

What is Government?

By Steve Huston



When we hear the word government, most people think solely of civil government—like Washington D.C. or the State Capitol. That’s a problematic and very limited view. Our founding fathers recognized several other legitimate governments, **each with their own specific role and realm of authority**. Such a list includes: self, family, and church governments, as well as the local, state, and national governments that we so frequently think of.

Most don’t recognize the importance of self, family, or church governments and foolishly relinquish our rights and our freedoms, our responsibilities and control, to a very hungry civil government. With head bowed and eyes closed, foolishly sacrificing these precious gifts from our Creator at the altar of government and convenience, we haven’t noticed its expansion, breaking free from the Constitutional chains with which our founding fathers wisely restrained it.

“What is our civil government?” is an important question to always keep before us; during times of crises that is all the more true, as government may decide to flex its muscles or overstep its bounds for “the good of the people.” So, for the American people, what is our civil government?

For starters, let me state unequivocally what the government is not. **It is NOT our savior.** It’s not simply that governing body

which occupies our state’s or nation’s capitol either. We are civilly governed, first and foremost, by a prestigious and Biblically-based document called The Constitution of the United States of America. Much ink and much blood have been spilt in bringing, preserving, and defending this governing document to the American people. Although under constant attack by enemies, it is still our governing document today.

Our Founders held it in high regard: Thomas Jefferson: **“Whensever the General Government assumes undelegated powers, its acts are unauthoritative, void, and of no force.”** John Jay, first Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, explains the tie between the Constitution and our liberty. **“Every member of the state ought diligently to read and to study the Constitution of his country and teach the rising generation to be free. By knowing their rights they will sooner perceive when they’re violated and be the better prepared to defend and assert them.”**

The only way to limit federal government is to put responsibility and reward back into the correct realm of those aforementioned legitimate governments and to limit civil government to its enumerated powers.

We the People need to be attentive and discerning. As we’ve allowed our governing bodies to step outside the bounds of the

Constitution, we’ve seen our freedoms erode. Sometimes giving up liberty for the sake of perceived safety; other times trading it for perceived financial gain; every time one of these cost of freedom transactions are made, we must realize that it is near impossible to regain those liberties, creating an ever-growing Frankenstein’s monster that we and our posterity are forced to live with or be enslaved to.

Liberty Counsel’s Mat Staver aptly warns: *“What we do or allow today in the name of a crisis sets a precedent for the future. I am not referring to the declaration of a national emergency which allows the government to cut through the bureaucracy. President Trump’s press conference Friday (3/13) flanked by experts and leaders of private industry was very good. What I am talking about is the restrictions on civil and religious freedom. ... And here in the US, government leaders are restricting gatherings of 100 or 250 or more. There is no empirical evidence for these numbers. ... I have not the slightest bit of fear over this virus. I am very concerned, however, at the reaction of people and government leaders to it. We must be very careful not to set precedent today that we regret tomorrow.”*

In each situation we face, we need this balanced three-fold view: immediate concern, importance of long-term liberty, and eternity (God’s Word, sovereignty, and glory).

Personal Note from the President



Philip B. Haney is dead at age 66. Harsh intro, isn't it? Yet it is the harsh reality. Phil died of a gunshot wound to the chest near his home in Plymouth, California on February 21. The first word coming out of the Armando County Sheriff was that it was a suicide. Under public outcry protesting the quick opinion, the county sheriff clarified that a thorough examination would be executed. Over a month has transpired and no further comment has been communicated from authorities.

We've read it and heard it adamantly repeated from those who knew Phil that Phil Haney would not have committed suicide. One notable friend of his is Republican Congressman Louis Gohmert, 1st Congressional seat, Texas who spoke for over 40 minutes on the U.S. House floor on the exemplary life and death of a man who he called one of the best of them all. He told the House that, as a deeply committed Christian, Phil would never have taken his own life and said Phil had even told him, **"If I am found dead and they say that it was death by suicide, don't believe it."**

I don't believe it. Having traveled together throughout the state of Michigan with Phil in the summer months of 2018, we got to know one another very well. Phil was an open book beyond most people I have ever met discussing his formative years; his marriage to his precious wife of 45 years, Francesca (who died of cancer in 2019); of his family life; his years working as an entomologist in the middle-east; his calling to apply for a position in the U.S. Government shortly after the attack upon the Twin Towers in New York City on 9/11. And the list goes on right up through his being one of the founders of the Department of Homeland Security (2002), to his commendations for his success in stopping 300 plus terror-

ists from entering the country, to being sidelined under the Obama Administration from continuing his meritorious work in identifying terror cells against further national threats.

