

Dangers of Covid-19 (Col 1:27-28)

Int: You may feel as if this past month as if you have been a prisoner in your own home and yard, but the Apostle Paul, nearly 2000 years ago, was a prisoner in a Roman prison. Paul could have used his time to focus on the danger he was in physically. He could have filled his mind with the accusations of His enemies, the hardships of his imprisonment, and the ultimate outcome of his sentence. All those things were very real, but in our text, Paul focuses upon Christ and warns others of the dangers that detract from focus on Him. Having considered the blessings that C19 were bringing to us as a church as followers of Christ, today I want to warn of some of the dangers that we now face in the midst of this pandemic.

I. The Danger of focusing just on the temporal and not the spiritual

Php 1:21 For to me, to live [is] Christ, and to die [is] gain.

App: *How much time each day are you giving to C19 news and how much time are you giving to the Good news of God's Word? What occupies and consumes your thoughts each day? Do arise thinking, "how you can serve Christ today"?*

II. The Danger of following men and the world around us

Ps 119:105 Your word [is] a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.

App: *Though everything around us seems to be shaken, the word of the Lord stands firm. Don't be quick to accept whatever the world says and unquestionably follow the herd and so-called experts.*

III. The Danger of thinking the consequences of sin can be avoided.

Ro 6:23 For the wages of sin [is] death...

App: *Beloved let the song on our lips be that which the psalmist sang in, Ps 20:7 Some [trust] in chariots, and some in horses; But we will remember the name of the LORD our God. In God alone we must trust! He is accomplishing His secret will in this crisis and it won't cease until He says enough.*

IV. The Danger of thinking just about ourselves and not others.

Php 2:4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

App: *We are so prone to be self-centered and self-focused by nature, that the added mandated isolation and social distancing can be used as an excuse to not be concerned with the interests of others. While the present circumstances may call for these measures, there are many ways in which we can and must reach out and help one another. **II**- Phone calls, texts, & ZOOM meetings, are ways to reach out!*

V. The Danger of thinking we know what God is doing

Job 11:7 Can you search out the deep things of God? & Ro 11:33 Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!

App: *Instead of trying to discern what God is saying and doing in the C19 crisis, you better spend more time reading what God is saying in His word. Unbelievers, the time is short and the Lord is coming again. This virus manifests just how broken this world is and in need of redemption. 1Ti 1:15 This [is] a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save...*

VI. The Danger of standing as judge over the actions of others

Ro 14:13 Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather resolve this, not to put a stumbling block or a cause to fall in [our] brother's way.

App: *Lord willing we shall soon begin a phased return to public services. Some think we should wait; some think we should never have stopped meeting, and some just aren't sure what to think. When we meet, some will continue to isolate, others will be tempted to ignore or think foolish your pastor's directives. This crisis has many aspects and none of us are experts. What we need is love and humility. As much as we might wish it, we can't turn the clock back and live like C19 never existed. [Found on a RB site](#), All of us need to calm down. Remember that until you've walked in someone else's shoes, you should be careful in your judgements and subsequent harsh words.*

VII. The Danger of discontentment

Php 4:11 I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content:

App: *Have you learned to be content? Content in isolation? Content in your work? Php 3:8 Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ. There is nothing more important!*