



Truth for Today

March 15, 2020

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Published for the members and guests of the Woodlands church of Christ

Perspective

by Don Hooton

With the COVID-19 virus now a pandemic, the elders are trying to manage our responsibility to God and our responsibility to you in this pandemic. Some believe that many are over-reacting and there are those who believe the earth is dying. Either extreme is dangerous. And the perspective I hope you will see is that prepared security is not the same as panic.

The word “panic” is named after the Greek mythological demigod named Pan, a mischievous forest god. Legend says that his favorite diversion was to torment Greek travelers on the byways. Lying in wait and concealed in the bushes, Pan would rustle the bushes as a traveler passed by when he would gently rustle the bushes. The traveler would be startled and pick up his pace. Pan would meet the traveler again and again making the traveler hasten to Pan’s amusement. Soon the traveler’s breathing became heavy, his heart would pound. One more rustle from Pan and the traveler would run along the dark and narrow forest path in... Panic.

In some circles, these pandemics create panic – just like that. Imaginary, illusory triggers make adrenaline-fed hyperventilation common place. But in these moments, Christians need to be reminded of the Voice of God. In every time and in every place, we can say with confidence, “The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me” (Hebrews 13:6)?

Even in the last two centuries, we have learned from others when similar events created panic.

David Lipscomb (“The Cholera and the Christian Religion,” *Gospel Advocate* 15.28 (17 July 1873) 649-653), during a Cholera outbreak in Nashville where 1 out of 25 residents died, write: “Christ gave in precept for the government of his followers the rules of his own life. [As] Paul [said] to the Galatians (4:15), ‘My little children of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you.’ To reproduce the life of Christ in our own lives is to act as Christ would act, were he in our places. We thus become Christ’s representatives to the world... Now in view of these things and the wild panic that seized the population, what would Christ have done in the emergency?... Would he have become panic stricken with fear—fear of death, and have used his means to get himself and family, with their fashionable and luxurious appendages out of danger, to some place of fashionable resort and pleasure, and left his poor brethren and neighbors to suffer and perish from neglect and want?... fatal scourges, under God, become opportunities to show the superior excellence of the Christian religion, in giving true courage, love and self-sacrifice to its votaries... Christian men and women should be prudent, and cautious in such surroundings...”

C.S. Lewis, some 72 years ago about the fear of the Atomic Bomb, wrote: *In one way we think a great deal too much of the atomic bomb. “How are we to live in an atomic age?” I am tempted to reply: “Why, as you would have lived in the sixteenth century when the plague visited London almost every year, or as you would have lived in a Viking age when raiders from Scandinavia might land and cut your throat any night; or indeed, as you are already living in an age of cancer, an age of syphilis, an age of paralysis, an age of air raids, an age of railway accidents, an age of motor accidents.” In other words, do not let us begin by exaggerating the novelty of our situation... This is the first point to be made: and the first action to be taken is to pull ourselves together. If we are all going to be destroyed by an atomic bomb, let that bomb when it comes find us doing sensible and human things—praying, working, teaching, reading, listening to music, bathing the children, playing tennis, chatting to our friends... —not huddled together like frightened sheep and thinking about bombs. They may break our bodies (a microbe can do that) but they need not dominate our minds.*

So here is my exhortation to perspective.

Many respond that the greater pandemic is sin in the world to which everyone has the cure at their disposal: Jesus Christ. That is very true. Yet, that wonderful gift does not change the need to respond against infections. The promise of Messiah was given before the Law but still God commanded Moses to quarantine those infected to protect the community (c.f. Leviticus 13). If then it was not a lack of faith on a believer’s part to keep social distance for the sake of the community’s wellness, it is not now either. And refocusing our attention away from the danger of infection to the regular demand for sin’s healing is equally the same as telling people that God never wanted anyone quarantined – except just to trust Him. It is not panic to pronounce procedures of prepared caution. It is panic when you do not believe God will get you through this and it is foolish to mock the efforts to keep the community well. So, don’t yield to fear mongering but don’t be so foolish to believe that quarantine practices are not good for the community or are somehow a lack of faith – God instituted them. **Keep perspective.**

Lipscomb said, “Christian men and women should be prudent, and cautious in such surroundings...” And Lewis said, “do not let us begin by exaggerating the novelty of our situation” but would later go on to urge us being found “doing sensible and human things” in which his list included living – and I would add to the living – living wisely with respect to the way God asked Israel to quarantine.

Don’t panic. **But keep perspective.** If God knew what he was talking about, keeping social distance and eliminating opportunities for infection is always wise. But lastly, don’t be afraid to serve those who may fall prey to the virus – if there is something you could do – show them Jesus in you.

NEWS & NOTES

UPDATED PRAYER LIST

- **Kelly Cowart** is expecting their second child very soon, March 28! Pray for both.
- **Harvey Goble's** surgery will be in April.
- **Tammy Jones'** mother is on hospice and not doing well.
- **Cecilia Neel** had an MRI on Monday, and had a good report.
- **Dehbrenda Preuss** remains at Houston Med Center Methodist. Some difficulties and lots of pain. No visitors.
- **Becky Stilts** is expecting in August! Prayers for a safe delivery and momma!
- **Mark Birdwell's** brother David had what appears to be a series of strokes. Also Mark and his brother Gary are moving their mother to Round Rock retirement community at the end of this month.
- **Jon Banks'** condition has gotten to a state where the family has called hospice to his care. The family is taking it day to day, and prayers for healing—as well as prayers for comfort—are most certainly welcome.
—See Enews for Ongoing Prayer List

