

Coronavirus and the Church

Selected Scriptures

Introduction

Last week I woke up about 3 am thinking that this Coronavirus pandemic is surreal. Two weeks ago, would you have ever thought that States would be going into lockdown. Businesses would close indefinitely, Restaurants would not be allowed to have dining inside, Major conferences would be canceled. Sporting events would be postponed for months and that churches would be reduced to live-streaming there services while Pastors preach to empty building. And all of this not just in America, but all over the World.

And never would I have thought that there would have been a desperate panic to buy toilet paper.

Why the worldwide run on toilet tissue? It doesn't treat coronavirus. It's not a staple you can store for a quarantine like peanut butter or canned corn. Toilet tissue isn't soap or M&M's, so why are so many people rushing to buy up every last roll of toilet tissue?

Fear, says Professor Justin Wolfers, the eminent economist at the University of Michigan - a rational fear, he told us, in that if everybody else buys toilet paper before you do, you won't be able to. So you run out for toilet paper not because you fear society is about to crumble but because you fear others fear this.

Fear of a run on toilet paper, like a run on banks, creates an actual run.

The professor suggests a federal strategic toilet paper reserve be created - millions, even billions of rolls of toilet tissue buried somewhere (in an) impenetrable (bunker) ...to reassure Americans there is toilet tissue for all in America - no need to surge into stores to grasp for every last roll. I'm not sure if I really mean it, Professor Wolfers told us, but I'm sure it would work.

Why Is There A Worldwide Run On Toilet Tissue Amid The Coronavirus?
March 7, 2020 10:20 AM ET
Heard on [Weekend Edition Saturday](#)

The reality is true, what the professor says. Fear has gripped large populations of people. The Toilet paper grab is just a fruit of the real issue.

The uncertainty of the future.

their jobs, their money, their retirement, and their health.

fear leads to anxiety that can lead to depression and a host of other problems.

Whether you believe the pandemic is real, or imagined, whether you believe it was a weapon of China or a government attempt to seize your business and your freedom.

One thing for sure. It's real for millions of people. They are afraid and many don't have answers and don't have hope.

This is not the first time the world has faced something like this.

The influenza pandemic of 1918-1919 killed more people than the Great War, known today as World War I (WWI), at somewhere between 20 and 40 million people. It has been cited as the most devastating epidemic in recorded world history. More people died of influenza in a single year than in four-years of the Black Death Bubonic Plague from 1347 to 1351. Known as "Spanish Flu" or "La Grippe" the influenza of 1918-1919 was a global disaster.

In the fall of 1918 the Great War in Europe was winding down and peace was on the horizon. The Americans had joined in the fight, bringing the Allies closer to victory against the Germans. Deep

within the trenches these men lived through some of the most brutal conditions of life, which it seemed could not be any worse. Then, in pockets across the globe, something erupted that seemed as benign as the common cold. The influenza of that season, however, was far more than a cold. In the two years that this scourge ravaged the earth, a fifth of the world's population was infected. The flu was most deadly for people ages 20 to 40. This pattern of morbidity was unusual for influenza which is usually a killer of the elderly and young children. It infected 28% of all Americans (Tice). An estimated 675,000 Americans died of influenza during the pandemic, ten times as many as in the world war. Of the U.S. soldiers who died in Europe, half of them fell to the influenza virus and not to the enemy (Deseret News). An estimated 43,000 servicemen mobilized for WWI died of influenza (Crosby). 1918 would go down as unforgettable year of suffering and death and yet of peace. As noted in the Journal of the American Medical Association final edition of 1918:

"The 1918 has gone: a year momentous as the termination of the most cruel war in the annals of the human race; a year which marked, the end at least for a time, of man's destruction of man; unfortunately a year in which developed a most fatal infectious disease causing the death of hundreds of thousands of human beings. Medical science for four and one-half years devoted itself to putting men on the firing line and keeping them there. Now it must turn with its whole might to combating the greatest enemy of all--infectious disease," (12/28/1918).

The effect of the influenza epidemic was so severe that the average life span in the US was depressed by 10 years.

People were struck with illness on the street and died rapid deaths. One anecdote shared of 1918 was of four women playing bridge together late into the night. Overnight, three of the women died from influenza (Hoagg). Others told stories of people on their way to work suddenly developing the flu and dying within hours (Henig). One physician writes that patients with seemingly ordinary influenza would rapidly "develop the most viscous type of pneumonia that has ever been seen" and later when cyanosis appeared in the

patients, "it is simply a struggle for air until they suffocate," (Grist, 1979). Another physician recalls that the influenza patients "died struggling to clear their airways of a blood-tinged froth that sometimes gushed from their nose and mouth," (Starr, 1976). The physicians of the time were helpless against this powerful agent of influenza. In 1918 children would skip rope to the rhyme (Crawford):

*I had a little bird,
Its name was Enza.
I opened the window,
And in-flu-enza.*

Lesson:

1. Focus your mind
2. Don't Worry
3. Trust God
4. Love One Another

5. Proclaim the Gospel

1. Focus your mind

This is the battleground. This is where it is won or lost. All of our emotion, all of our fear, all of our anxiety. All of our despair and depression start right here in the mind.