One highly circulated YouTube video is Phil's testimony before Senator Ted Cruz's Senate Judiciary Committee in 2016. He claimed that the Obama administration had acted in favor of "political correctness" rather than take actions that may have prevented the June 2016 Pulse night club shooting in Orlando or the San Bernadino shooting in 2015. He also stated that the Obama administration destroyed or altered 800 of his files relating to the Muslim Brotherhood because they were deemed offensive to the Muslim people. At this crucial moment before Senator Cruz's committee he was seated between CAIR and SPLC and never flinched.

Phil traveled extensively in Michigan to educate and inform our state of the threat presented by then gubernatorial candidate Abdul El Sayid and then Democratic U.S. Congressional candidate Rashida Tliab who did win election to the 13th Congressional seat (Western Detroit). In addition to tirelessly speaking at events throughout Michigan, he also took the opportunity to attend political rallies for El Sayid and Tliab, analyzing their campaign messaging and the makeup of those who attended the rallies and the numerical following of each. **To say he never wavered is an understatement.** And, add to this, he also felt called to skip out a time here or there to do similar work in another ground zero state – Minnesota -with little break in the action other than to get away to check in on the health condition of his embattled wife Francesca, who was battling cancer in Virginia.

Phil was very concerned for Francesca's life as she was undergoing chemo, but she gave Phil her blessing, telling him that the country needed him and that God had prepared him and He needed to continue doing his duty. They knotted this commitment together in tears. Phil personally told me this.

Frank Gaffney, founder and Chairman of Washington DC based Center for Security Policy, who ADA has featured as a speaker on five different occasions said this (in part)

about Philip B. Haney: "*Phil [worked] brilliantly for Customs and Border Patrol for fifteen years. During much of that time, he was highly acclaimed by his superiors for ferreting out some 300 terrorists.*

"But in the Obama administration, his work was unwelcome, harassed and punished. Phil was subjected to nine different investigations, but fully exonerated each time. He retired and courageously blew the whistle on the Islamists and leftists who are still endangering us all. Phil Haney died of gunshot wound ... Freedom is less secure today as a result."

Phil loved to end his messages as he spoke to his fellow American's using these words from President Abraham Lincoln: "*The dogmas of the quiet past, are inadequate to the stormy present. The occasion is piled high with difficulty, and we must rise – with the occasion. As our case is new, so we must think anew, and act anew. We must disenthrall ourselves, and then we shall save our country.*" [disenthrall: to free from a controlling force or influence.]

Phil was not only a patriot and a true, virtually unknown hero in the field of national security, he was a deeply spiritual man. God's word motivated him and flowed through every briefing and conversation he was a part of.

One of our first stops on the road as we traveled together was an adult Sunday School class just north of Muskegon on the subject of "The Holy Spirit." Without notes, Phil gave a 30 minute Biblical discussion on the Holy Spirit with scripture reference and application. I told him afterwards it was one of the best discussions on the subject that I ever heard. I had already recognized his close walk with the Lord. His exposition on the subject of the Holy Spirit solidly confirmed his commitment to his Lord and Savior and I saw it throughout our extensive time together in word and deed.

We need more men like Phil Haney, steeped in Biblical Truth, and dedicated to applying what it taught him to the service of his country. In times like these, we can look to Phil as an example of how to follow God in the face of trials.

A Prescription for Disaster

By Lisa Van Houten



From the beginning of the coronavirus crisis, the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) has been deceiving the world. As early as November Chinese authorities were aware of the deadly virus in Wuhan, but the CCP silenced Chinese doctors who were raising the alarm and withheld critical information of the virus, not only from the global community, but **even from its own people**, allowing the disease to spread like wildfire.

Since the spread of the pandemic, the CCP is now attempting to deflect their culpability and lie about a virus that started in their country. In fact, Beijing has ridiculously claimed the “the world owes China a thank you.”

