

Daily View

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

September 15, 2020

On the Covid-19 Medical-Legal Front

Christians have a variety of opinions on the way the fight against Covid-19 is being conducted and some are very passionate about those views. I have my views about it but I try to be as objective as possible and sensitive to how others feel. There are two news stories, from legitimate news outlets, that may or may not affect us any time soon, but have the potential to do so. I share them with no particular ax to grind, but just FYI.

Medical: Scientists at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine (in conjunction with several other scientists) have isolated “the smallest biological molecule” that “completely and specifically neutralizes” SARS-CoV-2, and this information has been used to create the drug Ab8. See full report here: <https://scitechdaily.com/ab8-covid-19-drug-breakthrough-tiny-antibody-component-completely-neutralizes-the-sars-cov-2-virus/>

Legal: A Federal Judge Rules Pennsylvania Governor’s Shutdown Orders Unconstitutional. U.S. District Judge William Stickman’s judgment stipulates that “the congregate gathering limits imposed by defendants’ mitigation orders violate the right of assembly enshrined in the First Amendment,” the “stay-at-home and business closure components of defendants’ orders violate the due process clause of the Fourteenth Amendment,” and “the business closure components of Defendants’ orders violate the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment.” He goes on to say, “even in an emergency, the authority of government is not unfettered...The liberties protected by the Constitution are not fair-weather freedoms—in place when times are good but able to be cast aside in times of trouble,” Stickman said. “There is no question that this country has faced, and will face, emergencies of every sort.” Stickman added that the solution to the crisis “can never be permitted to supersede the commitment to individual liberty that stands as the foundation of the American experiment.” Furthermore, he said, the Constitution “cannot accept the concept of a ‘new normal’ where the basic liberties of the people can be subordinated to open-ended emergency mitigation measures.”

This ruling may have a bigger impact than the legal battle going on here in California between John MacArthur and LA County. The ruling above is from a Federal judge while, so far, the rulings issued in the MacArthur case have been by Superior Court judges in LA County.

Ignorance may be bliss, but it also can be expensive

We’ve all heard the saying “ignorance is bliss.” On its face, it seems ridiculous but it sounds close to what Solomon said in Ecclesiastes 1:18, *“For in much wisdom is much vexation, and he who increases knowledge increases sorrow.”* Knowing things often brings sorrow and frustration. I look back with some fondness to the “old days” when all of our news came from three TV channels and one newspaper. I don’t think the access to 24 hour cable news has made anyone’s day brighter.

Of course, knowledge also brings responsibility, duties we may not relish. So, in some ways, ignorance *is* bliss — we may be happier if we didn’t know some of the things we know.

However, Solomon goes on to say in Ecclesiastes 7:12 that *“...the advantage of knowledge is that wisdom preserves the life of him who has it.”* We have to agree that having more knowledge is usually a good thing. Knowing traffic laws make driving safer and knowing about the power of electricity encourages us turn off the electricity at the breaker box before installing a ceiling fan in the family room.

A lack of knowledge is not only dangerous, but it can also be expensive. I wish I would have had more knowledge when Christie and I walked into Paul’s Steakhouse in San Francisco in the mid-70s with another couple. We didn’t know it, but Paul’s was a unique restaurant. When our names were called to be seated, we first were told to pass by a large glass case where a man with a chef’s hat stood, holding a huge butcher knife. In the case were various cuts of beef. He asked me what kind of steak I wanted and I said, “filet mignon.” He grabbed a large, round chunk of raw meat and placed his

knife at a point about 4 inches from the end of the raw beef. He then looked at me as if to ask, “this much?” I said, “sure.” He repeated the process for the others.

Turns out Paul’s Steakhouse was a *pay-by-the ounce* restaurant. I didn’t know that. Of course, the chef was interested in “helping” us get a hefty chunk of meat for our steak and when our meals came out, we were impressed with how big our steaks were. Later on, we were equally impressed with how big the check was. *Shocked* is more like it. To this day, it stands out as probably the most expensive meal we ever “enjoyed” at a restaurant.

Our ignorance was not bliss. In fact, we barely had enough money between the four of us to pay the bill (none of us had credit cards back then).

Ignorance can lead to a surprising and shocking reality in the more serious spiritual realm as well. The writer of the letter to the Hebrews warns them repeatedly about the dangers of ignorance and a failure to pay attention. In Hebrews 2:1, he says,

Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it.

In Hebrews 5:11-12, he accuses his readers of being “dull of hearing” and says, “by this time, you ought to be teachers but you need someone to teach you [the basics]....”

Voluntary ignorance about spiritual matters is not bliss. How many times did Jesus say, “he who has ears to hear, let him hear”? He was encouraging — or warning — his audience against being ignorant. Ignorance is way too expensive; it can cost us our eternal life.

*Unless otherwise indicated the opinions expressed in this publication and images used are solely those of David Posey.
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