

Good Friday Meditation 2020

In order for there to be an Easter there had to be a Good Friday. The reason for this is obvious. Unless Jesus had died He could not have been raised! Our teaching says that Jesus died as our substitute in payment for our sins. This is true and foundational to everything else....but it was also more than this. As His disciples, it is also a call for US to die to OURselves (i.e., saying NO to living for our own interests rather than those of God and our neighbor) and to be resurrected unto a new & invigorated life in Jesus, where God's most holy and effective will is being doing. Death in the ultimate sense really amounts to a matter of living **apart** from God....whether for a time or for forever. Life is ultimately a matter of living **with** Him (who is Himself the source of life) & **in** His power & grace. We must die to death that we might live the life that Christ wants to share with us. After all, Jesus said *“this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, & Jesus Christ whom You have sent.”* (John 17:3)

And now for my very fallible (but not thereby untrue) **application:** How does this affect our lives under the Coronavirus19 threat? How should American followers of Jesus handle this pandemic? Well, since the Scriptures don't give us the cure and nature has yet to reveal it, we might very well come up with different strategies to defeat it. Some might opt for restricting everyone to their own domiciles for the duration of the crisis. Others, with better grounds in my estimation, might choose to handle it like we have handled other pandemics....by allowing the healthy to be infected (thus developing a “herd” immunity) and sheltering those at risk. Regardless, there would be **NO** panic! Because there would be **NO** fear! And there would also be **NO** forced compliance. Is this a problem? Only if there is **NO God** & thereby, without the safety Christ's protection provides us in this dangerous world. Our society at large has relegated God and the biblical testimony concerning what He has done and is doing to the sphere of wishful thinking, with no recourse to Him or His Word on the level of knowledge. So what are we left with? Potentially faulty findings enacted by a state that is desperately trying to take the place of the sovereign God they have relegated to the Land of Oz! It is impossible to be safe and free in a dangerous world without a God who transcends our very real limitations. When our God-given rights & responsibilities are being sacrificed on the altar of fear & panic by the very government we created to protect them, it may be time to rethink our commitment! As those living under the protection of Jesus the Messiah we have no grounds to fear....but this is not to say that we may not have grounds to, from love for our neighbor and for those who lead us, **resist!** There is no greater enemy for those in power who seek to control others than those who have already died & are living under the wisdom and protection of a good, loving and omnipotent God. Such enemies may be persecuted but they cannot be killed....for they have already died, to their fears, concerns, joys and sorrows and are alive only to the truth that defines reality which is found only in the heart of Jesus Christ as that heart bleeds out in love for all of His creation. A love that will **DIE**.....that everything & everyone else may **LIVE!** A love in which we, as His disciples, are invested....forever and ever! And **THIS** is what it **means** to be **alive!**

Happy Good Friday!