And while the lives of millions of Americans are turned upside down, many in the U.S. media seem to be joining Beijing’s campaign to blame the U.S., in spite of the fact that several of their fellow journalists were recently expelled from China by the CCP due to their investigation of the regime’s coverup of the virus. China must be laughing about their good fortune as our mainstream media parrot the CCP’s party line, using this crisis to paint President Trump a “racist” for accurately referring to the virus as the Wuhan or Chinese virus, while ignoring the blatant deception of the CCP which led to this pandemic.

One of Beijing’s latest ploys is a propaganda campaign falsely accusing the U.S. military of planting the coronavirus in Wuhan. Joined by Russia and Iran, the CCP is spreading disinformation in a concerted effort to paint China as the “savior of the world,” while claiming the coronavirus is a bioweapon developed by the United States. Yet this deflection may be to cover up the very real possibility that the coronavirus is the result of China’s own experimentation

in biowarfare gone awry. Several analysts, including China expert Gordon Chang, have speculated that the deadly virus originated in a laboratory in Wuhan - a lab known to research infectious diseases and, some suspect, may house a covert biological weapons program. If the coronavirus escaped from that lab, it would explain why China refused repeated offers of help from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control.

International law professor, Dr. Francis Boyle, who drafted the Biological Weapons Act of 1989, believes the Wuhan virus is the result of biowarfare research. The Wuhan BSL-4 lab is also a specially designated World Health Organization (WHO) research lab and Dr. Boyle contends that the WHO knows what is occurring in the lab.

Whether or not that is the case, what is certain is that **the WHO is another puppet of Beijing.** First, the CCP arrested its own doctors and journalists who were attempting to warn China and the world about the virus and then the regime tried to coverup the rapidly spreading disease. Yet, as the Federalist reports, WHO officials “consistently praised the CCP for its ‘transparency’ and ‘leadership,’ saying its actions were ‘making us safer.’ To the incredulity of health professionals around the world when finally alerted to the seriousness of the threat in January, the WHO refused to declare it a public health emergency. It took until February 10 for the WHO to even send an advance party to China.”

While the U.S. is the largest contributor to the WHO, to the tune of half a billion dollars annually, China is the puppeteer pulling the strings. China worked to insure the election of Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus as the current WHO Director-General. Tedros previously served in the Ethiopian People’s Revolutionary Democratic Front, a violent, Marxist regime responsible for gruesome human right abuses. Serving as the health minister, Tedros covered up three cholera outbreaks. China’s influence in the WHO is just one aspect of the CCP’s growing geopolitical threat. As Assistant to the U.S. President Peter Navarro has stated, the CCP has a “broad strategy to gain control over the 15 specialized agencies of the UN.

China already **leads four** of the UN specialized agencies while no other country leads more than one.”

And as the Trump administration pushes back against Communist China’s duplicity and power grab, the CCP is ratcheting up their threats. Recently Xinhua, Beijing’s state-run media agency, a mouthpiece of the CCP, threatened to withhold the export of pharmaceuticals and medical supplies and plunge America into “the mighty sea of coronavirus.”

And, frighteningly, that could easily happen. More than 80% of the raw ingredients required to make medicines comes from China. **The U.S. hasn’t manufactured antibiotics for more than a decade** – they all come from China. Imagine the impact if China were to cut off our nation’s supply to antibiotics!

The federal US-China Economic and Safety Review Commission warned last summer about the dangers of American reliance on China for life-saving drugs. If the U.S. were attacked with anthrax, China would be a major source for ciprofloxacin, an antibiotic needed to treat victims. “What if China were the anthrax attacker?” asked senior advisor Rosemary Gibson of the Hastings Center and co-author of “China Rx: Exposing the Risks of America’s Dependence on China for Medicine.”

We wouldn’t outsource the manufacturing of sensitive military equipment and weaponry, but we put the health of our entire nation into the hands of China?

A silver lining of this coronavirus crisis is the fact that many of our leaders are finally waking up to this very real threat. President Trump has been concerned about this issue for years and is pushing Republican legislatures to take action.

One thing this pandemic has proven is the chaos such a virus can cause upon the U.S. and our economy. China has certainly learned that lesson, as well, and may one day use it against us. We must urge our leaders to cut the supply chain with China and do all they can to protect our nation.

