
In This Moment...

Challenges and comforts in the midst of the Corona Virus Pandemic

This outline was written on the morning of March 22, 2020 during the Corona Virus Pandemic. It is intended to be challenging and comforting to our Flock.

This moment...

For me...

My story: March 11-13

March 11 Growing concern and hard work to get me home

March 12 Morning teaching and evening flight to Bucharest

March 13 Flight home through Frankfurt

And now waiting to see if I have it...

For you...

Unexpected threatening danger...

Unexpected life changes...

Unexpected heart responses...

This trouble...

FEAR: Some of you are afraid

Of what will happen in the world...

Of what will happen to your family...

Of what will happen to you...

DISTURBED: Some of you are upset

By the media...

By the government...

By the job...

By the church...

FRUSTRATED: Some of you are annoyed

By the changes you are going through...

By the upsets to your comforts...

By the way people are responding...

ANGER: Some of you are mad

At the situation...

At the people who brought this...

At the people who didn't protect us...

At God who:

Didn't prevent this...

Allowed this...

Brought this...

TRUSTING: Some of you are calm

Believing what God says in the Scripture...

Bowing to what God does in the world...

This challenge...

How should we respond?

Remember

We must remember some vital scriptures (all from the NLT)

Hebrews 2:14–18 (NLT)

¹⁴ Because God's children are human beings—made of flesh and blood—the Son also became flesh and blood. For only as a human being could he die, and only by dying could he break the power of the devil, who had the power of death. ¹⁵ Only in this way could he set free all who have lived their lives as slaves to the fear of dying.

¹⁶ We also know that the Son did not come to help angels; he came to help the descendants of Abraham. ¹⁷ Therefore, it was necessary for him to be made in every respect like us, his brothers and sisters, so that he could be our merciful and faithful High Priest before God. Then he could offer a sacrifice that would take away the sins of the people. ¹⁸ Since he himself has gone through suffering and testing, he is able to help us when we are being tested.

1 John 4:16–19 (NLT)

¹⁶ We know how much God loves us, and we have put our trust in his love.

God is love, and all who live in love live in God, and God lives in them. ¹⁷ And as we live in God, our love grows more perfect. So we will not be afraid on the day of judgment, but we can face him with confidence because we live like Jesus here in this world.

¹⁸ Such love has no fear, because perfect love expels all fear. If we are afraid, it is for fear of punishment, and this shows that we have not fully experienced his perfect love. ¹⁹ We love each other because he loved us first.

Romans 8:15–30 (NLT)

¹⁵ So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God's Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, "Abba, Father."

¹⁶ For his Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God's children. ¹⁷ And since we are his children, we are his heirs. In fact, together with Christ we are heirs of God's glory. But if we are to share his glory, we must also share his suffering.

¹⁸ Yet what we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory he will reveal to us later.

¹⁹ For all creation is waiting eagerly for that future day when God will reveal who his children really are. ²⁰ Against its will, all creation was subjected to God's curse. But with eager hope, ²¹ the creation looks forward to the day when it will join God's children in glorious freedom from death and decay. ²² For we know that all creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. ²³ And we believers

also groan, even though we have the Holy Spirit within us as a foretaste of future glory, for we long for our bodies to be released from sin and suffering. We, too, wait with eager hope for the day when God will give us our full rights as his adopted children, including the new bodies he has promised us. ²⁴We were given this hope when we were saved. (If we already have something, we don't need to hope for it. ²⁵But if we look forward to something we don't yet have, we must wait patiently and confidently.)

²⁶And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don't know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words. ²⁷And the Father who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying, for the Spirit pleads for us believers in harmony with God's own will. ²⁸And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them. ²⁹For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his Son, so that his Son would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. ³⁰And having chosen them, he called them to come to him. And having called them, he gave them right standing with himself. And having given them right standing, he gave them his glory.

And many, many others...

Reflect

We must reflect on some vital truths

God is sovereign over our world.

We live in an Ecclesiastes world.

God is working all things for our good and His glory.

Respond

Let it change your living

We will love...

We will learn...

We will grow...

We will serve...

We will sacrifice...

Let it change your dying...

Rest

In this we rest...

God is in control...

God's love for us never changes...

And finally, in the midst of pestilence, Romans 8:31–39 (NLT)

³¹ What shall we say about such wonderful things as these? If God is for us, who can ever be against us? ³² Since he did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won't he also give us everything else? ³³ Who dares accuse us whom God has chosen for his own? No one—for God himself has given us right standing with himself. ³⁴ Who then will condemn us? No one—for Christ Jesus died for us and was raised to life for us, and he is sitting in the place of honor at God's right hand, pleading for us.

³⁵ Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death? ³⁶ (As the Scriptures say, "For your sake we are killed every day; we are being slaughtered like sheep.") ³⁷ No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us.

³⁸ And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. ³⁹ No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.