

COVID 19 Response

As I watched the events that were unfolding around us this week and I saw what the Wake County Board of Commissioners is doing, they're not even hiding it anymore, they're not doing anything but attacking churches. They put aside all pretense. They even have the audacity to go into details about how churches should do the Lord's Supper. A man who is a sodomite and does not want to retain God in his knowledge, these are people that think they can treat the church in any way they want because the church has no real position in society, has no real position in the world. They make higher standards for churches than they do for McDonald's because they think McDonald's is more important than the church of Jesus Christ. This is a really important thing for us to consider, not just that they have said the church can't do something and McDonald's can, it's because they believe, they sincerely believe that McDonald's is more important to the state of the world than the church of Jesus Christ. We should really think about that and we should really ask ourselves, 'What does that mean to us and how effective we have been?' How about at the state level as Governor Cooper gave up every pretense about why he originally said everyone needed to stay home? He said we all need to stay home to flatten the curve. There was no curve, it was pretty much flat before the stay at home orders had any effect. Yet his response is not to say, 'Well, we didn't need to do that', his response was, 'We have to still do this to keep people from getting sick.' The more I look at these things, the more I become convinced that the church of Jesus Christ has the responsibility to respond to these things. It has a responsibility to speak. I'm going to talk about it later in some detail because the church has its own jurisdiction and that means we are to be a check on the state. We're not just to say whatever the state says, we will do. That is a legitimate thing, that is a legitimate thing for individuals to do, but we are a separate jurisdiction, we are a nation within the nation. That's the term that the Bible uses for the church of Jesus Christ. Our citizenship is in heaven, that's the term that the Bible uses about the church of Jesus Christ. We are ambassadors, that's the term the Bible uses for the church of Jesus Christ. Right now, ambassadors in Washington D.C. do not need to do social distancing. The state openly acknowledges they do not have the right to tell the ambassadors in D.C. to do social distancing, but yet they tell the church that it is less than McDonald's. But before we talk about that I think it's important to consider and remember why these things that are happening, are happening. Exodus 15:26, "If you diligently heed the voice of the Lord your God and do what is right in His sight, give ear to His commandments and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have brought on the Egyptians for I am the Lord that heals you." We should never think that the panic that's going on, the coronavirus, that this is anything different than the plagues of Egypt coming upon a people because they refused to obey the commandments of God. Remember who's supposed to teach them to obey the commandments of God, that is the great commission, that is the duty of the church. We can never go, 'But this is them'. No, this is us. We deserve the plagues, we're a nation and we are part of the nation that delights to slaughter children. We're going, 'Oh no! Look at how horrible it is, there are 51,000 deaths'. 51,000 deaths? We murder easily 1.5 million children a year, easily. This is nothing compared to what we willingly and willfully do in murdering babies in the womb. Don't believe when the politicians say they are so concerned about life, including the Republicans because when the

Republicans had control of the House and Senate, they voted to give billions of dollars to Planned Parenthood. Don't believe them when they tell you that they care about life. Don't believe them when they tell you that they care about life when they say they are trying to protect people from dying of the coronavirus. We have more evidence than that, we know that's not true. The church has a responsibility to be thoughtful and not just follow. The world walks in darkness and we're not to walk in darkness. We know the state does not believe in protecting life, we know it and we deserve to be judged because how much does the church say about it when abortion started? Almost nothing. When Roe vs. Wade overturned the idea that it's murder to murder your children, the church said almost nothing. We deserve the plagues of Egypt because we don't give ears to His commandment, we don't keep His statutes and we're not doing what we were commanded to do which was to teach people to obey the laws of God, to keep His commandments and keep all His statutes. We didn't rise up and say no more. When we go to the abortion clinic, two or three people go, something the Vandyslunts go and in their case nine or ten. There are thousands of churches around here and the church is saying it's fine to commit murder. Do you expect a greater plague than the coronavirus? The answer should be 'yes'. God said if you obey My commandments I will not plague you with the plagues of Egypt. If you do not, you get the plagues of Egypt. We should