This is why it is referred to so much in the Bible. The heart would have us be deceived. The World would have us distracted. The devil would have us blinded.

But we have the light of the truth. We know the Truth giver. We can have true discernment in the midst of chaos.

When the World is filled with panic, we can remain calm.

When the World is filled with fear, we can have Trust and assurance.

When the World is filled with uncertainty we can have the foundation that is sure. An anchor that holds.

But this all begins in the MIND

2 Corinthians 10:3–5 (NKJV)

³ For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. ⁴ For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, ⁵ casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,

Ephesians 6:10–18 (NKJV)

¹⁰ Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*. ¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

¹⁴ Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵ and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; ¹⁶ above all, taking the shield of

faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. ¹⁷ And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; ¹⁸ praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—

Colossians 3:1–4 (NKJV)

3 If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. ² Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. ³ For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ *who is our life* appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

1 John 2:15–17 (NKJV)

¹⁵ Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For all that *is* in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. ¹⁷ And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

1 Peter 1:3–9 (NKJV)

³ Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, ⁵ who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

⁶ In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷ that the genuineness of your faith, *being* much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, ⁸ whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see *Him*, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, ⁹ receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of *your* souls.

1. Focus your mind

2. Don't Worry

For some reason, we think of doubt and worry as "small" sins. But when a Christian displays unbelief...or an inability to cope with life, he is saying to the world, "My God cannot be trusted," and that kind of disrespect makes one guilty of a fundamental error, the heinous sin of dishonoring God. That is no small sin.

- *John MacArthur*

Philippians 4:6–7 (NKJV)

⁶ Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; ⁷ and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Matthew 6:19–34 (NKJV)

¹⁹ “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰ but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

22 “The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light.
23 But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great *is* that darkness!

24 “No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.

25 “Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing?

26 Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? 27 Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature?

Worry is like a rocking chair-it keeps you moving but doesn't get you anywhere.

[Share Quote](#)

- *Corrie Ten Boom*

28 “So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; 29 and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.

³⁰ Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, *will He* not much more *clothe* you, O you of little faith?

³¹ “Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ ³² For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. ³³ But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. ³⁴ Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day *is* its own trouble.

1. Focus your mind
2. Don't Worry

3. Trust God

The complete opposite of worry is Trust in God. We don't no the future but God does. We know He knows the future because He has ordained whatsoever comes to pass. All is in His Hands.

Trust in essential in the Christian life. You start by Trusting Him as Savior and Lord.

You live by faith, but you also walk by faith not sight.

Proverbs 3:5–10 (NKJV)

- ⁵ Trust in the Lord with all your heart,
And lean not on your own understanding;
⁶ In all your ways acknowledge Him,
And He shall direct your paths.
- ⁷ Do not be wise in your own eyes;
Fear the Lord and depart from evil.
- ⁸ It will be health to your flesh,
And strength to your bones.
- ⁹ Honor the Lord with your possessions,
And with the firstfruits of all your increase;
¹⁰ So your barns will be filled with plenty,
And your vats will overflow with new wine.

Job 13:15 (NKJV)

- ¹⁵ Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him.
Even so, I will defend my own ways before Him.

Psalms 37:3–7 (NKJV)

- ³ Trust in the Lord, and do good;
Dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness.

- 4 Delight yourself also in the Lord,
And He shall give you the desires of your heart.
- 5 Commit your way to the Lord,
Trust also in Him,
And He shall bring *it* to pass.
- 6 He shall bring forth your righteousness as the
light,
And your justice as the noonday.
- 7 Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for Him;
Do not fret because of him who prospers in his
way,
Because of the man who brings wicked schemes
to pass.

Psalm 62:8 (NKJV)

- 8 Trust in Him at all times, you people;
Pour out your heart before Him;
God *is* a refuge for us.

Selah

Psalm 115:11 (NKJV)

- 11 You who fear the Lord, trust in the Lord;
He *is* their help and their shield.

Psalm 115:13–15 (NKJV)

- 13 He will bless those who fear the Lord,
Both small and great.

¹⁴ May the Lord give you increase more and more,
You and your children.

¹⁵ *May you be* blessed by the Lord,
Who made heaven and earth.

Psalm 146:3 (NKJV)

³ Do not put your trust in princes,
Nor in a son of man, in whom *there is* no help.

