jesus was alone in the wilderness for 40 days and 40 nights, not able to corporately worship. There were times in the travels of the Apostle Paul when he could not be at church services. In fact, according to Acts 28:30, Paul was hunkered down in a house for two years. Even though, for the time being we cannot go to church and corporately worship, we can still pray, we can still read the word, you can go to our web site and still go through books of the Bible and doctrines and you certainly can still give.

One person from our church said this to me on the phone; I will never again take church worship for granted. Once this is over, when the doors are open I will be there. So this is a great time to refocus ourselves on what is truly important.

QUESTION #6 – Does the Bible teach that God sovereignly controls the very moment a person dies?

Both the Old Testament and the New Testament teach that God controls the moment any person dies.

Approximately 7,500 people die in the United States every day. Approximately 150,000 people die in the world every day and the Bible teaches that God controls the very moment of a person's death for every single individual.

In **Deuteronomy 32:48-50**, God told Moses to go up on the mountain because it was time for him to die.

According to **Job 14:5**, God sets the boundary limits of a person's life. God breaks it down into years, months and days and God determines how long a person lives on this earth.

According to **Ecclesiastes 5:18**, it is God who gives a few years of life to every individual.

According to **Revelation 1:18**, Jesus Christ, the One who died and rose from the dead, has the keys of death and Hades in His hands.

Clearly the Bible teaches that it is God who controls the actual moment a person dies. He ordains when a person is born and He ordains when a person dies. He is the God who gives life and He is the God who takes life.

I don't pretend to know how God determines who dies or when one dies or how one dies, but what I do know is that the Bible does teach God is sovereign in all of this.

Now it is important to understand death from a Biblical perspective because people are dying. Doctors and nurses can give us the physiology of death, but the Bible can give us the theology of death.

1) What is death?

The medical world defines death as the moment all activity of the body ceases. This is what physiologically takes place at death. There is a cessation of all activity of the body. That is not how the Bible defines death. The Bible defines death not as the cessation of the body, but the moment a person leaves the body. The Bible does not teach annihilation, reincarnation or oblivion; the Bible teaches relocation.

The moment of death is defined in Scripture as the moment a person leaves the body. The best definition one will ever read in the Bible of what death is, in II Corinthians 5:8, Paul defines death as being “absent from the body.” What he said was “to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord.” When Moses was describing the death of Rachel in Genesis 35:18, here is what he wrote: “It came about as her soul was departing (for she died).”

So what death actually is from a Biblical analysis is the moment the immaterial part of a person leaves the body

2) Why do people die?

This is not a question about how a person dies or when a person dies, but why do people die. The Bible gives the answer to that question. We all die for the same reason - death is a penalty for sin and we have all sinned. Paul said in Romans 5:12 - “just as through one man sin entered the world and death through sin, so death spread to all men because all have sinned.”

It doesn't matter who we are or what we have accomplished; the fact is we all have been given the death penalty because we are all sinners. We may not die at the same age or in the same way or at the same time, but we will all die for the same reason.

3) Where does a person go when he/she dies?

The Bible is very clear on this point; when a person dies he is immediately transported to one of two places - heaven or hell (hades).

If a person is a believer in Jesus Christ, according to Paul, that person is immediately in heaven with the Lord.

If a person is not a believer in Jesus Christ, according to Luke, that person is immediately in a place of fiery torment that is so torturous that one drop of water on the tip of one's finger would quench the thirst.

According to the Bible the moment a person leaves the body, they are instantly in one of those two places and they are very conscious of who they are. They are still the same person, just no longer in the body they left behind.

Once a person leaves the body, their eternal destiny is sealed. There are no second chances and no more opportunities to change the place of residency.

4) What determines where a person goes when he/she dies?

The Bible is very clear on this point. In fact, Jesus Christ is very clear on this point. He said, “I am the resurrection and the life, he who believes in Me will live even if he dies” (John 11:25).