have an anticipation of the plagues. We're a nation that embraces sodomy, we allowed five men and women wearing black robes, dictate to the nation that we have to accept two men being married and two women being married. A ridiculous concept that is clear from biology it is an absolute absurd concept. As Paul says in Romans 1:24-27, "Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due." God says everybody knows this and yet as a people, understand we are part of this nation and the church is part of this nation, and what happens when five people say that you have to allow two people to marry that are of the same sex? The nation bowed down before them. Let's make sure we understand, it's not just the nation that did this, conservatives, the most conservative denomination is the Southern Baptist Convention and what was their response to Obergefell? It wasn't, 'God's going to kill us for this. We should expect pestilence and the sword' which is what Moses' response would have been. Instead, the SBC issued an apology for how they treated homosexuals in the past. Let's not look and go, 'Why are we being plagued?' Instead let's look and say, 'Isn't God merciful that He has not destroyed us yet?' Because instead of the church rising up and saying we would not accept it, the church embraced it. Maybe not embraced it, they still said it was sin, but they said it was like any other sin, we should love the sinner and hate the sin, instead of saying this is an abomination in the sight of God. Now God has given us over to greater confusion as a nation. If you want to embrace vile passions? I will make you so blind as a people, I will make you so that you are stumbling in the dark so you can't even tell who is a boy and who is a girl. That's where we are as a nation. We wouldn't retain God and His knowledge so He is turning us over to a depraved mind and you see it step after step after step and we've broken into a run. I go back to when I was growing up and we were just walking towards Sodom and Gomorrah and now we

are in a full fledged sprint and what is the church doing? We're the pillar and ground of the truth, we are the light of the world, we are the salt of the earth. We are the ones that have the duty and responsibility to stand up and say this is not acceptable. We should expect far greater plagues than this, this is a plague of confusion, this is a plague of fear. We should expect a plague of death. We should look at this and say that this is God being kind and merciful to His people and just to give us a warning because we deserve a lot more. When we see the pestilence coming, when we see the judgement coming we shouldn't ask why God would do that, we should ask why God has been so patient with us, so long suffering with us? We should all be sitting here and telling ourselves that if we don't repent, if we don't repent, we should expect far greater judgement. It's really easy to look outside, but how much have we spoken? How much have we as a church spoken about the evil that's going on around us? Remember all the plagues that came upon the Israelites in the wilderness? Paul said those happened so we could look and be warned by them, we could look and we could say that this is what God does to people who know Him but do not obey Him. We should have a fearful expectation of judgement. Why is that? Because we have a duty to respond as individuals, and we have a duty to exercise the duty God gave us because He has given us real authority in the world. He has said we are kings and priests in Revelation 1, kings that don't stop the evil around them have a real responsibility to the one that appointed them king. We have real authority and with real authority comes real responsibility. When you look around at how God ordered the world, there is One who has ultimate authority, who cannot be questioned, everything He says happens and the world conforms to His will. That is God and He appoints a bunch of authority, but He never gives ultimate authority to them. To the civil magistrate He gives authority, but He also puts the church there with real authority and fathers there with real authority, and householders. All these authorities are in place so no man has ultimate authority, only God has ultimate authority. No authority is absolute on this earth except God. Delegated authority is not absolute and one of the reasons why God put these different authorities out there is for them to constrain each other. It's just like the reason He split the world into multiple nations, nations constrained the sins of other nations. It's why when our country was set up that we have the legislative branch, and the judicial branch, and the executive branch and they were clearly distinct and had distinct rights to constrain the other branches because they look and say that's how God set up the world. The political theory of our founding was based on biblical political theory which says there are separate jurisdictions and they have the responsibility to constrain one another. Even last week, in the passage where it talks about the locusts are going to come and the father is supposed to tell it to his son and who else? His son's son. Do you realize even that, that simple statement is a picture of constraining authorities? Because if the son doesn't tell him, the grandfather is supposed to tell his