We Are Not Here Merely to Survive

By Chris Johnson



In cities and states around the country, **Americans are living a distinctly un-American reality.** Our culture of excess and entertainment is reduced to scrounging for toilet paper and hand sanitizer, our conversations, activities, almost all of life seems to be revolving around the threat of Coronavirus 19.

As Federal guidelines and state mandates have immobilized the majority of our society – taking it upon themselves to shutdown the livelihoods of families around the country, it has left many asking: is all of this really worth it?

Of course, as Bible-believing Christians, we believe human beings are made in the image of God. Life is a precious gift from God and should be protected. **But** there are limits to the lengths we go to that allow life to carry on, not only for efficiency, but for human dignity and the protection of human rights.

One example being – as presented by Jared Sichel at the Daily Wire – is that however much safer the highway would be if we all drove 10 miles per hour on it, nobody has that expectation. Or, as I believe it was Thomas Sowell who pointed out – there is a slim chance that someone, under the right conditions, could get a paper cut and bleed to death, yet no one is calling for a ban on copy paper. Each of these examples, as well as our present circumstance – is a **question of risk vs. reward.**

Unlike the previous examples, the Wuhan flu threatens the nation with a high cost of life from hundreds of thousands into the millions, if not combated by extraordinary means. Yet, the economic cost is also immeasurable. And to be clear, when I say economic cost, I'm not just referring to plummeting stocks and trust-fund managers. I'm talking about the cost to small

businesses who can't afford to pay employees who aren't allowed to go to work who depend on that paycheck to pay their rent to landlords who depend on that rent check to pay their mortgage to banks who depend on that mortgage payment to give loans to other entrepreneurs and potential homeowners who would go on to hire carpenters and construction crews to renovate who depend on those renovation jobs to buy food for their families from grocery stores and supermarkets... etc.

You get my point - we are all interdependent to a degree that many of us have given very little thought to. And the steps being taken by federal and local governments are likely to wreak havoc on an inestimable slice of American society.

Radio host Steve Deace expressed it well via Twitter, "*We are human beings made in the image of God. We are not here to merely survive. We are not statistics. We were fearfully and wonderfully made. Each of us given a purpose higher than simply existing. With the intent of blessing our Creator and His fellow creations with our gifts.*"

After weeks to months of no income, businesses will have to be rebuilt, networks reformed, relationships re-established. If the survivors are left with a society which has to be completely rebuilt, we are not wrong to question whether the risk is worth the reward.

Let us consider another cost - the generation who has just been released from their K-12 institutions for several weeks will now have burned into their memories the time that the state and federal governments were allowed to shut down privately owned, non-state-affiliated businesses, with no pushback or remuneration. For the next generation, it will likely be a given that the state has the power to do that. Today's high school students will eventually fill the seats of power in this country, with the presupposition that that authority will then belong to them.

After all, these extreme measures were used so effectively in our time to limit the affects of Covid-19 – **what crisis will arise in their day where totalitarianism will seem an effective solution?**

The implications of that are terrifying, particularly from a generation already shamelessly flirting with socialist ideologies.

It seems to be the world's worst game of would you rather: Would you rather have an unknown number of people die to a disease they have no immunity to or pave the way for a totalitarian state for future generations – which history has shown, by the way, always results in the death of hundreds of thousands to millions of people.

More than ever we must pray for wisdom for our leaders, that they would govern us justly from the place of authority in which God has placed them without violating the authorities and rights that He has given us. We ought also see that we are governing ourselves responsibly, so that the government does not even feel tempted to step in and take over. Let us love our neighbors enough to protect their vulnerability in the face of this virus, to which none of us are immune. **Lastly, let us remind our families that the state's power is not boundless. God has given us rights which they do not have the authority to rescind and which it is our responsibility to defend.**

American Decency Frontline
Vol. XXXIV, Issue IV
Published monthly by
American Decency Association

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To Close or Not to Close (the Church) - THAT Is the Question

By Steve Huston



We recently received the following question from a friend of this ministry: **“Is it biblical to close the churches in a ‘crisis’ such as we are facing?”** She added: *“I’m sorry, that was blunt! It is an honest question, not meant as an attack or condemnation on anyone! I am struggling with the idea that so many churches are closing their doors at the “recommendation” of our government. The apostles not only went to prison but to death for The Word. I am struggling for understanding and appreciate any biblical perspective you could offer, if you have a moment? Thank you for your time! God bless!”*