Jesus says believe in Me and you will live when you die. You will leave your body and you will have everlasting life.

Now how do we know He is telling the truth? Jesus said I’ll prove it to you two ways:

- 1) I will raise Lazarus from the dead, which He did.
- 2) Put Me in a grave and I will come back three days later alive, which He did.

When it comes time to die, you believe something. If I were you, I would believe in the only Person who ever rose again three days after being dead. He is the only one who can give you life. No religion can, no church can, no religious leader can; only Jesus Christ can.

I don’t know if the Coronavirus will be the way I will die or the way you will die. What I do know is there is one Person you want to trust to save you from your sins when you die and that one Person is Jesus Christ.

QUESTION #7 – Why would God permit some of His own people to get sick with this virus?

Both the Old Testament and the New Testament teach that God does have reasons for people getting sick.

The reason we have done this study is that people are getting sick with this virus. Now there are some who suggest that this is due to a lack of faith or faithfulness and that it is due to sin. Actually, as near as I may determine, the Bible gives at least eleven reasons for sicknesses.

Reason #1 - Because we have a limited, finite, imperfect body that breaks down. Phil. 2:25-30

Epaphroditus worked himself to the point of such exhaustion that he nearly died. The Greek text supports the idea that his sickness was due to the fact that he was physically run down. Sometimes we get sick because we don’t have a perfect body. One of the great theologians was Lewis Sperry Chafer. Dr. Chafer had a stroke and ultimately concluded he needed more exercise. Even though he had a brilliant, sanctified mind, he lived in a finite body that broke down. Every now and then our imperfect body will break down and we will experience sickness.

The Coronavirus attacks older people whose bodies are not young and vibrant like they once were. We do not have a perfect body and the older we get the weaker we get. It is that simple. Until we are with the Lord that is the way it is.

Reason #2 - Because we live in an imperfect environment. I Tim. 5:23

Timothy's stomach problem was due to the bad water in the Mediterranean world. Paul did not want him drinking the water there anymore because it caused stomach problems. This virus may have come from a bat in a laboratory in China, but what we do see is that no environment in this world is safe or perfect because it spreads fast.

When we live in an imperfect environment we get sick. This virus came from China, but it is spreading because we all live in an imperfect environment.

One day, when we have a perfect environment, we won't have this problem anymore, but for now, we will get sick every now and then because we live in an imperfect world. This world's epidemics will hit us from time to time because this earth is not heaven.

Reason #3 - Because God can use sickness to teach us to rely on His grace. II Cor. 12:7-10

Paul had some physical infirmity, which many believe was an eyesight problem and God permitted him to continue to have it so he would rely more on God's grace. That physical problem drew Paul closer to the Lord and caused Paul to depend more on God. Paul faced an eyesight problem and probably had malaria. Those things caused him to trust God. He did not quit, stop or give up. He stayed steady and faithful.

This is a great time to trust God. When we were in Florida, I would say to people, this is a great time to trust God and not too many took that seriously.

Reason #4 - Because Satan may attack to get a believer to turn against God. Job 2:3-10

Job's physical problems were a Satanic attack that was aimed at getting him to curse God and turn from God. Job had no idea as to why he got sick, but it was a direct Satanic assault. When this kind of assault is taking place, it is good to remember that the limits of the assault are regulated by God; the time of the ailment is regulated by God and if one remains faithful through it, the end result is one will be highly honored and greatly blessed by God. God's people need to continue to worship God. Stay in the word, stay prayerful, be faithful, and in the end, we will reap good things.

Many years ago, I stopped asking God why You would permit this horrible thing to happen. I now think completely different. Now I ask why God would permit good things to happen. When you look at this world and its God-mocking, Christ-rejecting, Israel-hating attitudes, it amazes me He has not acted sooner.

Reason #5 - Because God may glorify Himself by the eventual healing. John 11:1-4

Lazarus' sickness was for the purpose of demonstrating the glory of God through Jesus Christ. Every now and then, God's people gather and pray for one sick and God answers the prayer and when this happens, it is truly a God-glorifying moment.

