

## The Pandemic

### INTRODUCTION:

1. Several weeks ago, which now seems like an eternity, this COVID-19 pandemic came to our shores and has spread throughout this country.
  - A. At first there was little fear, but it soon followed, so much so that the government stepped in and ordered all large gatherings (over 10 people) to cease, social distancing became a thing, individual work space expansion and creative scheduling to avoid contamination became necessary for businesses, toilet paper became one of the hottest item in this country (what is with that?), hand sanitizer became like liquid gold, and seeing people walk around wearing surgical masks all the sudden was normal.
  - B. Why all this fear and preventative action, because what follows this virus are possible serious illness and death. People realized it is a *threat* to their lives.
2. What people immediately desired is a **cure**, something that will either kill the virus or make us immune to its results.
  - A. It is funny how something *unseen* has caused so many to become very conscious of their life and how precious and fragile it is.
  - B. Of course, these things have always been true in far more ways than most people know.

### BODY:

#### **I. Why is COVID-19 here?**

- A. Reasons that are questionable:
  1. It is China's fault!
    - a. I understand this reasoning, and it is somewhat true, but it is not the real answer.
    - b. The Corona virus has been around for a long time and they even have a vaccine for dogs and possibly other animals. So, Corona didn't begin in China, although its infecting humans apparently did.
  2. It is God's fault:
    - a. The problem of evil in relationship to a loving and all-powerful God has been a question studied and debated for centuries.
      - i. People legitimately ask why these things exist if God is an all-powerful and loving God.
      - ii. There are biblical answers to this, but that is for a future sermon seeing here I want to deal with the most basic reason why such things as this virus are in the world.
    - b. God is punishing us and the world for our evil ways.
      - i. I think about this.
      - ii. But this makes God the culprit for this suffering and death, and I am not ready to lower that charge against God without further evidence that no one here on earth is privy to.
- B. The only for sure reason for all of this is that this world is damaged goods—it is broken.
  1. This world is broken because the first people created on this earth **listened to Satan over God** and **rebelled** against the one command God had given them, which was **not to eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil**.
  2. God said they **would die** if they disobeyed, while Satan said they **would not** (Gen. 3:1-4 – “Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?’”<sup>2</sup> And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden,<sup>3</sup> but God said, You **shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden**, neither shall you touch it, **lest you die.**”<sup>4</sup> But the serpent said to the woman, “You **will not surely die.**”).
    - a. By adding one word, Satan called God a liar and sought to destroy all that is good that God had done.
  3. Eve was tempted and *chose* to believe Satan and ate the fruit and gave it to Adam and he ate.

- a. The result was that sin came into the world carrying the curse of toil, pain, and ultimately death that we see so clearly still today (Gen. 3:13, 16-19 – “Then the LORD God said to the **woman**, “What is this **you have done**?” And the woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”...<sup>16</sup> To the woman He said, “I will greatly multiply Your pain in childbirth, In pain you will bring forth children; Yet your desire will be for your husband, And he will rule over you.”<sup>17</sup> Then to **Adam** He said, “**Because you have listened to the voice of your wife**, and have eaten from the tree about which I **commanded you, saying, ‘You shall not eat** from it’; **Cursed** is the ground **because of you**; In toil you will eat of it All the days of your life.<sup>18</sup> “Both thorns and thistles it shall grow for you; And you will eat the plants of the field; <sup>19</sup> By the **sweat of your face You will eat bread**, Till you **return to the ground**, Because from it you were taken; For you are dust, And to **dust you shall return.**”).
  - i. All of this is Satan’s fault for doing the tempting and humanity’s fault for choosing to believe Satan over the God who created them. Satan and mankind’s sin *broke* the *world*.
  - ii. Thus, the real pandemic is not the Corona virus, but the fact that “all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God” (Rom. 3:23) and the wages of sin is death (Rom. 6:23).

## II. What is the cure for the curse?

- A. From the time of Eve’s and Adam’s sin God spoke to Satan and us of the cure for sin’s curse (Gen. 3:15 – “I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; **he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.**”).
  1. God was here speaking of the struggle that was to follow between Satan and God, and how His coming servant, one particular man (he/his), the Messiah, the Christ, would be *born of woman* and the *heel of His foot* be *wounded* by Satan, which is not a fatal wound, while God’s Christ would *fatally* wound Satan on the *head*.
  2. From that time on God has told us of the world’s brokenness and how His Christ is the answer for Satan’s and sin’s curse with its pain, its strivings, its death from disease, natural disasters, the ravaging of our bodies by age, etc.
- B. God continually pleads with us His creation to believe Him and accept His cure!
  1. This requires that we refuse to believe the lies of Satan concerning who has the answer for life’s ills that tempt us daily.
    - a. Would anyone believe the real answer for COVID-19 is for the foremost expert on this virus to stand before the world without the slightest authority behind his/her words and say, “You shall surely NOT die from the virus!”
    - b. People would think it crazy to accept such a statement, such a blatant **lie**, as the cure!
      - i. Yet, people continue to believe the even greater, more sinister lie of Satan that sin will not kill them, that it will not bring suffering, pain, and eternal death in hell.
      - ii. And once that lie is accepted people spend their lives searching for the curse’ **cure** in the temporal, fleeting things of this world in the form of pleasures, treasures, and power, hoping to hold on to the **false** and **momentary** sense of happiness and security these provide.
    - c. This is done despite Christ’s exhortations concerning this (Matt. 6:19-21 – “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where **moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal,**<sup>20</sup> but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, **where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.**<sup>21</sup> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”).
      - i. Only in heaven can our treasures be secure, not be taken from us!
    - d. If what we have seen and faced in the devastation of the recent tornados and the death brought about by the Corona virus doesn’t help you see that your treasures must be laid up in heaven, what is going to cause you to do that...at least before it is too late?

2. So, I exhort you along with God, our Creator, to believe His answer—that Jesus is the only cure for sin’s curse.
  - a. John 6:35, 47-51 – “Jesus said to them, “I am the **bread of life**; whoever comes to me **shall not hunger**, and whoever believes in me **shall never thirst**...<sup>47</sup> Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes **has eternal life**.<sup>48</sup> I am the **bread of life**.<sup>49</sup> Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died.<sup>50</sup> This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that **one may eat of it and not die**.<sup>51</sup> I am the **living bread** that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, **he will live forever**. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.”).
  - b. 2 Cor. 4:14, 16-18 – “**knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence**...<sup>16</sup> So we **do not lose heart**. Though our outer self is wasting away, **our inner self is being renewed day by day**.<sup>17</sup> For this **light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison**,<sup>18</sup> as we look **not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen**. For the things that are seen are **transient**, but the things that are **unseen are eternal**.”

#### CONCLUSION:

1. All this we see now, and have seen throughout the history of this world, will pass away along with the world itself.
2. The answer is not in the temporal, decaying things of this world, but in Jesus—God’s cure for sin and its curse of suffering, hopelessness, death, and eternal punishment.
3. So, I encourage you to learn the lessons of these trials and know that the only choice you have in finding life, hope, and true happiness amidst this world of sin and suffering is to choose Jesus the Christ to be your Lord and Savior, to put your trust in Him, repenting of your sin, choosing to confess Jesus with your mouth, and being baptized into Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and living your life faithfully to Him.