grandchildren so even if you have a faithless generation, there is still constraint on their authority. This is what God says in Deuteronomy 6, this is the way God has ordered the world, that there are authorities that constrain other authorities. This happens across jurisdictions as well. Think of Nathan in 2 Samuel 12:7-9, "Then Nathan said to David, "You are the man! Thus says the Lord God of Israel: 'I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you from the hand of Saul. I gave you your master's house and your master's wives into your keeping, and gave you the house of Israel and Judah. And if that had been too little, I also would have given you much more! Why have you despised the commandment of the Lord, to do evil in His sight? You have killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword; you have taken his wife

to be your wife, and have killed him with the sword of the people of Ammon.” This prophet says he has a responsibility to go speak to the king. Not just that, you see Nehemiah who is an example the other way. The church in Nehemiah’s time is talking to has started to invite the enemies of Israel to live in the temple. Nehemiah 13:3-4, “So it was, when they had heard the Law, that they separated all the mixed multitude from Israel. Now before this, Eliashib the priest, having authority over the storerooms of the house of our God, was allied with Tobiah.” He didn’t go, ‘Eliashib has authority over the temple, what can I do?’ He said he had authority given to him by God, he will stand and give an answer before God so he went and destroyed the idols. Throughout Scripture there’s this picture over and over again and it’s really easy for us to read Romans 13 and we should take Romans 13 seriously. It says to honor the civil magistrate, honor those authority that God has put over you, but it doesn’t mean that we say therefore no authority is allowed to speak. That’s not how God ordered the world, He didn’t give absolute authority over the governor of NC. The church has real authority and with it, it has real responsibility. Just as God appointed the civil magistrates as avengers of His wrath, He appointed the church to be His body and specifically, this is really important for us to understand, the state is not the head of the church. The head of Wake County Commissioners thinks he is the head of the church, thinks he can direct how the Lord’s Supper should be done. He is not the head of the church, our authority does not come from him. We have Jesus Christ and He alone is the head of the church and He is the One in the jurisdiction of the church that we have to answer to. That doesn’t mean as individuals we can ignore what the state said, but it does mean as a church we have the responsibility to say that you cannot tell us what to do, you do not have the authority, you are not our head, Jesus Christ is our head. When we fail to say that, we get the situation we are in in this country. We get in the situation where we are saying the church has no place, the church has no rights, the church has no authority. How can we tell them that two men can’t marry if when they tell us not to meet we say, ‘Yes sir’, and bow down before them? I’m not saying that we should have a rebellious attitude. What I’m saying is, if the governor of NC went to the governor of SC and said, ‘How dare you open your restaurants! Close them right now!’ What would he say? He would say, ‘You fool, who do you think you are?’ Churches are the same, we don’t answer to the governor of NC. We have a King and it’s not the governor of NC. That doesn’t mean that there’s not a reasonable place for the state to come and say, ‘We have this plague going on and let us share with you the wisdom that we have, we suggest you do this.’ And the church says, ‘We will exercise authority.’ That’s how it would happen between NC and SC. The governor would call and say, ‘Hey, we think you should consider this.’ This is what the church should expect. This is why we have the First Amendment to the Constitution. Right now I think we should be very disturbed because one of the signs of judgement on the church is when the church says that it should bow down to the state. If you look at the destruction that has happened throughout history related to the church, so many times it’s directly related to the idea that the church should bow down to the state or the state should bow down to the church instead of understanding both of them are appointed to be ministers of God, by God and both of them have to answer to God. We need to recognize that if we won’t say things about simple things like our right to meet, how can we say things about what the state says we won’t stop the murder of children? If we say we don’t have authority to decide how to give the Lord’s Supper, how can we say to the state that they don’t have the authority to say that two men can marry? It’s very dangerous that the churches are just bowing

