

## Lessons from a Pandemic

### Introduction:

- A. Of course our lives have been changed by the Covid-19 pandemic
  - 1. its effect has been worldwide - the latest number of US citizens to die is - so we wash our hands with soap, etc.
    - a. this grabs our attention and occupies our mind.
    - b. lets us look at a bigger picture
  - 2. one of many things that will continue to happen in our world!
  
- B. What about the past?
  - 1. 2004 - tsunami in the Indian Ocean killed 214,000 in 14 countries
    - a. have we forgotten? Where was God? Has he abandoned us?
    - b. many survivors still have guilt trips. Why did I survive?
  - 2. 1900 - Galveston, TX. - 8 to 12,000 perished in the hurricane without warning
  - 3. 1957 - worldwide flu pandemic - killed 2 million worldwide and 116,000 in the US? Where was God? Asian flu
  - 4. 2011 - Joplin, MS 158 people died in that storm- 5 were in a hospital - does not God have any mercy? Can't you stop the wind?
  - 5. 2012 - Sandy Hook - a gunman slew 20 children (ages 6,7) and 6 adults- remember? Where is God? On his throne in the same place where he was in Matthew 2:16 - Herod slew innocent children - two years and under.
  - 5. 2020 - Cookeville, TN -Kimberlin family died in Cookeville, TN
  - 6. Do you believe in God? Where is he? Still in heaven
  
- C. What is he teaching us?

### I. He has Control over All

- A. He can stop both the wind a a virus - what what is his answer?
  - 1. Romans 8:20- the context (Rom. 8:1)
    - a. speaks of creation - it was subjected to "vanity" in hope
    - b. a very serious, crippling virus - when sin entered the world something happened
  - 2. Our condition: we are subjected to futility and vanity
    - a. everything we try to do in life we fall back -
    - b. God is allowing this!
    - c. this message of futility has brought our nation to its knees
    - d. no NFL this season! what no NBA? No March madness?

- e. economic increase that was best in all of history! Riding high - jobless rate down, but something we cannot see stop us in our tracks! Effecting us mentally, etc
  - f. "I feel futile" - this has happened before - again!
  - g. THIS IS OUR CONDITION!
3. Not willingly: subjected since sin entered the world - decay and death
    - a. not just on the ungodly, but even saints are suffering
    - b. no matter what we do to take care of ourselves, the universal human condition is decay and death - God helps us see this in remarkable ways
  4. God's design - subjected in hope! (1 Tim. 1:1; Col, 1:3-5)
    - a. "subjected" -i.e placed under something - futility
    - b. God is saying to man: "look to me"!
    - c. Jesus, neither the stock market nor our comfortable lives, is our hope! In heaven
    - d. this life will be futile - we will decay and we will die!
    - e. look to God and Jesus for hope!
  5. Our focus: waiting in hope for the redemption of our body (Rom. 8:21-23)
    - a. from corruption to liberty! (Vs. 21)
    - b. waiting for the redemption of our body (vs. 23) our hope!
    - c. no matter how rich or scientific, or power - you will die!
  6. thus, the lesson - vs. 20 all in this together!

B. What did Jesus say?

1. Lk. 13:1-5 - will you all perish?
  - a. people massacred by Pilate - or a tower fell
  - b. people died! How did God handle this?
  - c. it was not because they were more sinners than the rest that they died!
  - d. but, message was repentance- concerned about the spiritual condition of men - all in his together
  - e. will you look to the only one who can give you hope?
2. Roman 8:35: nothing can separate us from God's love
  - a. "tribulation" - look at the list! "Persecution" - but much of this simply the condition of humanity!
  - b. "anguish", "distress"- cannot separates us
  - c. neither can "peril" - (2 Cor. 11:26) - when our priority set upon God is heaven - cannot be separated from God's love. When is this is our focus, we can endure!
3. God has not abandoned us! Look up in God and Christ- he is there!
  - a. tsunami- of one woman who held two children, but had to let one of them go and embrace the other!

- b. or another who lost her only child because she has no energy!
- c. do the best we can! Remember God still loves us!

**Conclusion:**

- A. There is still joy in our hearts, because our hope is in Christ! (Rm. 8:18)
- B. Talk to a neighbor- this is the condition of humanity! But, hope in Christ!
- C. The victory! In God! (1 Pt. 1:3-7)