

Coronavirus Positives – A Spiritual Perspective

Fact or Fake?



**“Pilate said unto him, What is truth?”
(John 18:38)**

The coronavirus like all earthly things, will eventually pass, however, the lessons that God is teaching us as He works this out for our good can have a lasting effect, if we recognize them and apply them to our lives (Rom. 8:28). Today's thought: What's the truth?

Is there anything that bothers us more than uncertainty? Uncertainty has the ability to paralyze us and prevent us from taking action like nothing else. We often feel that if we just knew all the facts, then we would be in a position to make the best possible decision and move forward with our lives. Perhaps the scariest thing concerning the coronavirus pandemic is simply the uncertainty of it. In fact, almost everything about it seems uncertain. How deadly is it? How many have already been contaminated? How likely am I to contract it? What is the best way to avoid it? What is the most effective way to treat it? When will a vaccine be available and will it be effective? How do you balance the risk of contracting it against the negative effects of shutting down the economy? How do you balance your personal freedom against the risk of harming your fellowman? How will I and my family be personally affected? When is the best time to attempt to reopen the country? How much of this is real and how much is being used for political purposes? When will this end? Will we ever view the world the same way again? The so called experts give different and often contradictory advice. As always,

the politicians' views are polar opposites. You cannot rely on the media due to their political agenda and biases. Everyone has a differing opinion concerning how serious of a threat this is and how to best proceed. And because we don't know all the facts, it is difficult to decide how and when to properly move forward. What are we to believe? Wouldn't it be great if we had the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth concerning this virus, with no political, financial or national biases or agendas?

If nothing else, all of this uncertainty should cause us to have a new found respect for the truth! Truth – what is certain, what is right, what is unchangeable, what we can rely on to make the proper decisions with our lives. With this virus, we don't have all the facts and we receive varying and conflicting information daily. We are, at best, partially in the dark, trying to make our way the best we can. Like explorers lost in a cave without a light to guide them, the darkness and uncertainty makes forward progress difficult and dangerous. Jesus echoed this sentiment two thousand years ago, “He who walks in darkness does not know where he is going” (John 12:35). Darkness and uncertainty often paralyzes us, causes fear and prevents us from taking action. The only thing that can break through the darkness of uncertainty is the brightness of illuminating truth!

While uncertainty and a lack of the truth concerning the coronavirus is troubling and making the wrong decisions concerning it can have physical consequences, there is a much more serious issue in which it is imperative that we know the truth so that we can make the proper decisions. Absolutely nothing is more precious than our eternal soul. To make the wrong decisions concerning our soul will have eternal consequences. But what can we rely on to allow us to make the proper decisions with our most valuable possession? The precious illuminating truth of God's word is the only thing that is able to properly guide us. “The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes” (Ps. 19:8). “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path” (Ps. 119:105). No wonder the psalmist wrote, “Order my steps in thy word” (Ps. 119:133). Only the truth of God breathed scripture can be relied upon to give us the information we need to navigate this dark world and assure our eternal reward in heaven (2 Tim. 3:16-17). Do we allow it to guide us as we should?

In the battle for our soul, it should come as no surprise that Satan desires to deceive us. After all, Satan is the father of lies. Listen to Jesus' words as

He describes Satan in John 4:44, “He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there was not truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.” Satan desires to keep us in darkness, to blind us so that we do not see or comprehend the blessed truth of the gospel. “But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.” (2 Cor. 4:3-4) As Christians, we are told that our struggle is against the rulers of darkness of this world (Eph. 6:12). Satan, the great deceiver, attempts to ruin us in many ways: by lying promises (Gen. 3:5), by wresting the scriptures (Matt. 4:6), by cunning plans (2 Cor. 2:11) and even by appearing as an angel of light (2 Cor. 11:14). Just as Satan beguiled Eve, he continues to attempt to corrupt our minds from the simplicity that is in Christ (2 Cor. 11:3). Hitler once stated, “If you tell a big enough lie, and tell it frequently enough, it will be believed”. Is this not what Satan does time and time again?

