

Wednesday Bible Study

March 25, 2020

Christian/Biblical Attitude Concerning Pandemic

As believers, what should be our attitude about the situation we find ourselves in as a nation? The opinions, even among the body of Christ, are plentiful and varied.

We are citizens of the Kingdom, and at the same time citizens of America. We should be a people of faith and at the same time we should be a people of wisdom and discernment. We're **in** the world, but not **of** the world (see John 17:16).

As Baptist, we are a people of the Book, the Bible; it serving as our guide for faith and practice. Therefore, we should seek guidance from the Word, especially in times such as these. So let's look and see if God addresses our situation in His address to us.

Consideration 1: It's something that I've heard from only a very few, which is a good indication it may be the place to start. At a time when Judah was about to face the judgment of God, Jeremiah proclaimed these words from the Lord; "**We lie down in shame, and our confusion covereth us; for we have sinned against the Lord our God, we and our fathers...**" (Jer. 3:25)

I'm not saying that this virus is from the Lord in an act of judgment on the nations or on our nation. But what I am saying is this; perhaps, just perhaps, instead of running around debating our faith or the lack thereof; instead of discussing conspiracy theories; maybe God is calling us to **repent!**

Consideration 2: There's not always a singular mode of response or reaction to crisis in God's Word. For instance, in Exodus chapter 14, when the Israelites were caught between the devil and the deep blue sea (actually Pharaoh and the Red Sea), Moses called on the people to **stand still** and see the salvation of the Lord. Yet in Exodus chapter 17, when being assaulted by the Amalekites, Moses told Joshua to choose some men and go out and **fight** with Amalek.

We find also in the book of Acts that Stephen is **stoned** for his witness of Christ, and then later on Peter is miraculously **rescued** from prison.

Circumstances will change and remedies will vary; faith is oftentimes trusting that He will show **us** what to do instead of us showing others what **we** are doing. In this, as in the citations above, God gets the glory and not ourselves!

Consideration 3: Would God have us to avoid diseases? Well, the book of Leviticus is filled with rules of cleansing, of diet and, I hate to say this, for "social distancing". God never instructed His people to observe "hug a leper day". He said to separate until such

time as they are well. This rule was not only for leprosy but for many other communicable diseases.

And in the New Testament, when the church was persecuted in Jerusalem, they didn't hang around to prove or exemplify their faith, they fled...and the Gospel spread!

Praying for you all!