



THE INFORMER

Church of Christ ~ New Albany, Mississippi

www.nacoc.us

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Coronavirus: A Bad Situation to God's Glory

By: Brad Harrub



What can you do?

The Coronavirus (COVID-19) is poised to do some things to Christians that years of articles, sermons, blogs, and podcasts have failed to do. As a result of the virus, and resulting quarantine, we may find ourselves forced to:

1. Spend more time together as families at home and stop running the rat race.
2. Focus on our older generation and making sure they are well cared for during this time.
3. It may very well cause us to close our buildings on Sunday mornings forcing us to learn how to worship at home. (And may help us reevaluate pouring all of our resources into buildings and grounds rather than evangelism and missions.)
4. Pray more fervently.
5. We may find ourselves craving Christian fellowship and not taking it for granted.
6. Focus our minds on what is truly important in this life.
7. With more time on their hands and less “events” to go to, people may open their Bibles or religious books—relying less on the 30 minute sermon to be their only spiritual nourishment.
8. We might find ourselves calling and checking on members more often—treating each other like a true Christian family.
9. Not let things like March Madness become a form of idolatry in our lives.
10. Actually keep our children home from prom and help them remain pure a little longer!
11. Christians might discover ways to truly be a light in their community as people start needing things and needing care.
12. We might be more willing to talk about Jesus and eternity.

I'm sure there are more...in fact you can share some below. Yes, there are negative things about a Pandemic. But for the Christian, things like this just remind us that this world is not our home! Maybe...just maybe, this whole thing will draw more people closer to God. [#Godisgood](#)

Proper Values

The story is told of a professor from a large university who hired a boatman to row him across the Mississippi River. The professor, feeling a little superior to his boatman, began asking him questions. "George, have you ever studied philosophy?" George answered, "No, sir, I haven't read any of it." "Then you have lost a third of your life," the professor said.

"Have you studied literature?" asked the professor. "No, sir, I haven't read literature and don't know much about it," George replied. "Then you have lost two thirds of your life," stated the professor.

Midway across the river, a log collided with the boat, knocking a large hole in it. The boatman asked, "Professor, do you know anything about swimming?" "No, George, I don't!" the frightened professor answered. "Then you lost all your life," the boatman said.

We can have all the knowledge, wealth, pleasures, honor, and power the world has to offer, and still miss the most important thing of all. Jesus asked His disciples, "*For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?*" (Matthew 8:36-37).

A life wasted on worldly things has a terrible end, no matter how enjoyable that life has been! "*Let us hear the conclusion of the matter: Fear God, and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man*" (Ecclesiastes 12:13).

--Cecil Burch (Amarillo, TX) via Old Paths (adapted)



Wilted Roses

A young lady was surprised one day when she received a gift of roses from a wealthy woman in town. Upon opening the box she found to her bewilderment roses that were wilted and the petals falling off. Many things went through her mind assuming, for example, that the florist had failed to deliver them on time.



Later that day, she met the woman on the street and thanked her for the roses. The woman said, "I'm glad you liked them. I cut them last Monday and enjoyed them all week, but this morning when I noticed they were getting old and faded I thought of you and had them delivered to your door."

Seeing the puzzled look and hurt in her eyes, she continued, "The other evening I was sitting in the car while my husband went into the drug store. As you walked by, I heard you tell someone that you wanted to become a Christian later, but not now while you were still young. You said you wanted to have a good time first. In other words, you wish to give the Lord your life after the beauty, charm, and vigor have faded and you have become old and wrinkled. I thought these roses would be an illustration of what you are doing in relation to the Lord."

We would never, with a clear mind, think about giving God the crumbs, or leftovers, but isn't that what many do who wish to postpone serving the Lord? We must never forget that God has feelings too, and rejecting His love has consequences. There may never be another day when our heart is as tender to His call as it is today. After one rejection, the next is easier. Let's give God our best, right now.

--Rob Redden

America's Greatest Defense

The Bible insists that there is a connection between the moral vigor of a nation and its survivability. The strength of any nation lies in the goodness of its people.

"*Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord*" (Psalm 33:12). "*Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people*" (Proverbs 14:34).

History is full of examples of nations which fell because they forgot God and failed to walk in His ways. Because of their national iniquity, God allowed Israel to fall to Assyria in 722 BC. The wickedness of Assyria, in turn, led to their fall to the Babylonians in 612 BC. The nation of Judah fell to these same Babylonians in 586 BC. And, once again, God said it was because of sin. Mighty Babylon became so steeped in corruption that God overthrew it in 539 BC. Eventually Rome, the mightiest empire the world had known, collapsed when its burden of wickedness became too great to bear.

And America????

Righteousness is America's greatest defense; sin is our window of ultimate vulnerability.

Do you love your country? Do you want to do something good for it? Then do all you can to help turn America's heart back to God!

--Bobby Dockery (Fayetteville, AR) via Old Paths



PRAYER LIST



Ron Griggs, father of Madison Griggs is back in the Oxford Hospital with infection in his foot.

