

Fort Payne church of Christ



The Weekly Moment

A Weekly Motivational Message

Wednesday, March 25, 2020

Coronavirus And Faith

What a strange time we live in. Italy is in a total lockdown. The streets of Rome are empty. California, New York and Illinois have ordered non-essential citizens to stay home – and maybe others by now.

Elbow bumps replace handshakes. Smiles acknowledge, at a distance, that they will have to suffice for embraces. Most all events in April and May are being cancelled. Handwashing and wipes are now part of our daily – even hourly – routine. Beware of everything you touch.

March 2020 may eventually go down as the month that turned our world on its head, or slowed it to a crawl, or at least made us, more than usual, think about the precariousness of the ordinary and the power of the unseen.

As of this writing, almost 300,000 cases have been diagnosed and over 10,000 deaths have occurred worldwide. The numbers will continue to rise for now. China may have turned the corner with no new cases for two days. South Korea's stringent measures have kept their death toll to around 1%.

Most experts say that most of us (in the US) won't die from this virus; most of us won't even get the virus. Most won't get ill, or at least not seriously; many won't even know they have the virus.

Indeed, what do we make of all of this from a foundation of faith? Can we use the moment to see beyond the threat? Indeed, no one living now has experienced anything like what we are dealing with now. How do you cope?

Christians are not immune from this virus. Some will get it and, yes, some will die. Regardless of this fact, God is still in control. Prayers do work, especially at a time like this. Otherwise, the writer James would be wrong when he states that ***“the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.”*** (James 5:16).

When God decides to do some particular work in His Church, He pours out on His followers the spirit of grace and supplication. When such a power of prayer is granted, faith should be immediately called into exercise, that the blessing may be given. The spirit of prayer is the proof that the power of God is present to heal.

We often pray for the healing of some individual and I have no doubt that these prayers are “fervent”. Yet, that person dies. Then there are times that a doctor has emphatically stated that he has done all that he can do and only prayer will change the outcome. Sometimes, the person lives. God is in control!

Daily, I pray for the safety of my family and those of my Christian family. Does God hear that pray and will He answer it? I’m sure He does and whatever the outcome, God is still in control! The only thing I know for certain is that unspoken prayers will not be answered. God is in control!

Do you get the point? We must pray fervently for God’s will to be done because He is in control!

Think about it.

Here’s hoping you’ll make the “*most of your minutes*” this week.

Hope to see you at Bible Study *soon*.

In Christian Love,

Bob Strickland