MEETINGS, EVENTS, SINGINGS & STUDIES

SPRING ADULT CLASSES

- **ROMANS** | SUNDAY in the Auditorium. **NOT MEETING 3/15.**
- **TURNING POINT** | SUNDAY in Classroom #5. **NOT MEETING 3/15.**
- **THEN SINGS MY SOUL - PSALMS TO SING TODAY** | WEDNESDAY

- **TUESDAY CLASS (LUKE)** | 10:30 am, class # 5. **NOT MEETING 3/17.**
- **OUTREACH MEETUP** | Mondays, Panera, 7 pm.
- **BARNABAS GROUP** | See Leo Betancourt
- **YOUNG ADULTS** | Fri., 3/20, 6:30 pm. (Potters)
- **TEEN DEVO** [12-18] | 3/28, 6:00 pm with the adult study at the Chapman's.
- **ADULT STUDY** [30/40] | 3/28, 6 p.m., C/T Chapman's.
- **BUILDING A GODLY HOME** | 4/6, 4 pm., auditorium
- **2:52 Kids Class** [2-12] | 4/6, 4:00 pm. classroom #9
- **TEENS STUDY** [13-18] | 4/6, 4:00 pm. class #5
- **SONG LEADER TRAINING** | 4/19, 4:00 pm.
- **DEACON MEETING** | 5/3
- **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** | 5/31
- **VBS** | FOCUS ON FAITH | Mon-Thurs., 6/22-25, registration opens March 15.
- **WORKDAY** | 8/1
- **YOUTH LECTURES** | Sat-Sun, 8/8-9
- **MEETING** | with Ben Hall 9/13-16/2020
- **LADIES DAY** with Sarah Lyon | Sat. 10/10, 10-12.
- **MENS DAY** with David McClister | Sat., 11/7, 10-noon.

AREA EVENTS

- **MEETING** | Kleinwood church of Christ | Klein | 3/20-22
- **MEETING** | CyFair church of Christ | Cypress | 3/29-4/1

DIRECTORY UPDATES

- **PHOTO DIRECTORIES** The most recent printed directory is in the foyer for members. Changes? See Brian Clark for any corrections or changes. **We would like all families** to update their infor-

mation and ALL worship leaders to do the same. If you have any questions about the DIRECTORY application of our website, be sure to see Brian Clark.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

- **VOLUNTEER SIGN UPS for 2020**, including Communion Prep, visitor greeting and bimonthly building lockup.
- **DO YOU EXCEL in SOCIAL MEDIA?** Don is looking for some volunteers to co-manage the INSTAGRAM and TWITTER accounts with him. If you are interested, be sure to message Don or text him.
- **WOULD YOU TEACH?** John Beighle is looking for teachers for the summer quarter (Jun-Aug). Email or text him if you would like to teach.
- **WOULD YOU ENCOURAGE?** See Leo Betancourt about getting involved in encouraging our visitors and members.
- **HOSPITALITY?** For the next six months, **Marissa Suarez** has volunteered to coordinate food for members who need assistance during an extended recovery period. Please offer your help!

Attendance	Last Month Avg	Last Week
Sunday Bible Class	116	112
Sunday Worship AM	159	152
Sunday Worship PM	97	71
Wednesday PM	78	82

Sunday AM Worship	3/15/2020	3/22/2020	Communion Preparation
Song Leader	Steve Dargan	Dwight Osteen	March— Brenda Swann
1st prayer	Al Suarez	Cody Betton	Visitor Hospitality
Scripture Reading	Brian Clark—Prov. 12:17-22	Mike Harvey—Acts 22:1-21	March—
Lord Supper Lead	Barrett Blankenship	Norman Davis	Elders
Bread	Alan Stilts	Barrett Blankenship	Keith Arrants 936.582.1244
Fruit of Vine	Leo Betancourt	Hayden Clark	George Chapman 281.298.1303
Offering	Jacob Cowart	Jay Dulin	Norman Davis 832.326.2966
Helper	Granville Betton	George Chapman	Don Hooton 936.443.6230
Helper	Craig Preuss	Bobby Cleek	Deacons
Preaching	Don Hooton	Don Hooton	John Beighle 806.367.3389
Usher	Leo Betancourt	Craig Preuss	Adam Bohanan 281.798.1093
Closing Prayer	Stuart Jones	Lyn Ray	Brian Clark 281.513.0706
Announcements	Brian Clark	Dwight Haas	Gary LeBlanc 281.292.0262
Sunday PM Worship	3/15/2020	3/22/2020	Craig Preuss 832.477.0578
Song Leader	Hayden Clark	Jonathan Chandler	Evangelists
1st prayer	Alan Stilts	Keith Arrants	Don Hooton 936.443.6230
Scripture Reading	Michael Henss—Matthew 8:31-9:1	Jeremy Crump—1 John 4:9-19	<p>You can also find us here...</p> <p> WOODLANDSCHURCHOFCHRIST.org</p> <p> facebook.com/woodlandschurchofchrist</p> <p> @woodlandscc</p> <p> woodlandschurchofchrist</p> <p> woodlandschurchofchrist</p>
Lord Supper	Chris Chapman	Dwight Haas	
Preaching	Don Hooton	Don Hooton	
Closing Prayer	Nathan Shows	Barrett Blankenship	
Wednesday	3/18/2020	3/25/2020	
Song Leader	Steve Dargan	Keith Arrants	
Invitation	Alan Stilts	Kaku Barkoh	
Closing Prayer	Dwight Osteen	Nathan Shows	
Announcements	George Chapman	Norman Davis	

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES
Worship Assemblies
 Sundays at 10:20 am & 5:00 pm
Bible Classes for All Ages
 Sundays 9:30 am & Wednesdays 7:00 pm
NO CLASSES OR EVENING WORSHIP 3/15!