Psalm 146:5 (NKJV)

⁵ Happy *is he* who *has* the God of Jacob for his
help,
Whose hope *is* in the Lord his God,

Isaiah 12:2 (NKJV)

² Behold, God *is* my salvation,
I will trust and not be afraid;
'For Yah, the Lord, *is* my strength and song;
He also has become my salvation.' ”

Isaiah 26:3–4 (NKJV)

³ You will keep *him* in perfect peace,
Whose mind *is* stayed on *You*,
Because he trusts in *You*.

⁴ Trust in the Lord forever,
For in Yah, the Lord, *is* everlasting strength.

Jeremiah 17:7–8 (NKJV)

- 7 “Blessed *is* the man who trusts in the Lord,
And whose hope is the Lord.
- 8 For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters,
Which spreads out its roots by the river,
And will not fear when heat comes;
But its leaf will be green,
And will not be anxious in the year of drought,
Nor will cease from yielding fruit.

Romans 8:28 (NKJV)

²⁸ And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to *His* purpose.

C H Spurgeon

“God is too good to be unkind and He is too wise to be mistaken. And when we cannot trace His hand, we must trust His heart.”

This is a great time to be reminded that you are not in control of your life. Death is an appointment you will keep, You will not be late, like some of you are late for church, you won't miss this time.

To be clear, you can take all the vitamins, and essential oils and exercise all you won't, but if God has decreed your coming home. Your coming!!

God can sovereignly raise up a virus and remove as many as he desires from this planet.

Job 2:10 (NKJV)

¹⁰ But he said to her, "You speak as one of the foolish women speaks. Shall we indeed accept good from God, and shall we not accept adversity?" In all this Job did not sin with his lips.

Isaiah 45:7 (NKJV)

⁷ I form the light and create darkness,
I make peace and create calamity;
I, the Lord, do all these *things*.'

Amos 3:6 (NKJV)

⁶ If a trumpet is blown in a city, will not the people be afraid?
If there is calamity in a city, will not the Lord have done *it*?

We need to keep in mind the reality here. This can get lost in the emotion of the moment. It can be

forgotten that we as a nation have sinned against God in a most severe way.

God will not be mocked,

He is righteous, and sin will be judged

While non essential businesses are being shut down, Many abortion clinics remain open.

While many are rightly concerned for the well being of people, very little is being said about the honor of God.

False prophets and TV evangelist mock God and His Word, by seeking to profit from there blasphemous words and life.

Although I would not claim to know the mind of the Lord on this, we all need to be reminded that this could be the Judgement of God that all of us know is coming.

Jeremiah 18:1–12 (NKJV)

18 The word which came to Jeremiah from the Lord, saying: ²“Arise and go down to the potter’s house, and there I will cause you to hear My words.” ³ Then I went down to the potter’s house, and there he was, making something at the wheel. ⁴ And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the

potter; so he made it again into another vessel, as it seemed good to the potter to make.

⁵ Then the word of the Lord came to me, saying:
⁶ “O house of Israel, can I not do with you as this potter?” says the Lord. “Look, as the clay *is* in the potter’s hand, so *are* you in My hand, O house of Israel! ⁷ The instant I speak concerning a nation and concerning a kingdom, to pluck up, to pull down, and to destroy *it*, ⁸ if that nation against whom I have spoken turns from its evil, I will relent of the disaster that I thought to bring upon it. ⁹ And the instant I speak concerning a nation and concerning a kingdom, to build and to plant *it*, ¹⁰ if it does evil in My sight so that it does not obey My voice, then I will relent concerning the good with which I said I would benefit it.

¹¹ “Now therefore, speak to the men of Judah and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, saying, ‘Thus says the Lord: “Behold, I am fashioning a disaster and devising a plan against you. Return now every one from his evil way, and make your ways and your doings good.” ’ ”

Ezekiel 14:12–20(NKJV)

¹² The word of the Lord came again to me, saying:
¹³ “Son of man, when a land sins against Me by

persistent unfaithfulness, I will stretch out My hand against it; I will cut off its supply of bread, send famine on it, and cut off man and beast from it.

¹⁴ Even *if* these three men, Noah, Daniel, and Job, were in it, they would deliver *only* themselves by their righteousness,” says the Lord God.

¹⁵ “If I cause wild beasts to pass through the land, and they empty it, and make it so desolate that no man may pass through because of the beasts,

¹⁶ even *though* these three men *were* in it, *as I live*,” says the Lord God, “they would deliver neither sons nor daughters; only they would be delivered, and the land would be desolate.

¹⁷ “Or *if* I bring a sword on that land, and say, ‘Sword, go through the land,’ and I cut off man and beast from it, ¹⁸ even *though* these three men *were* in it, *as I live*,” says the Lord God, “they would deliver neither sons nor daughters, but only they themselves would be delivered.

