

Daily View

“But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called ‘today’” Hebrews 3:13

April 1, 2020



A Lake in Connecticut in the Fall

The Real Sickness

One summer, when I was 18, I drove up from Los Angeles to Coalinga to visit a female friend. We were sitting on the front porch of her house when, all of a sudden, I started sneezing uncontrollably. I had no Kleenex — I’ll leave to your imagination why that was one of my most embarrassing moments ever. Turns out, I was experiencing my first allergy attack. Even though I had previously lived in Coalinga (a little town 70 miles west of Fresno) I had not had allergies before nor had I ever suffered with them in southern California. Since that time, allergies have been a seasonal reality for me every spring.

I’m thinking of this now because spring is here and I have some of the typical allergy symptoms that I’ve had every year for over 50 years. One year I was at a family reunion and I had an allergy attack so bad that my eye swelled up — I looked like the Hunchback of Notre Dame. Seriously. It was bad.

Every spring, when the allergies come, I know the symptoms well. But, now, every sneeze, every little cough, every itchy throat makes me wonder: *“do I have the coronavirus?”* I’m guessing some of you have the same feeling. We hear about the coronavirus every day, many times a day. I’m getting tired of hearing “coronavirus this, coronavirus that.” I grieve and pray for families who are suffering because of it. And I’m tired of feeling like I’m sick. They say that medical students often take on the symptoms of the disease they are studying. Mark Twain said that he was reading a book of symptoms one day and almost died of a misprint. When this is over, if I never hear the word “coronavirus” again, it will be too soon.

Is there a lesson we can learn from this? I think there is: it reminds me of how sick we really are — how sick *I* really am. I have no reason to believe that I have the coronavirus but I have something much worse. It’s called “sin.” Sin is the sickness that kills people in a way that the virus cannot. Sin is the true pandemic. *“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”* Paul said in Romans 3:23. And the danger we face from staying in our sins is far greater than any virus, including this latest one. *“The wages of sin is death...”* (Romans 6:23) but the death that Paul speaks of is not the “passing away,” as we euphemistically call dying. The death Paul speaks of is one that leads, in the words of Jesus, to an eternity in *“outer darkness... where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth... where their worm does not die and the fire is not quenched”* (Matthew 25:30; Mark 9:48).

Sin the worst sickness; it affects everyone and yet it is the only pandemic that much of the world is happy to ignore. Those of us who love God know we are sick and we know there is only one person who has taken sins away: Christ, at the cross. Paul said, *“For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God”* (I Corinthians 1:18). Christ did his part; our part is to repent and be baptized and put all of our faith in Jesus. It is in Christ alone, where our hope is found. Hymn: *“In Christ Alone”* — <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QekPh9XfhMo>. — **dp**

Lyrics*

Oceans

You call me out upon the waters
The great unknown where feet may fail
And there I find You in the mystery
In oceans deep
My faith will stand

And I will call upon Your name
And keep my eyes above the waves
When oceans rise
My soul will rest in Your embrace
For I am Yours and You are mine

Your grace abounds in deepest waters
Your sovereign hand
Will be my guide
Where feet may fail and fear surrounds me
You've never failed and You won't start
now

So I will call upon Your name
And keep my eyes above the waves
When oceans rise
My soul will rest in Your embrace
For I am Yours and You are mine

Spirit lead me where my trust is without
borders
Let me walk upon the waters
Wherever You would call me
Take me deeper than my feet could ever
wander
And my faith will be made stronger
In the presence of my Savior

Oh, Jesus, you're my God!

I will call upon Your name
Keep my eyes above the waves
My soul will rest in Your embrace
I am Yours and You are mine

– Lyrics by Hillsong

In Christ Alone

In Christ alone my hope is found
He is my light, my strength, my song
This cornerstone, this solid ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm
What heights of love, what depths of peace
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease
My comforter, my all in all
Here, in the love of Christ, I stand

In Christ alone, who took on flesh
Fullness of God in helpless babe
This gift of love and righteousness
Scorned by the ones he came to save
'Til on that cross, as Jesus died
The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin, on him, was laid
Here, in the death of Christ, I live

There in the ground, his body lay
Light of the world, by darkness, slain
Then bursting forth in glorious day
Up from the grave, he rose again
And as he stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
For I am his and he is mine
Bought with the precious blood of Christ

No guilt in life, no fear in death
This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath
Jesus commands my destiny
No power of hell, no scheme of man
Could ever pluck me from his hand
'Til he returns or calls me home
Here, in the power of Christ, I stand

– Lyrics by Keith & Kristyn Getty

*Thanks to Sharon Bridge for the lyrics to *Oceans* and the reminder to share the lyrics of the songs we provide links to.