

Simply Christ

Gospel Newsletter

Sharing the simplicity that is in Christ

August 7, 2021

CHRISTIANS AND COVID

On April 14, 70AD, three Roman Legions surrounded and laid siege to Jerusalem. The siege would last for five months before Jerusalem fell and was completely destroyed by the Roman army. Hundreds of thousands of Jews were killed and all the remaining ninety-seven thousand were forced into slavery.

One factor which added to the death toll was that the siege began just three days before the week of Passover. So confident were the Jews of God's protection that they continued to gather into Jerusalem even after the siege began. Although the Romans allowed the worshippers to enter the city, they were not allowed to leave. This misguided confidence that God would protect them from the Roman armies led these committed worshippers to their destruction.

Jesus had warned of this event almost forty years before. He said, *"And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh. Then let them which are in Judaea flee to the mountains; and let them which are in the midst of it depart out; and let not them that are in the countries enter thereinto. For these be the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be*

fulfilled.” Luke 21:20-22. His words were clear for everyone to hear. **If you stay in Jerusalem after the siege begins, you will not be protected from the slaughter.**

I am not a political person. If the Apostle Paul could say, *“For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel...”* I Corinthians 1:17, I certainly can say, *“For Christ sent me not preach politics, but to preach the gospel.”* Yet, as I have pointed out before, I have seen a spirit of delusion and confusion take hold among those who are called by the name of Jesus Christ. Because I see this, I must speak of things that perhaps I would not usually address. One of these is about vaccines.

The vast majority of anti-vaccine holdouts are among Christian conservatives. I certainly believe that every person has a right to decide what they put into their body. It’s just that most of the anti-vaccine information out there is absurd. Many Americans cannot remember the ravages of Polio and how common it was to see people of all ages on crutches, in wheelchairs, on braces, or “iron lungs.” It is easy to be anti-vaccine when a vaccine has eliminated the horrors of a disease from your midst.

We are now facing a wave of the COVID Delta Variant across America. Above 90% of the cases are among the un-vaccinated. A precious lady in our church lost both parents last year to COVID. They were two godly people who would most likely still be with us if a vaccine had been available. Now her oldest brother, a strong Christian man, is in the hospital fighting for his

life. Her nephew is also in the hospital in serious condition. Both are anti-vaccine believers. A dear man of God also contacted me last week because his wife was in serious condition because of COVID. I believe she is in her twenties.

The Christian community in America is in danger of being ravaged because they have chosen “to stay in Jerusalem while the Roman armies gather.” Not only are they keeping themselves at risk, but they are earning the resentment of a nation which has fought with this horror for almost two years. Jesus’ words to the believers was “*flee to the mountains.*” My advice is a little simpler. Get vaccinated!