Although the emphasis of this article is the Biblical point of view, let’s also take a short look at the constitutionality of political authorities infringing upon the religious realm. The views regarding this are many and we don’t have room to cover them all here. Some would say that if there is a constitutional basis for closing private businesses and private schools, they have a constitutional right to close churches as well. As the American Center for Law and Justice writes:

“The watchword here is neutrality: Is the government being neutral toward religion, or is the government instead imposing special burdens on religion and its adherents? So long as the government maintains a neutral approach, addresses an objectively serious threat, and does not use that threat as a pretext for targeting disfavored religious entities and adherents, then churches, synagogues, mosques, and other religious bodies cannot claim unconstitutional discrimination.”

At the other end of the spectrum, there are those who say that the U.S. Supreme Court got it right in 1866 when they said that

emergencies do not create supra-constitutional powers for officials to violate the Constitution. *“The Constitution of the United States is a law for rulers and people, equally in war and in peace, and covers with the shield of its protection all classes of men, at all times and under all circumstances.”* – Ex parte Milligan, U.S. Supreme Court (1866)

Rep. Thomas Massie (R-KY) recently spoke to the perceived overreach of authority. *“When this is over, the greatest harm to society will have been the public’s unquestioning acceptance of the unchecked authority of governments to force private behavior and disrupt economies.”*

“I fear the actions taken by our government will make FDR’s internment of Japanese-Americans look like a ‘light touch.’”

So the question still remains: Does the civil government have a **constitutional right** to call for the closure of private industries, businesses, schools, and organizations—including houses of worship? There are good men on both sides of this argument.

In Michigan, Gov. Whitmer issued an executive order in response to the coronavirus that said *“all assemblages of more than 50 people in a single indoor shared space and all events of more than 50 people are prohibited.”* The E.O. was later revised stating that *“A place of religious worship is not subject to penalty under section 3 of Executive Order.”*

The Detroit Free Press reports: *“In a Facebook post, Michigan House Speaker Lee Chatfield, R-Levering, thanked Whitmer for the update to the order, writing: ‘People have a God-given right to assemble and worship, and that right is secured by both the United States and Michigan Constitution.’”*

“But Chatfield added that: ‘I believe that as Christians we also have a duty to love our fellow man and play our role within society. My recommendation is to find ways that you can abide within the order to the best of your ability.’”

So, back to the Biblical response: our friend’s question raises more questions than it does find satisfactory answers. The Bible doesn’t directly speak to shutting down church services for a week or two or longer. Some questions that accompany this issue are: **Why are we closing? If we are closing early on in this pandemic, as it worsens, how do we justify reopening until it’s over** (some estimations have been upwards of 18 months). **How long is too long? By closing, are we putting a premium of concern on the body over the concern and well-being for the soul?** These are questions that each local body must prayerfully and searchingly ask. When it is all said and done, it is God that we must please and Him we must glorify.

In Hebrews 10:25 we read: “Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.”

Even in the midst of Christian persecution, the believers would meet “daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ.” (Acts 5:42)

Regardless of whether our main meeting place of worship is open or closed **we need to be more focused on Jesus Christ in our own personal lives and more intentional in daily exhorting one another** on to holiness, compassion, growth, love, and good works. Let us hold fast to the profession of our faith, with assurance knowing that Christ is our only Hope. These, in their own right, are a big part of worship, and also come from Hebrews 10.

We must personally take all precautions that we can so as to not be an infected carrier; but most importantly, we must be a carrier of Jesus Christ—full of mercy and compassion and truth—to the unbeliever and believer alike. If our bodies are the temple of the living God—and they are—then let us be a house of worship wherever we are and whomever we are with.

ACT on the Fair and Equal Michigan Ballot Initiative

By Steve Huston



A Brief History:

The Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act prohibits discrimination in Michigan on the basis of "religion, race, color, national origin, age, sex, height, weight, familial status, or marital status" in employment, housing, education, and access to public accommodations. After passing both the Senate and the House, it was signed into law by Michigan Governor William Milliken in 1977.

Members of the LGBT community sought, **unsuccessfully**, to be included in the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act while it was still in committee hearing (1973); and since Elliott-Larsen's passage, several additional bills have been introduced to add protections for the LGBT community—all of them unsuccessful.