Novene Robertson received a good report from her recent tests.

Audrey Nell Clement, sister of Richard Jennings is recovering from carotid artery surgery.

Brian Carpenter is recovering from knee surgery. He will return to his doctor the 25th, and then begin therapy.

Sympathy: We extend our sympathy to Luke and Erin Wall Goff in the passing of Luke's grandfather, Billy Goff Sr. Services were held Tuesday, March 17th, at the Skyline Church of Christ, in Tupelo.

Continue to Remember:

Michelle Bell, Molly Clayton, Jerry Coats, Daniel Cross, Shane Crotts, Arelus Dye, Mable Erwin, Prebble Foster, Ron Griggs, Phillip Haynes, Janie Huggins, Bill Lyon, Elizabeth Phagen, Jerry Robbins, Shannon Sciara, Levi Smith, Mildred Shackelford, Sue Stroud, Josie Tidwell, Angela Victory, Donnie Wilson

Shut-Ins:

Bill & Helen DePriest, Linda Griggs, Billy Joe Garner, Nancy Petrowski, J.D. Stroud

Nursing Home/Assisted Living:

Joe Downs, Jerry & Lucille Gibson, Price Senter

Military List:

Derek Bradley, Tevin Bradley, Luke Goff, Chase Seals



What Must I Do To Be Saved?

- 1. Hear the Gospel (Romans 10:13-17)
2. Believe the Gospel (Acts 15:7; Mark 16:15, 16)
3. Repent of Sins (Acts 3:19)
4. Confess Faith in Christ (Acts 8:37)
5. Be Baptized for the Remission of Sins (Acts 2:38)
6. Be Faithful (Revelation 2:10)

I've Learned...

The Lord knows the way through the wilderness; all I need to do is follow Him.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



- March 19... Dan Cobb
March 19... Clay Jennings
March 20... Kyland Morgan
March 23... Isabella McMillen
March 27... Mary Martin Crotts
March 28... Roger Clayton
March 28... Ella Boyd
March 29... Caleb Jennings

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- March 24... J.D. & Sue Stroud



EVENTS CANCELED

Due to the outbreak of the Coronavirus the Elders, after much consideration, decided to cancel our Gospel Meeting set for March 22nd-25th, and our Friends and Family Day, March 29th. They will reschedule these events as soon as possible. Also, at this time our worship services will be Sunday morning Bible class at 9:30, and 10:30 worship service only. We will be updating on our website as well as church text as updates become available. Please take time to pray for each other and all our country. If anyone is in need of things being brought to them please contact the office or one of the elders or deacons.

AREA EVENTS

- Ladies Day at the Hillcrest Church of Christ is planned for Sat. March 28th, from 8:30-12:00. The guest speaker will be Kayla Dillinger.

Prayer for Troubled Times

Endow me, Lord, with strength to face
The bitter trials of life,
Instill within my troubled soul
Your peace amidst the strife.

Lord, plant a song within my heart
That I might praise Thee still --
While storms rage on, grant me the faith
To rest within Your will!

~ Author Unknown ~

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Volume 11

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday School.....9:30
 Morning Worship.....10:30
 Evening Worship.....6:00
 Wednesday Bible Study....6:30

MINISTER

Shaler Grigsby....Youth/ Assoc.
256-263-9137
 Office 534-4649

ELDERS

Richard Jennings316-1305
 Troy Robertson316-3163
 Phil Young.....316-2059

DEACONS

Greg Clayton.....252-9762
 Roger Clayton 538-8195
 Shane Crotts.....266-0195
 Jason Jennings..... 801-3260
 Randy Wall 316-9255

TO SERVE

Scripture.....Alvin Parks
 A.M. Prayer.....Jim Gann
 Closing.....Martin Crotts
 P.M. Prayer.....Hunter Jennings
 Closing.....Matt Jennings
 Wed.3/25.....Paul Ormon
 Wed.3/25.....Harold Russell
 Lock 3/22.....Greg Clayton
 Usher 3/22.....Greg Clayton
 Security 3/22.....Phillip Young

OUR RECORD

Sunday School.....
 Sunday A.M.....
 Sunday P.M.....
 Wednesday.....
 Contribution.....
 Budget.....\$4,095.92

PANTRY ITEMS

SOUP



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 148, New Albany, MS 38652

10 Lessons to Instill in Children

1. If you're thankful, show it
Luke 17:11-18
2. If you love someone, tell them
John 15:12
3. If you're wrong, fess up
James 5:12
4. If you're confused, ask questions
James 1:5
5. If you learn something, teach others
Colossians 3:16
6. If you're stuck, ask for help
Matthew 7:7
7. If you make a mistake, apologize
Matthew 5:23-24
8. If you trip, get back up
Psalms 37: 23-24
9. If someone needs help, help them
Galatians 6:2
10. If you see wrong, take a stance
Ephesians 6:14