

## Peril Priorities – Our Response to COVID-19

### 1) Basic Principles

- a) Sons of God are led by Spirit of God (v. 14)
- b) We will suffer in this present time (v. 17)
- c) We persevere in hope for what we do not see (v. 25)
- d) We know that God is working all things for good (v. 28)
- e) God's greatest "good" & chief aim (v. 29)
- f) We respond to these truths in faith (v. 31)...

### 2) Replace Fear with Love

1 John 4:18, Rom 5:5, Eph 2:10, Matt 5:16, Galatians 6:10, 1 John 5:4

- a) Start thinking about others' needs
  
- b) Use your "outings" well

*Phil 2:3-4 – We do nothing (actually) from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.*

- c) Obey Authorities

Rom 13:1, 1 Pet 2:13

- d) Speak the truth in love

*Psalm 15:2 – The tongue of the wise commends knowledge, but the mouths of fools pour out folly.*

Col 3:1, Phil 4:6,8

- e) Like a Soldier, strategically Ignore Danger

2 Tim 2:1,3

1 John 5:5

### 3) Example Actions

a) From Scripture... (economic danger)

- Acts 4:34-35
- 2 Cor 8:1-3
- Heb 10:32-35

b) From Church History... (in times of Plague)

- AD 249-262, the Roman Empire <sup>1</sup>
- Martin Luther, 1527

"I shall ask God mercifully to protect us. Then I shall fumigate, help purify the air, administer medicine and take it. I shall avoid places and persons where my presence is not needed in order not to become contaminated and thus perchance inflict and pollute others and so cause their death as a result of my negligence. If God should wish to take me, he will surely find me and I have done what he has expected of me and so I am not responsible for either my own death or the death of others. However, if my neighbor needs me I shall not avoid place or person but will go freely as stated above. See this is such a God-fearing faith because it is neither brash nor foolhardy and does not tempt God."<sup>2</sup>

c) From us...

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#### Praxis

1. Make an action Plan for yourself personally, and together with your family as to how you are going to replace fear with love in taking action to love your neighbors in creative and sacrificial ways over the next month

**KSN [plague, peril / dog, poor, kickball ]**

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<sup>1</sup> Adapted from Moses Lee, "What the Early Church can Teach us about the Coronavirus" 3/12/20, *thegospelcoalition.org*, accessed 3/26/20.

<sup>2</sup> Luther's Works, Vol 43, p. 132.