Currently:

A group of activists and businesses are promoting The Fair and Equal Michigan ballot initiative. If passed, this would re-define the word "sex" in the Elliott-Larsen law to include "sexual orientation" and "gender identity or expression", effectively extending this law's protections to the LGBT community. It would also define "religion" to include the religious beliefs of an individual.

While we certainly do not encourage discrimination against any group of people, neither do we, as Christians, want to bring us into a position where we are more easily discriminated against.

It's no surprise that Governor Whitmer supports this endeavor; gratefully there are those in our system of government who are standing against this push.

Bridgemi.com reports: "*House Speaker Lee Chatfield, R-Levering, has questioned the need for LGBT anti-discrimination protections and won election in 2014 by defeating a Republican incumbent who had introduced gay rights legislation.*"

"I do not believe we can pass this law while still protecting religious freedom," Chatfield said last year on WKAR-TV's 'Off The Record.'

"You've seen these laws passed in other states where what happens, in my opinion, is a reverse discrimination against those who have religious beliefs."

House Speaker Chatfield was also quoted by mlive.com as saying, "*I probably would not allow a bill to come up that I believe would infringe on religious freedom.*"

"Personally, I don't believe people should be discriminated against," he said. "But at the same time, I'm never going to endorse a law or allow a bill to come for a vote that I believe infringes on someone's ability to exercise their sincerely held religious beliefs."

Who else is pushing this pro-LGBTQ+ agenda?:

Business leaders backing the petition drive include DTE Energy President and CEO Jerry Norcia, Consumers Energy President and CEO Patti Poppe, Herman Miller President and CEO Andi Owen, Whirlpool Corp. Vice President Jeff Noel, and Dow Inc. CEO Jim Fitterling.

What can we do?:

Fair and Equal Michigan is in the process of obtaining the 340,000+ signatures needed to place this initiative on the ballot. If they are successful, and it is likely they will be, we need to mobilize to defeat it at the ballot box. As stated above, if passed, it will eliminate religious liberty as we have come to know it.

The Family Research Council (FRC) asks that those who care about religious liberty do the following:

1. Get the word out to those in your networks about this proposal. For you pastors, gather two or three others in your area and hold a press conference announcing your opposition and reasons.

2. They have established a Facebook page called "Michigan Families Voting No to Discrimination". Please go to the page, like it, and share it with your friends. They're using the page to post important resource information about the issue.

3. They also ask that if you lead a group, please strongly consider issuing a press release announcing your opposition to the proposal.

A further word from FRC Michigan:

Working together, we can defeat this and insure our religious liberties and the ability to preach the full counsel of the Word of God remains intact. When the church shows up, we win!

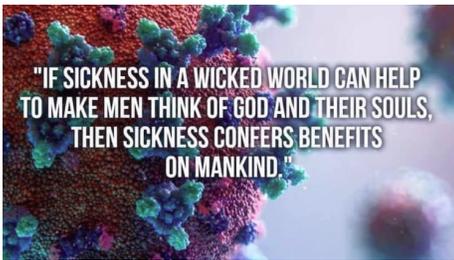
Not from Michigan?

According to the non-profit Movement Advancement Project, if enacted, Michigan would be the 22nd state to legally prohibit discrimination specifically based on sexual orientation and gender identity. This must be a real concern for all who enjoy the protections that religious liberty affords us. Keep your eyes open and your ears to the ground for these liberty eroding laws in your own state. **Be ready to act! Take bold stand and have compassionate conversations even now.**

We at American Decency Association urge you to be earnestly praying over this and the many other issues that we face in this upcoming election. Pray that God will rule and overrule and that He will bless us with His grace to handle each and every outcome. These are times that require a steadfastness that only comes from knowing intimately the God of the Bible and His Word. May we constantly walk in discernment and wisdom, truly ending up on the right side of HIS story (history).

Fear Not

By Lisa Van Houten



Stores emptied of everything from potatoes to toilet paper; millions suddenly out of work as restaurants, libraries, theaters, arenas, etc. are closed; retirement funds decimated as the stock market plunges. As Americans face a reality we've never experienced before, the reaction of many ranges from worry to fear to panic to depression.

