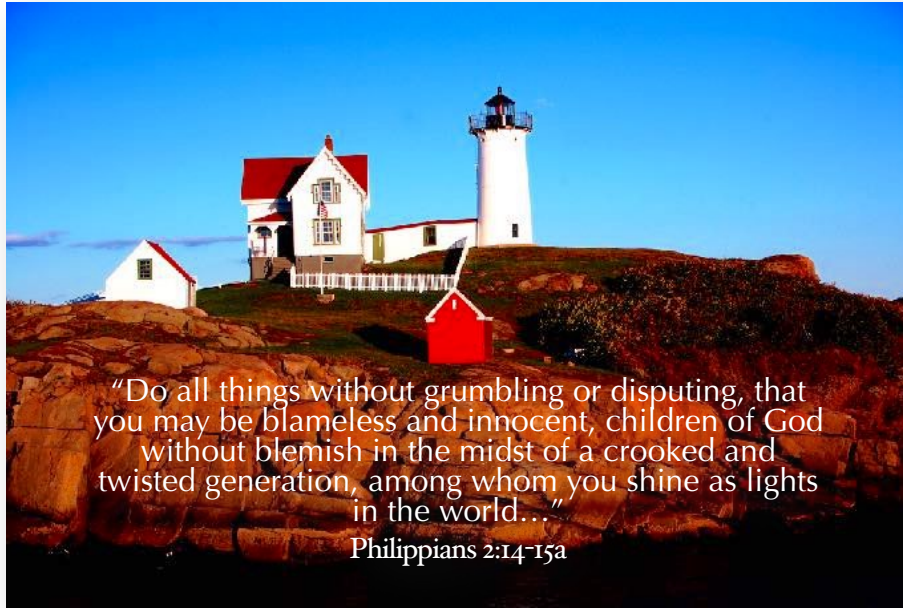


# Daily View

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

May 15, 2020



“Do all things without grumbling or disputing, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world...”

Philippians 2:14-15a

Lighthouse off the coast of Massachusetts

## Let's Be Serious: This is Nothing

This is nothing. By “this,” I mean being stranded at home, unable to shop at the mall or go to a restaurant or watch a baseball game or travel to a tropical island or Prague — or even assemble with the saints twice a week. That's *nothing*.

Think about it. In the past two weeks, people we know and love have faced actual trauma: a close friend was rushed to the hospital with a serious heart attack; a former member here lost his mother and father within five days of each other; a family lost their daughter in a tragic accident. Other friends and family (five of our members alone in the last 4 months) suffered death of a loved one — and at least four of those are now widows, alone for the first time in many years.

Others, who we may not know, have lost their jobs, found out they or someone they love has a serious, even terminal illness. And some are even struggling to find food to eat for their families.

But, I get it. People are upset. Social media has become a neon sign of grumbling and complaining — *“The governor is a tyrant, recall him!!”* Virtue signaling is at an all-time high — *“where's your mask?! You must hate people!!”*

Many are suspicious that there is some nefarious conspiracy afoot, especially when credentialed medical experts contradict each other or when politicians issue rulings that seem arbitrary and inconsistent with the “science” they are claiming to follow. This is a perfect storm for those seeking power and fame. Just wait for the book

deals. But let's take a step back and look at the proverbial “big picture” for a moment.

For most of us, what we've “lost” is summarized in that first paragraph and most of those are “inconveniences.” The worst, by far, is the loss of worshipping in person with our spiritual family twice a week and more. I'm concerned about that loss of connection more than anything else.

Otherwise, it's not like we are in prison cells. We are “stranded” in relative large dwelling, with refrigerators and freezers stocked with food and a plethora of entertainment choices at the punch of a remote button. We are even able to connect with people through technology available to us that was not available 20 years ago. (I will “confess” that we've met *in person* with several people in the last few week, in small numbers. Admit it; you have, too).

We can analyze and discuss and question the actions and motives of those in charge. But we need to be careful. I'll leave you with some words from Paul who, I'd venture to say, had much more to complain about than we do (you might take a moment to read his list of “inconveniences” in II Corinthians 11:22-28). Here's his inspired direction for us in times like these:

Do all things without grumbling or disputing, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. *Philippians 2:14-15*