

Simply Christ

Gospel Newsletter

Sharing the simplicity that is in Christ

March 23, 2020

The Coronavirus Storm

The entire world is currently in the midst of a coronavirus pandemic. The realization of what has come upon us all has caused fear and anxiety to grip the nations as they seek to contain the spread of the virus without completely destroying their economies. Left unchecked, this virus will kill millions. The price of stopping it will likely cause a worldwide recession, or even an economic depression.

A few months ago, most would have scoffed at the suggestion that we could be in this situation. The American (and many other nations) economy was soaring and our technological breakthroughs were coming at a breathtaking pace. The advances in medical science suggested that even human immortality would someday be achievable. It is stunning how fast things have changed in the last few weeks.

The prophet Isaiah spoke of those who believed they had made *"a covenant with death."* God had sent prophets to warn of impending judgment, but the people said *"We have made a covenant with death, and with hell are we at agreement; when the overflowing scourge shall pass through, it shall not come unto us: for we have made lies our refuge, and under falsehood have we hid ourselves."* Isaiah 28:15. The *"lies"* and *"falsehoods"* were things they trusted in other than God to keep them from the judgment He had

promised. Perhaps others would be destroyed, but these believed they had everything under control.

Isaiah warned them this was a false security. He said, *"...your covenant with death shall be disannulled, and your agreement with hell shall not stand; when the overflowing scourge shall pass through, then ye shall be trodden down by it."* Isaiah 28:18. They felt secure in the provision they had made for themselves, but God promised a storm was coming and *"...the hail shall sweep away the refuge of lies, and the waters shall overflow the hiding place."* Isaiah 28:17.

The people had trusted in *"lies,"* but they did not know they were lies until it was too late. The *"lies"* were their riches, power, and position in society. They trusted their covenants and treaties would keep them in the time of trouble, but these were all *"falsehoods."* When the storm arrived, God promised *"From the time that it goeth forth it shall take you: for morning by morning shall it pass over, by day and by night: and **it shall be a vexation only to understand the report.**"* Isaiah 28:19. How similar this is to the news reports we now hear day after day.

Yet as terrible as this storm would be, God promised a singular hiding place which would be a safe shelter from the storm. He said, *"Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste."* Isaiah 28:16. This passage is one of the great prophecies which foretold of the Christ who would come. He would be a *"tried," "precious,"* and *"sure"* foundation. Those who believed upon him would not have to

flee when the flood arose because their *“house”* would be *“built upon the rock.”* Luke 6:48.

This *“precious cornerstone”* came into the world as *“the Lamb of God, which takes away the sin of the world.”* John 1:29. To believe upon Jesus Christ is to believe that he came to do that marvelous work in you! He really does take away sin, out of your heart, mind, and nature. Many have traded such a savior for one who leaves them to continue in sin and only covers it with his blood. I do not want to seem harsh, but that is *“a refuge of lies!”* The Bible still says, *“...the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God.”* I Corinthians 6:9. Much of the *“church”* has lost its way and the flood waters from the storm are overflowing its *“hiding place.”*

I am not telling you that someone who knows the reality of Christ and the freedom from sin Christ gives to his people will not get sick or even die as this storm rages around the world, but I am telling you their *“spiritual house”* will not fall. The same Lord who *“delivered them from the power of darkness”* Colossians 1:13 will keep them through every storm that may come upon the earth.

Here is a final thought. Psalms 91 gives a promise to those who *“dwell in the secret place of the most High.”* Christ is that *“secret place”* and the promise is *“A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee.”* Psalms 91:7. As a child of God, I rejoice in such a promise, but my heart reaches out to God for the *“thousand”* at our side and the *“ten thousand”* at our right hand who are perishing. I am praying for a speedy and certain end to this storm which has engulfed the whole earth.