Lying is so common and the truth is such a rarity in mankind. Listen as Jeremiah described the people of his day, “They bend their tongues like their bow for lies, but they are not valiant for the truth upon the earth...they will deceive every one his neighbor, and will not speak the truth: they have taught their tongue to speak lies...thine habitation is in the midst of deceit; through deceit they refuse to know me, saith the Lord...their tongue is an arrow shot out, it speaketh deceit.” (Jer. 9:3-6). Listen as God pronounces judgment upon them. “Shall I not visit them for these things? saith the Lord: shall not my soul be avenged on such a nation as this?” (Jer. 9:9). In our nation where lying is so commonplace and truth so hard to find, will God’s judgment be any less?

In contrast to Satan and his deceivers, the very nature of the Godhead is truth. God is described as a God of truth (Deut. 32:4), His words are true (2 Sam. 7:28), in fact, the Bible assures us that it is impossible for God to lie (Heb. 6:18) and that He keeps truth forever (Ps. 146:6). The Holy Spirit is described as the Spirit of truth and also guided the apostles into all truth (John 16:13). 1 John 5:6 simply states that the Spirit is truth. The fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth (Eph. 5:9). Christ is described as full of grace and truth (John 1:14). At his trial, Jesus told Pilate, “For this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice.” To which Pilate then asked Jesus, “What is truth?” (John 18:37-

38) Jesus had already answered this question twice in scripture: when speaking to his disciples in John 14:6 Jesus stated, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh to the Father but by me", and when praying to his Father to preserve the apostles, "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth." (John 17:17). What a blessing that we can always rely on God and his word for the unchanging truth!

The value of truth. No wonder Prov. 23:23 states "Buy the truth and sell it not." Nothing else is more steadfast or sure than truth, and therefore nothing else is more valuable! The things of this world are uncertain: beauty (Pr. 31:30), men's promises (Ps. 146:3), riches (Pr. 23:5), the future (Pr. 27:1), friendship (John 16:32), life (James 4:14), earthly glory (1 Pet. 1:24). Thankfully, God has not left us in darkness and uncertainty. He has provided us with the precious truth of His word. Words to illuminate our path, to enlighten our eyes, to guide us in a world that is often so dark that we don't know where to go or what our next step should be. Words that we can rely on to see us through whatever Satan may throw at us, including this current crisis. Words that provide so many comforting certainties to faithful Christians living in an uncertain world: sure promises (1 Kings 8:56), a sure foundation (Is. 28:16), a sure reward (Matt. 10:42), sure acceptance (2 Cor. 6:17-18), an assured Divine Love (Rom. 8:38-39), a sure eternity (1 John 5:13, 2 Cor. 5:1), assured continual cleansing (1 John 1:7) and an eternal anchor (Heb. 6:19).

God has certainly done His part to supply us with truth and to teach us the value of that truth. However, Satan's goal remains to blind us from it (2 Cor. 3:3-4) or to take it away once it is sown in our heart (Matt. 13:19). Just as Pilate so many years ago, we can have the truth right in front of us and not realize it! Sadly, sometimes we are no better than Pilate in both recognizing the truth and valuing it as we should. How ironic that Pilate would ask the very son of God, the Word that was made flesh (John 1:14), the very embodiment of the truth, "What is truth?" (John 18:37-38). How many will face God in judgment one day with the realization that they had the truth, but that they failed to realize it, that they failed to value it and therefore, that they failed to act upon it?

What is the truth concerning the coronavirus? I don't know. How should we proceed? I don't know. We are left to make the best educated guesses we can based on the uncertainty of all the conflicting information we have been given. I hope and pray we all make the right decisions moving

forward. But I do know this: We have one constant, inerrant, absolute standard of truth that we can always rely on to guide us, God's word! As God's children, we have the certainty of the truth to light our path. Let us honor it, value it, study it, apply it to our lives and teach it to others. It really is the only answer for all the world's woes. Thankfully, we are not like the world. We are not in darkness. We have God's word to direct us! And since we are not in darkness, let us not be fearful to confidently walk as children of light (Eph. 5:8)!