

Missing Notes in the Covid Chorus

As I write, the Covid crisis still casts its shadow over everyone of us, with the death rate never far from the daily agenda set by the government and the media.

I know I am taking an enormous risk in writing this article – the risk of being misunderstood, if not misrepresented. Let me say, therefore, and say as plainly as I can, that I do not belittle any death, nor am I commenting on the precautions in place to minimise the number of fatalities from the virus.

Having said that, I do want to draw attention to two missing notes in the furore; or, to put it another way, to draw attention to the two elephants in the room.¹

I will not beat about the bush. Most people are being irresponsible and irrational over death from the virus.

Take ‘irresponsible’. I could use another word: hypocritical.

The public, at the very time it is worrying so much about the number of deaths from Covid, turns a blind eye to the astronomical – and growing – number of deaths by abortion. Not to mince words, the majority, while up in arms about Covid fatalities, are ignoring the abomination of the slaughter of almost countless unborn babies.² Where’s the outcry, the daily briefing, about that?³

And now the ‘irrational’.

Death is inevitable. For us all. Everybody knows it. Experience confirms it. The Bible asserts it, and tells us why:

¹ An elephant in the room is an obvious problem or difficulty that people do not want to talk about.

² I except the tiny minority of abortions which are sadly necessary for vital reasons.

³ See Glen Scrivener: ‘Highest Death Toll During Corona: Numbers Poem’.

death came in through Adam's fall, each of us is a sinner from conception, and so every last one of us will die (Gen. 2:16-17; 3:1-24; Ps. 51:5; Rom. 5:12-21; 1 Cor. 15:21-22; Eph. 2:1-3). Whether from the virus, old age, cancer, cardiac arrest, a car crash, or whatever, death is certain. For all of us. For me. For you.⁴

It is not morbid to say so. It is only realistic and sensible to think about the one certainty in life; namely death. I know I must die. You know you must die. It is madness not to recognise it – and prepare for it.

But here we come face to face with the irrationality I spoke of. The government and the media make sure that the possibility of death from Covid is never allowed to slip from the public's mind. Yet, while everybody knows that he or she must die – whether from Covid or not – even so, apart from the virus, most people prefer to ignore that fact. Oh, many do think about death in connection with money and property, inheritance taxes, and all that. But as for their soul – not a thought!

Well, not a conscious thought. Deep down, we all know we are going to die, and, fearing this enemy, instinctively we do all we can to stave it off (Heb. 2:15). But that's as far as it goes. No serious thought about death itself. Indeed, the subject is taboo.

But, when it comes to the virus we have seen something bordering on mass-hysteria, even though for most of us the probability that Covid will prove fatal – even if we get it, or, rather, it gets us – is, relatively speaking, small.⁵

⁴ See my 'The Real Virus' and my 'A Fearful Funeral Text: Yours?'

⁵ I am not being callous, but we need to keep a sense of proportion. In a normal year, about 600,000 die every year in the UK; in other words, 1600 per day. The Great Smog of 1952, which lasted 5 days, was responsible for the death of about 12,000 (2400 per day of the actual smog) in London – London, not the UK. On 22nd June 2020, the total number of Covid-19 *associated* deaths in the

In stark contrast to the fevered concern over Covid, who spares a thought for death itself?

That's not the worst of it.

The Bible tells us that death is not the end but the beginning:

It is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment (Heb. 9:27).

After death, please note; after death, judgment. Think of that!

And after the judgment? Eternity! An eternity of misery for those who are not right with God; an eternity of bliss for those who are (Rom. 5:1; 8:1):

These will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life (Matt. 25:46).

No wonder the prophet counselled:

Prepare to meet your God (Amos. 4:12).

But herein lies the heart of the irrationality, the folly, the madness I speak of: while millions are going to enormous lengths and tolerating all kinds of inconvenience to avoid the relatively small possibility of death by Covid, they ignore

UK stood at just under 43,000 (300 per day) (Gov.UK website), not a few of those who died having had previous medical problems. Those statistics should put the Covid death-rate into some sort of perspective. I acknowledge that playing with statistics is fraught with risk, especially in this case, but the 'ball-park figures' are valid. Moreover, I have not written this article for readers of a learned statistical journal. As for death by Covid, Paul Nuki (*The Daily Telegraph* Global Health Security Editor, London) reported: 'Sir David Spiegelhalter, a statistician and Chair of the Winton Centre for Risk and Evidence Communication, Cambridge... found that for the majority of us, the risk was so small that it "would normally be deemed an acceptable part of life"' ('Crunching the numbers: what are the real risks of dying from Covid-19?', *The Daily Telegraph*, 20th June 2020).

every warning about the certainty of death itself, and laugh at the biblical call to prepare for it.⁶

And when we do meet death – as all of us must – in the overwhelming majority of cases of those who have taken no step to prepare for it, no stone is left unturned to sanitise it, a minister or priest assuring everyone that all is well – when it is not.⁷

Hence my talk of irrationality.

I close with an appeal. I do so in the words of a hymn by William Gadsby. Except for a very tiny minority, none of you will know it. Indeed, your first reaction might well be to wish you had never seen it, and then go on to question the sanity of those who are actually prepared to sing the words! But this only serves to demonstrate the truth of what I have been saying.

Gadsby began by addressing himself:

*Pause, my soul! and ask the question,
Are you ready to meet God?
Am I made a real Christian,
Washed in the Redeemer's blood?
Have I union
With the church's living head?*⁸

Having posed that vital question, Gadsby moved on to those who could answer in the affirmative. After addressing them, speaking of the hope – the confident expectation, the assurance – the believer has in Christ, he then turned to the unbeliever:

*But, if still a total stranger
To his precious name and blood,*⁹

⁶ The Greeks had a saying that those the gods want to destroy they first drive mad.

⁷ See my *Deceit in Death: Christendom in the Raw: 'Christian' Last Rites for Unbelievers*.

⁸ The church's head is the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁹ That is, 'Christ's precious name and blood'.

*You are on the brink of danger
Can you face a holy God?
Think and tremble,
Death is now upon the road.*

Sadly, Gadsby did not add a verse urging all to trust the Lord Jesus Christ – his blood and righteousness – to save them from their sins and so be ready to die, ready to face Christ’s judgment, ready for the eternity to follow.

Let me do so now – in prose.

Are you worried about Covid? Spare a thought – at the very least – for what I have been saying. And act upon it, I urge you. Do so now, I appeal to you. Trust Christ. It is the only way – he himself is the only way (John 6:68; 14:6; Acts 4:12) – to prepare for the one great certainty in your life – your death.