¹⁹ “Or *if* I send a pestilence into that land and pour out My fury on it in blood, and cut off from it man and beast, ²⁰ even *though* Noah, Daniel, and Job *were* in it, *as I live*,” says the Lord God, “they would deliver neither son nor daughter; they would deliver *only* themselves by their righteousness.”

So we must lean heavily upon the God of Scripture,
The Sovereign, Omnipotent God, who controls, the
molecule and the man
the virus and the vermin
the sickness and the sinner
We put our Trust in God, not man.
He is our sustainer and Creator.
He is our Savior and our Sovereign

1. Focus your mind
2. Don't Worry
3. Trust God

4. Love one Another

It is critical during these days ahead, that the church be the church. In these dark and depressing days for so many in the World, the Light of the church can shine the Brightest. This the time for us to show the world what Love is. What Christ taught us.

John 13:34–35 (NKJV)

³⁴ **A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love**

one another. ³⁵ By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

John 15:12–13 (NKJV)

¹² This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends.

John 15:17 (NKJV)

¹⁷ These things I command you, that you love one another.

Romans 12:10 (NKJV)

¹⁰ Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another;

1 John 3:16–18 (NKJV)

¹⁶ By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down *our* lives for the brethren. ¹⁷ But whoever has this world’s goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up

his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?

¹⁸ My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.

This is the heart of God

Deuteronomy 15:7–11 (NKJV)

⁷ “If there is among you a poor man of your brethren, within any of the gates in your land which the Lord your God is giving you, you shall not harden your heart nor shut your hand from your poor brother, ⁸ but you shall open your hand wide to him and willingly lend him sufficient for his need, whatever he needs. ⁹ Beware lest there be a wicked thought in your heart, saying, ‘The seventh year, the year of release, is at hand,’ and your eye be evil against your poor brother and you give him nothing, and he cry out to the Lord against you, and it become sin among you. ¹⁰ You shall surely give to him, and your heart should not be grieved when you give to him, because for this thing the Lord your God will bless you in all your works and in all to which you put your hand. ¹¹ For the poor will never cease from the land; therefore I command you, saying,

‘You shall open your hand wide to your brother, to your poor and your needy, in your land.’

Leviticus 25:35–38 (NKJV)

³⁵ ‘If one of your brethren becomes poor, and falls into poverty among you, then you shall help him, like a stranger or a sojourner, that he may live with you. ³⁶ Take no usury or interest from him; but fear your God, that your brother may live with you. ³⁷ You shall not lend him your money for usury, nor lend him your food at a profit. ³⁸ I *am* the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, to give you the land of Canaan *and* to be your God.

Proverbs 19:17 (NKJV)

¹⁷ He who has pity on the poor lends to the Lord,
And He will pay back what he has given.

The church practiced this

Acts 2:44–45 (NKJV)

⁴⁴ Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, ⁴⁵ and sold their possessions and

goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need.

1 Timothy 6:17–19 (NKJV)

¹⁷ Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy. ¹⁸ Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, ¹⁹ storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life

Hebrews 13:16 (NKJV)

¹⁶ But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

Galatians 6:2 (NKJV)

² Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

1 Corinthians 12:26–27 (NKJV)

²⁶ And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with *it*; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with *it*.

²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.

Galatians 6:9–11 (NKJV)

⁹ And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.

¹⁰ Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.

Philippians 2:3–5 (NKJV)

³ *Let nothing be done* through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. ⁴ Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

⁵ Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,

1. Focus your mind
2. Don't Worry
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5. Proclaim the Gospel

There is a common word in the NT that refers to the preaching of the Gospel.

Its κηρυσσω

to announce (herald) v. — to make known (important news) publicly and loudly (as if a herald).

Mark 16:15 (NKJV)

¹⁵ And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.

We don't need to debate , or argue. Just proclaim. Herald. Announce. Let them know the claims of Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:20 (NKJV)

²⁰ Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore *you* on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.

1 Peter 3:15 (NKJV)

¹⁵ But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always *be* ready to *give* a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;

If this crisis continues, we are going to need to be ready to give words of hope in the gospel.

The church is not the hope.

The preacher is not the hope.

The vaccines or medications are not the hope.

The Gospel is that saves, forgives, grants new life and a new outlook on everything.

Romans 8:35–39 (NKJV)

³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *Shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written:

*“For Your sake we are killed all day long;
We are accounted as sheep for the
slaughter.”*

³⁷ Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able

to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

C H Spurgeon

I have heard of some good old woman in a cottage, who had nothing but a piece of bread and a little water. Lifting up her hands, she said as a blessing, "What! All this, and Christ too?"