

Keeping Perspective

By Joe Price

We deeply regret that thousands have died from COVID-19, and that others will. Those with underlying immune system deficiencies and respiratory ailments are particularly vulnerable and should especially be careful at this time. There are prudent steps we can take to mitigate the exposure and contraction of this virus.

As of today (March 13, 2020), there have been approximately 140,000 reported cases of the coronavirus (COVID-19) worldwide (worldometers.info/coronavirus/). For perspective, that is less than 0.002% of the world's 7.8 billion people. Yet, this new strain of coronavirus is currently consuming the psyche of Americans (and the world). Panic rather than prudence appears to be driving some of the reactions to this new health problem.

We do not take note of the statistics above to deny a problem exists. It does. We do so to discuss the subject of **perspective**. Whether we are talking about a pandemic that threatens our physical health and lives or the universality of sin that threatens our spiritual health, we need the right perspective to have timely and needful responses.

James reminds us that life is uncertain and brief, and therefore we must first depend on God instead of ourselves (Jas. 4:13-15). This perspective prompts us to do the will of God instead of arrogantly ignoring reality (Jas. 4:16-17). Christians know this and live for eternity (2 Cor. 4:16-18). And perhaps this partially explains the difference between panicked reaction and prudent precaution in times of crisis. Faith convinces us to live with an eternal perspective. Without faith, the world only looks "*at the things that are seen*" (2 Cor. 4:18), perspective.

Yes, be concerned about your physical health. But, what about your spiritual health? Are you distancing yourself from sin and its carriers (I Cor. 15:33-34). Are you washing your heart like you are washing your hands (Jas. 4:7-10)? Are you putting God's word in your heart to protect yourself against sin? Or, are you dying spiritually? Perspective.