to the state. It's the same thing that they did when the SBC apologized for the mistreatment of homosexuals because the state said that homosexuality was a good thing. We should expect greater plagues than this. The church has its authority from Christ directly and we have the authority of the word, we have the authority of preaching and proclaiming truth. We have that responsibility to do to the world around us, the church has authority from Christ directly and we have the authority to speak and we need to be willing to speak. I'm becoming more and more concerned about how we are puffing up the state to think it has an authority that it does not have. Think at how quickly governor Cooper backed off. Two co-chairs of the Senate judiciary committee warned him that they would take him to court if he tried to do this thing that was so blatantly illegal, so blatantly unconstitutional, and he backed off immediately. We shouldn't think this is even that hard, but are we willing to speak? We should recognize when the church doesn't speak that we are denying that we are ambassadors of Christ, we are denying our citizenship is in heavenly places, we are denying that we are kings and priests, we are denying these biblical precepts and we are saying that we must answer to the civil magistrate and not answer to Christ. I want to talk about some things that I think we need to be saying. The first thing is, we need to be saying that we need to fear God. It needs to start with us, we need to start with the idea of, do we fear God? The reason that we are in so much confusion, the reason there is so much fear out in the society around us starts with us. Do we fear God or do we have an attitude that's like Moses had? Exodus 5:3, "So they said, "The God of the Hebrews has met with us. Please, let us go three days' journey into the desert and sacrifice to the Lord our God, lest He fall upon us with pestilence or with the sword.'" Which do you fear more? If the church disobeys what God has commanded, if we don't look at the things that God has commanded and say 'what should we do?', not out of disrespect or to dishonor the civil magistrate, but to say, 'we have a jurisdiction, we have a responsibility'. Do we say that if we fail to do that we expect God to fall upon us with pestilence and the sword? That's why I'm saying with the stuff going on right now, it's very minor, but God also sends real plagues. Think of the eight that we have discussed so far from Exodus, God sends real plagues and it wasn't just then. He does it now and unless we repent, we should expect the same so where is your fear? Now it is proper to obey the civil magistrate as individuals, especially because of fear of God. God says in Romans 13, that we are supposed to fear the civil magistrates, we are supposed to give fear to whom fear is due. Part of our fear is to the church because we do have a jurisdiction. Until we can say that we fear God, how can we convince other people that they should fear God instead of the fears that are surrounding them and overwhelming them right now? We also need to teach the fear of God to the world. The world is in a panic for something that will probably turn out to be 2-5 times worse than the flu in terms of fatality rate. People are used to that, but they are panicking about the other. Understand part of this is people are putting these numbers up, you go to Johns Hopkins site and they show this counter, like minute by minute. All these people are dying, oh no! All these people are infected, oh no! What are we going to do? Understand they don't know. Those numbers aren't real, they're adding things together that don't match with another. One country counts it this way and another country counts it a different way. They're counting all deaths differently. Those numbers are not true, they're not even close to being correct. The reason that they post those numbers is they are trying to inspire people to fear something other than God and it's been very successful. We need to say, 'They are telling you a story so that you fear something other than God.' What you fear, you

worship. God's called the fear of Isaac for a reason, that is a term of your ultimate fear being your ultimate god. They want to inspire fear because when they inspire fear, they become the high priest of a new religion that tells you not to leave your house or you will die, don't go to the beach or you will die. They created a whole new priestly class, we need to recognize there are reasons doctors are doing that, we need to take the doctrine of total depravity and realize it applies to all people, even if they have a PhD after their name, because it definitely does. We need to cut through the rhetoric and realize the reason these statistics are so powerful, the reason people click on them and want to watch boils down to one thing, people are filled with the fear of death, they are filled with the fear of death. That's why people sit there with morbid curiosity to see how many people died today because it could be them. The fear of death brings bondage as it says in Hebrews 2:14-15, "Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage." Understand why we are locked in our houses as a nation and as the world. There is only one reason that they were able to do house arrest for the whole world practically, and that is because of fear of death because fear of death produces bondage, it produces enslavement. It's a rebuke to us because the solution to fearing death is fearing God. It's the message that the church has abandoned and we should expect greater plagues until we embrace the message again because the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom and the beginning of knowledge. You can't preach the