If someone with this virus is connected to your church and the church prays for the person and the person lives and returns to the worship, it is a glorious moment for the church and one that truly does glorify God.

It was a glorious moment in which the entire church may offer praise and thanksgiving to God and that brings glory to God.

Reason #6 - Because God may use sickness as a means of taking His child Home. Heb. 9:27

God is the one who appoints the special moment in which He takes the believer home to be with Him. God appoints the time of a believer's death. One of the ways God uses to take a believer home is via sickness. When it came time for the great prophet Elisha to die, God used sickness as a means of taking him out of this life (II Kings 13:14-20). Even God's best servants eventually die and sickness is one of the ways God accomplishes it.

Charles Haddon Spurgeon died in France because of health issues in 1892. D. L. Moody died in Kansas due to health issues in 1899. C.I. Scofield died near New York City due to health issues in 1921. Lewis Sperry Chafer died of health issues in Seattle in 1952. These were giants of the faith and God used sickness to take every one of them home to be with him.

I have no doubt that some of God's people will die via coronavirus. They will die because it is their appointed time to die. I have done funerals for many of God's people at all different ages- From stillborn babies to those in their 90's. Some died of cancer, some heart failure, some by some physical trauma, and some by crib death. I am convinced God determined every one of these moments and He used physical sickness as a means of getting them home and according to Scripture, it was a very precious moment.

Reason #7 - Because God may use sickness to direct us to His will.

In Galatians 4:13-14, we learn that it was a bodily illness that actually caused Paul to stop over in the Galatian region. Many believe it was some form of malaria that Paul had, but regardless, God used this very sickness to put Paul in Galatia to preach.

If you find yourself with some sickness or infirmity, keep your heart and mind open for opportunities for ministry. God may actually be directing you to where He wants you to be, maybe beside someone in a hospital.

Fanny Crosby believed that her blindness ultimately led her to faith in Christ at age 30 (1850) and then enabled her to see things with her spiritual heart that not too many could see with their physical eyes. She wrote 8,000 hymns and poems, many of which are classics for the church. Such hymns as “Blessed Assurance,” “He Hideth My Soul,” “Praise Him! Praise Him!,” “Tell Me the Story of Jesus,” “Close to Thee,” just to name a few. She came to believe her blindness was a blessing from God that He used to direct her to His will for her life.

Let us suppose there is someone listening to this who has this virus. Let us suppose that you invite Jesus Christ into your life to be your Savior in the midst of this. You would be able to say that discovering God’s will for my life was discovered when I was sick because God wanted me saved.

Reason #8 - Because some don’t heed medical counsel and take medicine.

I have never understood this. Some people who are sick don’t do what their doctor tells them to do. It was Jesus Christ who said those who are sick need a physician (Matt. 9:12). President Trump has surrounded himself with brilliant physicians. Dr. Anthony Fauci and Dr. Deborah Birx are brilliant doctors. I do not know their theological positions but what I do know from Scripture is that God gave them their skills and God’s people need to listen to them.

Timothy was told by Paul to drink wine, not water for his stomach problem (I Tim. 5:23). Had Timothy refused to heed this wise counsel, he would have still had the stomach problems.

Dr. Birx and Dr. Fauci concluded that we need to take a break from social gathering, wash our hands and don’t touch your face unless you wash your hands. Now there will be some people who will get sick because they will not listen to this. Some spring breakers believed they knew more than the doctors and they got sick. Sometimes people just refuse to listen to good sound medical advice and as a result they are sick.

Reason #9 - Because some heed medical counsel and don’t pray.

King Asa had a very serious foot disease. He went to see his doctors, which was the right thing to do, but he didn’t pray to God in the process. He was too proud to pray. As a result, he died (II Chronicles 16:12-13). On the other hand, King Hezekiah was diseased and the first thing he did was to pray, and in the aftermath of prayer, he took medical treatment and he lived (II Kings 20:2-7).