As Keith Mathison of Ligonier Ministries writes: "The world is fearful and anxious, but it is fearful and anxious about the wrong things. The world is fearful about the economy. The world is fearful about retirement accounts. The world is fearful about natural disasters and man-made disasters. The world is fearful of terrorism, and the world is fearful of diseases like the coronavirus. The world, however, is not fearful of God."

Jesus warns in Matthew 10:28: "And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell."

As Christians, it's easy to allow ourselves to be caught up in the same hysteria that surrounds us if we keep our focus on the 24-7, anxiety-filled news coverage and not on the God who rules over every tiny microbe – including the coronavirus. One of my favorite quotes from the late theologian, R.C. Sproul, is this: **"If there is one maverick molecule in all the universe, then God is not sovereign. And if God is not sovereign, He is not God."**

God is in control and thus we can say with the psalmist: "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling." (Psalm 46:1-3) As

Christians we don't have an antidote for the coronavirus, **but we do have the antidote for fear.**

Saint Augustine, living during a time of fear and panic as barbarians invaded Rome, wrote to encourage his fellow believers: "Among the daily chances of this life every man on earth is threatened in the same way by innumerable deaths, and it is uncertain which of them will come to him. And so the question is whether it is better to suffer one in dying or to fear them all in living."

For those of us who "to die is gain," the coronavirus is an opportunity to share with those consumed with fear "the reason for the hope that is within us" and demonstrate a "peace that passes understanding." It's an opportunity for the Church to reach out with the love of Christ. As 20th century theologian, A.W. Tozer, once stated: "A scared world needs a fearless church."

Rather than cowering in fear as those without hope, Christians should be shining the Light of Christ. "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." (2 Tim. 1:7) The Church has a great opportunity to minister to those around us. I was touched by three Christian teens in my community who took it upon themselves to start a free grocery delivery program for those who are housebound. A church in Alabama offered their parking lot to health officials for a drive-thru coronavirus testing site. As people waited in line, the church posted a number they could text to share prayer requests. Of the 400 who came through the line, 325 texted, asking for prayer. These are just a couple examples of ways we could and should be serving and witnessing as people are forced to face an unknown future.

When Martin Luther was dealing with The Black Death plague, he wrote these words: "I shall ask God mercifully to protect us. Then I shall fumigate, help purify the air, administer medicine and take it. I shall avoid places and persons where my presence is not needed in order not to become contaminated and thus perchance inflict and pollute others and so cause their death

as a result of my negligence. ... If my neighbor needs me however I shall not avoid place or person but will go freely as stated above. ..."

Throughout history – from the first recorded plague in Genesis 12:17 to the coronavirus pandemic of 2020 - God has sent plagues to bring about His sovereign will. The plagues in the Bible were often sent as a form of judgment or a means to bring about repentance. While we don't know God's purpose in allowing the coronavirus, we do know this will be used for the good of those who love Him and may serve as a means to get the attention of those who don't. As C.S. Lewis famously wrote: "God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our consciences, but shouts in our pains. It is his megaphone to rouse a deaf world."

Speaking in 1866, amidst an outbreak of cholera, Charles Spurgeon gave this charge to pastors and all Christians: *And now, again, is the minister's time; and now is the time for all of you who love souls. You may see men more alarmed than they are already; and if they should be, mind that you avail yourselves of the opportunity of doing them good. You have the Balm of Gilead; when their wounds smart, pour it in. You know of Him who died to save; tell them of Him. Lift high the cross before their eyes. Tell them that God became man that man might be lifted to God. Tell them of Calvary, and its groans, and cries, and sweat of blood. Tell them of Jesus hanging on the cross to save sinners. Tell them that: "There is life for a look at the Crucified One." Tell them that he is able to save to the uttermost all them that come unto God by him. Tell them that he is able to save even at the eleventh hour, and to say to the dying thief, "Today shalt thou be with me in Paradise."*

As people are stripped of the pleasures and idols of sports and entertainment, as they face financial hardship through the loss of jobs and 401(k)s, may God's people use this opportunity to share the hope found in Christ, as we fervently pray that the Lord will use this pandemic as an instrument to turn America around and draw many souls to Him.

