

The Coronavirus (COVID –19) And Sin

March 15, 2020

The Coronavirus disease (COVID –19) is a respiratory illness that was first identified in the latter part of 2019 in Wuhan, China. Having spread in that short time to 50 countries (as of Mar. 12, 2020), it has captured the attention of millions world wide. On Wednesday, March 11, the World Health Organization described it as a Worldwide Pandemic. The spreading fear of the effects of this disease has resulted in airline flights to various countries being canceled, as well as many Cruises, the cancellations of different sports events, the closing of schools in some areas, etc., etc. Needless to say, it has had a tremendous negative effect on the stock market.

While I do not want to ignore the potential great and grave dangers posed by this disease, I do agree with one writer who described much of what we are hearing about this disease as being a lot of “Misinformation and Disinformation.” Medically speaking, it is a virus; it is not a plague. As of March 12, 2020 there have been a reported 134,327 cases of COVID –19, resulting in 4,969 deaths, of which 68,808 are said to have recovered. At this report there are 1,573 cases of this disease in the U.S., including some in Florida, including Hillsborough County. This disease is especially dangerous for elderly people, and for all who have respiratory problems. It makes sense for individuals to protect themselves from this illness, and to try to keep from spreading this illness to others — especially in view of the fact that it is highly contagious. Widespread protective efforts makes a lot of sense, but in my judgment widespread hysteria can do more harm than good.

However, the main gist of this article is not about the **Coronavirus** disease (of the body), but about **sin** (a worse disease of the soul)! More, much more, could be said about the Coronavirus, but our focus from this point will be on sin, and some parallels to be drawn between the two.

1. Conceivably, before it runs its course or a vaccine is developed, millions will be adversely affected by this virus. However, billions (even now) are adversely affected by sin! In fact, *“all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,”* Rom. 3:23. Every accountable person on earth is guilty of sin, and *“if we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us,”* I John 1:8,.

2. Regardless of whether or not a vaccine will be developed, over 90 percent of Coronavirus victims will recover. However, *“the wages of sin is death”* (Rom. 6:23), and (unless forgiveness is obtained) sin will cause all its victims to *“go away into everlasting punishment”* (Matt. 25:46).

3. The Coronavirus affects the body, which is destined to die anyway unless the Lord comes first (Heb. 9:27). Sin affects the soul, which will never cease to exist and which will “spend eternity” either in heaven (I Pet. 1:3-5), or in hell (Matt. 25:41; Mark 9:43-48).

4. To avoid the Coronavirus one must strive to avoid contact with infected persons. To void sin one must be careful with regards to the **company** he keeps, because *“evil company corrupts good habits”* (I Cor. 15:33).

5. To avoid the Coronavirus one must be careful with regards to the places he frequents. This is why we are hearing so much about areas that are being quarantined, and why air travel and cruise ships are being restricted with regards to certain destinations. To avoid sin one must avoid spending time in taverns, strip joints, and other dens of iniquity. God loves *“righteousness,”* and He hates *“lawlessness”* (Heb. 1:9), and His children, by the example they set, must avoid those places and activities that promote the very things He hates!

6. Sadly, there is a lot of misinformation and disinformation about the Coronavirus. Worse, however, is the fact that there is much more misinformation and disinformation about **sin**. Even though *“all have sinned and come short of the glory of God”* (Rom. 3:23), in modern society it is getting more and more difficult even to find an admitted sinner. Alcoholism and drug addiction are called “sicknesses.” Fornication and adultery are regarded as just “doing what comes natural.” Anyone who dares preach against immodesty (I Tim. 2:8-12) is considered a “bigoted, narrow-minded, old fogey.” Abortion is justified under the banner of a “woman’s right to choose,” not for the gruesome murder it really is.

7. Those who contact the Coronavirus need immediate **attention**. Those guilty of sin should seek immediate **forgiveness** — whether, as alien sinners, obeying the gospel (2 Thess. 1:7-9), or as erring children God repenting, praying, and confessing (Acts 8:22; I John 1:9).

8. Jesus did not die to spare anyone the ill effects of the Coronavirus. On the other hand, He *“by the grace of God”* tasted *“death for everyone”* (Heb. 2:9) who is guilty of sin —and that includes you and me (Rom. 3:23).

9. One can die of the Coronaavirus and go to heaven (provided He obeyed the gospel, Mark 16:15-16), but no one can die in sin and go to heaven! The only ones who will be *“blessed”* in the hereafter are the *“faithful”* ones who died *“in the Lord”* (Rom. 14:13; 2:10),.

Conclusion: More, much more could be said regarding the parallels that can be drawn between the Coronavirus and sin, but enough has already been said for sober-minded people to get the message. However, the fact remains that multitudes are absolutely alarmed by the dangers posed by the Coronavirus (which they will likely not get), but who are willingly and knowingly pursuing a life of sin! Beloved, it is high time for all of us to get our priorities in order!

*** — B. Witherington