



Special Words of
Encouragement from
John Reese, WBS President

Pandemic Panic and Christian Perspectives

At the time of this writing, the Coronavirus pandemic is wreaking havoc. Official projections and rules for controlling Covid-19 change daily. From hour to hour, nothing seems predictable. Markets are collapsing. National borders are closing, as are schools and businesses. Gatherings are severely restricted. Despite reasonable supply lines, panic buying is emptying shelves of basics. News media keep trumpeting more infections and deaths (with little mention of recoveries), further stoking fear and panic. As bad news floods over us, what is the Christian perspective?

The LORD sits enthroned over the flood; the LORD sits enthroned as king forever (Psalm 29:10).

The Creator is still in charge, even over a fallen world of woes. Times like this reinforce realities that were true all along: Human life is fragile and unpredictable. "You do not know what tomorrow will bring." How true! "You are a mist." How true! "You ought to say, 'If the Lord wills, we will live

and do this or that" (James 4:13-15). **How true! Here is the true perspective:** God is God, and mortals are not.

Two of the Bible's most frequent commands are "Fear God!" and "Do not fear!" The one leads to the other. The fear of the Lord leads to wisdom (Proverbs 1:7; 9:10), and those who gain wisdom "will dwell secure and will be at ease, without dread of disaster" (Proverbs 1:33). **When we place our lives into the Creator's caring hands, we say with David, "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for You are with me" (Psalm 23:4).**

You will not fear the terror of the night... nor the pestilence that stalks in darkness, nor the destruction that wastes at noonday... Because you have made the LORD your dwelling place—the Most High, who is my refuge—no evil shall be allowed to befall you, no plague come near (Psalm 91:5-10).

What if God does allow us to suffer? With Job we say, "Though He slay me, I will hope in Him" (Job 13:15). More than Job or David, Christians rejoice in the Good News that God's Son has defeated sin and death for us.

[Jesus said,] I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in Me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in Me shall never die (John 11:25-26).

This faith frees us to love and serve fully, without fear of foes or death (Philippians 1:23, 28; Hebrews 2:14-15). That is why Christians behaved so differently during Roman era plagues. At the first sign of infection, pagans pushed their family members into the streets to die. Needing a scapegoat, they blamed Christians. Yet Christ's followers took care of victims at great risk, often paying the ultimate price even for critics and enemies.

Today, taking the same risk is not necessary because hospitals exist (an early Christian innovation). But we can and should be serving with self-sacrificial love.

By this we know love, that He laid down His life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers (1 John 3:16).

By this all people will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another (John 13:35).

Crisis naturally focuses on self—my health, my needs, my safety. But we look to Jesus who motivates caring and sharing. Along with material things, we share Jesus Himself, the ultimate solution to all human needs.

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PRAY FOR

Mike Walsh..Cancer—Amy Hicks..Cancer
 Danny Atkins..Cancer --Pauline Threet..Cancer
 Ron Fisher..Very Sick—Sherry Woodall..Cancer
 Tim Pass..Cancer—Amanda Alderman..Cancer
 Tim Bang..Surg.—Gary & Wanita Poffenbarger..Sick
 Neman Clapp Fam.—Larry Cummings..Sick
 April Wesler..New Baby—Jimmy Richy..Kidney
 Matt & Macy Collins..Fam.--Priesley Cummings..Bowel

Coming Events

Unusually times call for unusual methods. As a church I think we should meet physically at least part of the time. This drive-in service is temporary we hope. The rest rooms Are open as an emergency, for one or two people at a time. Please wear face mask entering building. Park your car At least 8 feet apart.

Welcome Visitors

We hope you find this a friendly congregation and come Back and visit us again.

May Anniversaries

Doug & Margie Seiber 13

May Birthdays

Erin Brook Ozburn 1

Margie Seiber 1

Brandon Johnson 4

Dalton Breen 12

Levi Kniesly 8

Dianne ODEL 22

Shirley Anderson 23

Donald Seiber 24

Jack Roberts Junior 27

Church Of Christ
411 North Main St.
Lynn, IN 47355

www.lynncoc.org

Services—Sunday
Worship – 10:00 AM.

Minister Today – Adam Gores

Attendance Last Sunday 16
Offering Last Sunday \$451

May 3 , 2020