Even Clifford the Big Red Dog has joined the LGBT Movement

By Kimberly Cargill



As a child I remember watching Sesame Street, Mr. Rogers, and other television show appropriate for children. They were geared for children to teach us ABC, 123, shapes and colors. They had fun songs and were educational. Parents knew that they could turn on the television and not be worried what their child was going to see or hear on those shows.

Shows have been changing the viewpoint of their audience for awhile. Some have used it for good and some for bad that goes against the Word of God.

Even shows like Mr. Rogers have been used to change people's views. They took a stand against racial inequality. In 1969, Fred Rogers invited a black man on his show. During that time there were still a lot of racial injustice going on. With Mr. Rogers having this guest on the show, he was showing that we were all equal no matter what color your skin is.

For the past few years, PBS has been pushing the LGBT agenda.

* On Arthur last year, they had an episode with one of Arthur's teachers marrying his partner. It was the first gay marriage in the PBS Kids history.

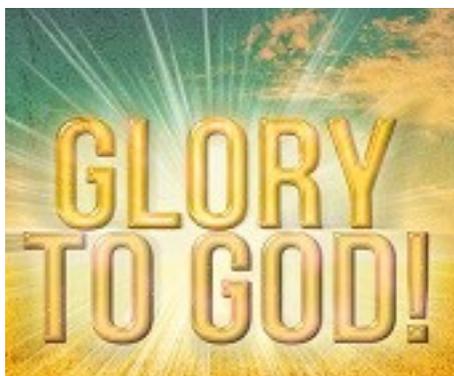
* On Sesame Street, they have guests/celebrities on their show. This year they had a gay actor, Billy Porter, wearing a dress.

Now PBS is bringing new characters to Clifford the Big Red Dog. Emily Elizabeth has a friend Samantha. Emily has a dinner party and Samantha comes with her two moms. **This is becoming the new normal on PBS and they are pushing the LGBT agenda.**

As parents, grandparents, and even baby-sitters, we have to realize that PBS is no

longer the television station that it once was. Really there are no stations that are. We as believers need to be so diligent in what we put before our eyes and the eyes of children. **Can we tell them that this is wrong on Sunday but then turn around and watch a show that promotes what we know God says is wrong?**

Outshouting the Stones



In a day when so many are looking around, let us look up—for our help comes from the Lord. In a day when many are full of fear and complaint, let us be a people of assurance and praise—for our God and our Savior is worthy of glory, honor, and praise. As you read the following devotional from C.H. Spurgeon's Evening by Evening, please be encouraged and take time to reflect upon Paul's exhortation from I Timothy 1:17. "Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen."

"I tell you that, if these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out." ~ Luke 19:40

But could the stones cry out? Assuredly they could if he who opens the mouth of the dumb should bid them lift up their voice. Certainly if they were to speak, they would have much to testify in praise of him who created them by the word of his power; they could extol the wisdom and power of their Maker who called them into being. Shall not we speak well of him who made us

anew, and out of stones raised up children unto Abraham? The old rocks could tell of chaos and order, and the handiwork of God in successive stages of creation's drama; and cannot we talk of God's decrees, of God's great work in ancient times, in all that he did for his church in the days of old? If the stones were to speak, they could tell of their breaker, how he took them from the quarry, and made them fit for the temple, and cannot we tell of our glorious Breaker, who broke our hearts with the hammer of his word, that he might build us into his temple? If the stones should cry out they would magnify their builder, who polished them and fashioned them after the similitude of a palace; and shall not we talk of our Architect and Builder, who has put us in our place in the temple of the living God? If the stones could cry out, they might have a long, long story to tell by way of memorial, for many a time hath a great stone been rolled as a memorial before the Lord; and we too can testify of Ebenezers, stones of help, pillars of remembrance. The broken stones of the law cry out against us, but Christ himself, who has rolled away the stone from the door of the sepulchre, speaks for us. Stones might well cry out, but we will not let them: we will hush their noise with ours; we will break forth into sacred song, and bless the majesty of the Most High, all our days glorifying him who is called by Jacob the Shepherd and Stone of Israel. ~ C.H. Spurgeon

"Make up your spiritual accounts daily; see how matters stand between God and your souls (Psalm 77:6). Often reckonings keep God and conscience friends. Do with your hearts as you do with your watches, wind them up every morning by prayer, and at night examine whether your hearts have gone true all that day, whether the wheels of your affections have moved swiftly toward heaven."
Thomas Watson