When one of God’s people gets sick, they need to seek medical help, but they also need to pray. If you have the coronavirus, get to the doctor and also pray that God will heal you. Since God permits the sickness, medical help, prayer and dependency on Him is all vital to the process of getting better.

We need to pray to God and ask Him to heal us of this disease, just like Hezekiah did.

Reason #10 - Because God may use sickness as a judgment for sin. I Cor.11:30; James 5:13-18; Rev. 2:22-23

We must remember that this is the Grace Age and therefore, God does not typically or instantly deal with sin issues, via judgment. He gives people time to repent and respond. Those who lie to the church don't drop instantly dead like Ananias and Saphira in Acts 5, but generally have time to repent and resolve things.

But if people do not repent of their evil, He can send sickness and He can send death. In a statement Jesus Christ made to the church of Thyatira in Revelation, there were three areas of evil that caused God to send judgment:

- 1) They permitted women who are caught up in false religion to lead.
- 2) They promoted immoral things.
- 3) They promoted idolatrous things.

God does not look favorably on a nation that tolerates and permits and promotes this kind of evil.

Let's say, for example, that we have God-mocking, Israel-hating, Christ-rejecting women in Congress. Let's say they who think highly of child rapist and murderer named Muhammed, who made Jeffery Epstein look like a choir boy. Would it be possible for God to target an area and actually kill people? This passage says yes.

Let's say we have immoral things that God says are abominations in his sight. Let's say we have people who are leading people to promote abortion (murder of babies), same sex things and transgender things that God says are abominable. This is not a gray area in the mind of God. Would it be possible for God to send a judgment of sickness and death if people wouldn't repent? Yes, this text says He could.

Let's say we have idol worship taking place that mocks Jesus Christ and that worships some false religious fairytale. Someone says they got on a magical horse and rode from Mecca to Jerusalem and to heaven and back to Mecca. Or someone says they got some magical golden tablets from an angel named Moroni. Could God get fed up and say I am going to send a judgment of sickness and death? This text says Yes, He could.

There is no question that the Bible does say that God can and does cause sickness and death to come to people for these very reasons.

In this case, the sickness is a means of trying to get the person to repent. God gives people time to repent. If he does, the judgment will be lifted; if he doesn't, it won't.

Reason #11 - Because God wants to make us better Christ-like ministers to others. II Cor. 1:5-6

When we experience a sickness, we are able to empathize and minister to others in a very personal way. In fact, someone observed people seem to be more caring and giving.

I want to thank our President for his God-fearing leadership - pray for our President and his family. Our President has not even taken a salary for this job. We owe him honor and respect. According to I Timothy 2:1-2, it is good and acceptable in the sight of God when we do this.

I want to thank our Vice President, who is heading our task force. Years ago, I pastored a church in Indiana and I was gone before he was governor, but I know he is a fine believer and solid Bible man - pray for our Vice President.

I want to thank our Task Force - Dr. Fauci and Dr. Birx - God has given them special minds and is using them at this time in history. Pray for them.

I want to thank you for going through this study with us today.

We have been as honest and as objective as we can be with the Word of God. Everything you have just heard comes from a careful, systematic analysis of God's word.

If you suspect you have the virus - contact your doctor and pray.

Now I believe we are nearing the Rapture of the Church, but we are no fanatic date setter. What I do know with absolutely certainty is that if the Lord tarries - sooner or later we will die. It may not be via Coronavirus, but we will all die. The death ratio is one for one.

No one listening to this is too old to die or too young to die.
We do not know exactly when we will die.
If the Lord tarries we will all die.

Jesus Christ died on that cross and He was raised from the dead so that we could believe on Him so when we die we could go to heaven. **He said, "I am the resurrection and the life, he who believes in Me will live even if he dies."**

These are scary times, but if you believe in Jesus Christ, you have hope and you will have nothing to fear on the day you die because on the day you die, you will relocate to heaven.