

SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

Now is the time for the Christian to trust God exceedingly and love people extravagantly

The Coronavirus, The Christ, and the Christian
VARIOUS SCRIPTURES

1. REVIEW

Where do you see God at work in the midst of this unique situation? _____

Theologically, where does sickness like this come from? Use scripture to support your answer. _____

Read Isaiah 26:3-4. Peace comes to the one whose mind is captivated by God. How does the believer practically do this? _____

Read 1 Peter 4:7-11. How should a Christian love others on earth in light of eternity? (Consider those in need as well as those who are responding differently than you.) _____

2. ASSESS

Given all that you've read in God's Word, what do you think constitutes a faithful response to a crisis like this?

Compare and contrast your recent reactions with the one you just stated.

3. APPLY

Pick a specific verse or passage to memorize and meditate on this week. (Consider those from the discussion or from the 5-day reading plan.)

Commit to caring for someone specific and/or meeting a specific need this week. What will you commit to do to exercise love?

MY GROUP'S APPLICATIONS

SERMON NOTES

The Coronavirus is a manifestation of the Fall and its consequences

The Christ is still firmly seated on the throne

The Christian is to set your mind on God above while loving your neighbor in need.

FOR FURTHER STUDY...

There is no alarm bell echoing in heaven. God is not surprised nor is he anxious. If Jesus has arisen to stand at the right hand of God, it is because his people glorify him by their sacrificial love for their neighbors. The Coronavirus has shown us our brokenness and the brokenness of our world, but it has done nothing to diminish the glory and redemptive purposes of our God. In Matthew 24 and Luke 21, Jesus says that, until he returns in glory, the world will be subject to the pains of childbirth: war, famine, disease, and natural disasters. These pains will lead people to fear, despair, and hatred of one another. In Romans 8:22-23, Paul says that: "The whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies." The Coronavirus is yet another groan of a creation eagerly awaiting its redeemer. We are not shocked or fearful because we know that these are but the final blows of an enemy long vanquished. This world is not our home, but this fact must not lead us to arrogance and disdain toward those whose home is in peril. We must respond to the fear, despair, and hatred of the world with love. Throughout our Ruth study we defined hesed as covenant-keeping, faithful loving-kindness or sacrificial love for the good of another. God shows ultimate hesed toward us in Christ's sacrifice on the cross and we testify to God's hesed by sacrificing ourselves for others in order that a glimpse of God's love might be seen through us. If Christ's sacrifice on the cross is the definition of love, then we have no right to define love any other way. Take heart because the Coronavirus is a sign that our final redemption is near, but even more so, urgently exhibit and proclaim hope to a world desperately in need of hope.

5 DAY READING PLAN

DAY 1

Psalm 139

What does it say?

What does it mean?

How should I respond?

DAY 2

Colossians 3

What does it say?

What does it mean?

How should I respond?

DAY 3

Romans 8

What does it say?

What does it mean?

How should I respond?

DAY 4

Hebrews 1-2

What does it say?

What does it mean?

How should I respond?

DAY 5

Revelations 21

What does it say?

What does it mean?

How should I respond?