



Woodmont Beacon

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Flattening the Curve

By: David Weaks

The world is currently in the throes of a terrible pandemic which has ravaged mankind since it was first unleashed by Adam in the Garden of Eden. It is called "sin," and it has shown no signs of "flattening."

No matter how bad a pandemic may be, no disease has ever killed 100% of the population. However, sin is a killer of all mankind. Paul said "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). The man who says he has not sinned has deceived himself (1 John 1:8). Everyone who sins and is not cleansed of it will die (Romans 6:23).

You need to be washed and cleansed from sin. Soap, water, and rubbing alcohol won't do the trick with sin. Sinners need the cleansing power of the blood of Jesus Christ to wash away sin (Hebrews 9:13-14). It is only through faith in Christ (John 8:24), repentance (Acts 17:30), confession of faith (Romans 10:10), and baptism that one can have the blood of Christ applied (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; Romans 6:3-4). When the blood of Jesus has been applied to a sinner, death will pass over that person (1 Corinthians 5:7).

You must protect yourself from infection. Understand though, that no facemask or gloves will suffice to protect you from sin. The inoculation you need is the knowledge of the gospel of Jesus Christ and the doctrine that He and His apostles taught us. Jesus said: "And you shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free" (John 8:32). The thing from which truth will free you is sin (vs. 34). The psalmist said it best: "Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You" (Psalms 119:11).

You must practice social distancing from sin and sinners. While it is true that Jesus ate with publicans and sinners (Matthew 9:10-11), He did not engage in their sinful practices with them. Jesus was there to save them from their sins (vs. 12). Socially distancing yourself from those who encourage you to sin with them is essential. "Do not walk with them," said Solomon (Proverbs 1:15). You must be careful to avoid being unequally yoked together with unbelievers (2 Corinthians 6:14). It should be obvious that those who follow Christ do not walk with those who walk in riotous living (1 Peter 4:4).

Sinners must be placed in quarantine. It is necessary to quarantine the many corruptions that are in the world so they do not spread. The world and its lusts - "the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye, and the pride of life" (1 John 2:15) are all around you, and in order to remain free of their destructiveness you must reject the love of them. It is a basic principle of the Bible that the wicked will always subvert the faith of believers if they are allowed to do so. God required the Jews to quarantine the idolatrous Canaanites by driving them out of the land and by refusing to marry among them (Deuteronomy 7:3-4), otherwise idolatry would spread among the people. Sadly, Israel ignored God and the cancer of idolatry raged among the people of God for centuries (1 Corinthians 10:7).

The Bible, not the CDC, tells you how to be saved from this crooked and perverse generation (Acts 2:40). Nothing else matters more. Perhaps if all men and women who read this article obey God and the gospel of Jesus Christ we can flatten the curve of sin and help many others who we teach to escape from sin.

Woodmont church of Christ

Sunday Morning

Bible Classes for all ages at 9:30
Worship Assembly at 10:30

Sunday Afternoon

Worship Assembly at 5:00

Wednesday Evening

Bible Classes for all ages at 7:30

Evangelist

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Elders

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Welcome visitors!

You are our honored guest. Please take a moment to complete a visitor's card and let us know if there is anything we can do for you in a spiritual way. We would love to study the Bible further with you or talk about the church here at Woodmont if you are new to the area or would like to become a member.

Lessons from Letters

By: Steven Locklair

Don't give up and be frustrated in this crisis. Whatever we suffer now in this world will be nothing compared to what we will be enjoying in eternal life. Focus on the unseen things which are eternal, instead of the temporary things that will perish, and it will lift your spirits! You can do it!

"Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day. For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal." 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

Have these circumstances that we find ourselves in today turned out for the greater progress of the gospel in our lives and influence others to boldly speak the truth to others so they might be saved or have we caused others to be discouraged? May God help us all to examine our hearts and be zealous to do His will, not our own will.

"Now I want you to know, brethren, that my circumstances have turned out for the greater progress of the gospel, so that my imprisonment in the cause of Christ has become well known throughout the whole praetorian guard and to everyone else, and that most of the brethren, trusting in the Lord because of my imprisonment, have far more courage to speak the word of God without fear." Philippians 1:12-14

The apostle Paul learned to be content even while he was in prison as he is encouraging the brethren to be joyful. Have you and I learned to be content in these circumstances, or frustrated? You and I can do it! Let us encourage each other to be content. We learn that from Christ.

"Not that I speak from want, for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am." Philippians 4:11

Even though I haven't seen most of you in person for awhile (like Paul hadn't seen the Colossian brethren), as Christians, remember that our hearts are knit together in love through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. May we treasure His word in our hearts toward that heavenly home! We can do it!

"that their hearts may be encouraged, having been knit together in love" Colossians 2:2

Noteworthy News

-**Gayle Webster** is about the same in rehab. Pray for her pain level and recovery & encourage her.

-**Shirley Thompson** is in a lot of pain and hopes to get stronger medicine,

-**Bill Moore** is in isolation for 14 days after his physical therapist tested positive for COVID-19.

-**Dennis Scroggins** will begin an oral chemotherapy soon after receiving word that his cancer has returned.

-Recovering from surgeries: **Bruce Tilley, Joy Narmore, Gary & Gayle Webster, Julie Perkins**

-Several facilities are in lockdown. This affects the **Moore's & Evelyn Anderson**.

Remember **Julie Perkins, Tom & Shirley Thompson, Andrew & Jennifer Locklair, David & Robert Jones, Brett's mom, Katy Jones, Barbara Johnson, Dottie Burns, June Moore, Stan Cox, Kevin & Cassie Williams, Dennis Scroggins, Gaylon Brown, Bruce Tilley, Bonnie Gary, Marie Bolton, Ron Daley, Jan King, Lonell Plyler, Melissa Simpson, Jan Gay, Dora Frisbee, Jenny Hardwick, Donna Lewis, Jackie Branch, Paul Simpson, Melodie Smith, Chip Foster, Terry Jordan, Auree Noll, Elaine Locklair**

- **The elders** stated that we will be meeting at the building for the next 2-3 weeks in a short service at the building at 10:30 to partake of the Lord's supper, sing a few hymns, with a short exhortation. At 5 PM we will study together on WebEx. On Wednesday at 7:30 PM we will study Daniel 8 on WebEx.



Prayer Requests

Sick/Shut-In:

- Ada Scott
- Bill and June Moore
- Jan Gay
- Gary & Gayle Webster
- Dennis Scroggins
- Katy Jones
- Kevin Williams, Sr.
- Joy Narmore

Our Elders

- Bruce Tilley
- Brett Narmore

Our Deacons

- Jeff Gary
- Gary Webster
- Kyle Austin

Calendar

Men We Support

- Dennis Scroggins