



This Blog has been started because of the need to communicate to God's people in these days of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic that has brought our entire world to a screeching halt. At the hour of this writing, there are 372,563 total confirmed cases of COVID-19 in 168 countries/regions; 101,554 have recovered; 16,381 have died. There is no vaccine/cure/antiviral treatment for this virus. Those at particularly high risk are the elderly and those with serious underlying chronic diseases. The threat of strain on our health-care providers as well as the economic strain as businesses are closed and commerce comes to a standstill is instilling great fear in people's lives. We are living in a time of global crisis.

What are the people of GOD to do in these days of crisis and uncertainty? Unfortunately, because of the spread of the virus between people in close contact, much of the Church is not able to gather together in Corporate Worship. Thankfully, in our day of technology, many churches are able to Livestream a type of "service" that will provide an opportunity for Family Worship in the home. However, we who congregate together each week know this is not a substitute for the actual, physical gathering of the ecclesia — where we worship our Great GOD and King together in Spirit and in Truth through the singing and preaching of the Word. This weekly time together strengthens and encourages us as Believers to persevere in Christ and to stimulate one another to love GOD and our neighbor and to do the will and works of the LORD.

There is no doubt that this Pandemic has slowed down our busy lifestyle. We now have more time for our families — in fact, many are now spending quality, communication time together — even sitting down to dinner together. Families are praying together. Last Sunday, many husbands led their family in prayer and Scripture reading before tuning into their church's livestream sermon. What a marvelous opportunity for husbands to take this lead in the spiritual life of their families! For many households, this could be a time of strengthening for the family.

What about taking this opportunity individually to be still...to cease striving...and know that GOD is GOD!?

I understand the draw to constantly check the news to gain knowledge of what is happening with this virus. I've done it myself. But, *more knowledge about the virus will not give me a right understanding nor a right response on how to truly live in the Light and Hope of Christ in these difficult days of uncertainty.* Knowledge is information gained through experience or reasoning. What we desperately need today is wisdom (how to apply knowledge and discern what is true, right and lasting). True wisdom can only come from GOD. We can have knowledge without wisdom. Knowing facts about GOD and the Bible does not necessarily mean we have wisdom. James 1:5 tells us that if any of us lacks wisdom, we should ask GOD. As we read and study our Bibles to gain more knowledge of GOD/HIS character/HIS will, we at the same time ask GOD for wisdom to apply HIS Word to our lives in order to live/love/trust/obey HIM to the glory of HIS name and the accomplishment of HIS purposes.

Let's all turn off the news for a few hours each day and spend time alone with THE One and Only Infinite, Omniscient GOD of the Universe. Seek HIM in HIS Word. Seek HIM in prayer. Pray that the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD as the waters cover the sea (Habakkuk 2:14). By GOD's grace, as HIS people, **let's use this time of testing to develop a deeper intimacy with our LORD** wherein our trust and confidence in HIM grows deep and HIS Divine purposes are accomplished among us... that HE weaves into our souls *a right understanding* and *a right response* to the times in which we live.

"Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD and whose trust IS the LORD. For he will be like a tree planted by a stream and will not fear when the heat comes; but its leaves will be green, and it will not be anxious in a year of drought nor cease to yield fruit." (Jeremiah 17:7-8)



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