

The Christian's Response to Coronavirus

The coronavirus situation has created a lot of angst and anxiety among many. But what should be the Christian response to the coronavirus? Some churches are teaching concerning the coronavirus that is it God's judgment upon mankind or certain segments of society. Others teach that if you are a believer, God will not allow the virus to touch you! What should be our response? Let's look to the Bible to find out.

Remember that God is in Control. *"For the kingdom is the LORD'S, And He rules over the nations"* (Psa. 22:28). There is no doubt that God could stop any disease or natural disaster if He desired. If God could stop the coronavirus, then why doesn't He? We don't know – remember that *"the secret things belong to...God"* (Deut. 29:29). But here's what we should know – God has not lost control. He is in control of the earth, of the nations, and of everything!

Man (Not God) Brought Disease, Disaster, and Death into the World. When God created everything, He said that it was very good (Gen. 1:31). However, Adam and Eve sinned against God and brought destruction into the world (Gen. 3:16-19). 1 Cor. 15:21a words it this way: *"For since by man came death..."* Without a doubt calamities and catastrophes have reeked incredible damage, and that should remind us of how devastating sin is. Sin is the cause of all of man's problems and Satan is behind sin.

We Should Not Worry or Panic. Worry is not our friend, and panic should not be our way. Solomon reminds us, *"If you faint in the day of adversity, your strength is small"* (Pro. 24:10). May it never be said that God's people are governed more by fear than faith. In times of crisis, the world needs steady people who are strengthened by God. We need not worry or panic because we know the One who has defeated disease and death (1 Cor. 15:55-57).

We should pray (a lot). 1 Thess. 5:17 states to, *"pray without ceasing."* We need to be praying now more than ever.

Keep Trusting in God. The Psalmist encourages us, *"Trust in the LORD, and do good; Dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness."* (Psa. 37:3). Whether persecutions or pandemics, we can trust in the Lord. God has called us to face troubles and threats with courage, leaning our weight on Him. Don't give up on God.

Realize that God Can Make Good Things Come out of Bad Situations. For those who trust in the Lord, things always have a way of working out. Rom. 8:28, *"And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God..."* We have to remember that God is good and God is always at work – He can and will make wonderful things come out of situations like this (note: God will provide opportunities for evangelism and benevolence through this, as well as many other good things).

When disease and disasters hit, it is not the time to question God, but to determine to find a greater quest in God and in working His will! God is the author of everything good (James 1:17). I don't know why things happen the way they do, but I do know we have a God who loves us and cares for us. Like the Psalmist, we can affirmatively say, *"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear..."* (Psa. 46:1-2).

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