gospel without preaching the fear of God. As Peter says in 1:17, "And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay here in fear." That's how we are supposed to be living, not in fear of death, but in fear of God. Because our society is so filled with fear of death we become so risk averse. The reason the world was able to spin up this huge panic is because we think there should be no risks in this world. We need to train our children that there's risk in everything. Do you stay at home and nobody knows if staying at home actually increases the number of people getting the coronavirus or decreases it because if it's based on viral load it probably increased it. Look at the places with the biggest outbreaks, nursing homes, prisons, assisted living centers, all these places where people are locked at home, that's where all the outbreaks are. Do you know whether causing everybody to be a prisoner in their own home has helped or hurt? I guarantee the answer is that they don't know because no one does except God. Do you go out? There's a risk. Do you stay home? There's a risk. Is it worth the risk? We need to make sure that we're teaching our children that we're not supposed to run around in fear, we're not supposed to run around and be safe because there is no safety except in Christ, that is the only safety. Whether we live or die we are blessed in Christ and everything else leads you to the point where you realize there is no safety. Life is about looking and balancing risks. When we're filled with fear of other things other than God, people think they can eliminate risks, people will highlight a risk which is what our nation is doing. There's 25 times more people that died from automobile accidents in a given year, something like that. We don't go, 'If you get in a car you're going to die!' because the government chose not to hype that fear. Understand that, the government chose not to hype that fear, they could have chosen to hype that fear and they will choose to hype other fears unless we say we don't fear man, we fear God. Let's be serious, the people who are going, men on basic income, that's just too far for the American population to accept and now most people

are in favor of it. You don't think there will be temptation for the government to do the same thing to get power again? Of course they will be tempted to that, it worked so well this time. Before the stay at home order, the reason that they issued them, they mostly admitted the reason they issued them was because that's the only way they thought people would do social distancing. Now they've been so successful, don't think that people who are depraved, people who are so twisted in their view of the world that they think two men can marry, that they think right before birth it's not a baby but after birth it is a baby, if you think these people are so rejecting of God, you think that they won't manipulate the power that they found they had over the American people? Another thing we need to be saying is that the government is not the source of truth. I think it's important that we be declaring this to the broader world, Jesus Christ is the truth. Governments lie all the time and that can be looked at as a very disrespectful statement, but every one of us in this room knows that it's true and to speak truth is not inherently disrespectful. I'm not even saying they are lying for nefarious reasons. They lie because they say they know what's best for you and we will lie about it so you do what we want. We will tell you there are stay at home orders so you will social distance because that's what is best for you, you won't realize how important it is to do social distancing unless we tell you you're not allowed to leave your home. That's a lie, but they're not doing it for nefarious purposes, they're doing it because they don't know God and they think that lies are the way to blessing instead of lies being the means to abomination. For instance, Florida this week, the health department was telling them they had to close all the beaches and they were upset with the governor because he didn't close down all the beaches. Finally the governor refused and the beaches started to reopen and now the health service of Florida is saying no one is going to catch coronavirus at the beach anyways. You're outside, there is lots of wind and sun and it's the perfect environment to not get it. We didn't tell you to shut down the beaches because the beaches should be shut down. Nobody will catch the virus at the beach, we saw spring break and nobody got it, but you're not going to take the stay at home order seriously unless we close down the beaches because we won't fill you with fear unless we shut down the beaches. That's not a quote, but that's a pretty close paraphrase to what someone who works for the health department of Florida said. Understand this is what governments do. Remember this is the same government that says a fetus is not a baby. This is the same government that says a boy can be born in a girl's body. We need to recognize that governments say false things all the time, that is not where our source of truth should be. They do this all the time, like on the CDC's website about a week ago, in one place they say there's 38,000 that died from coronavirus and in another place on their website they say between 13,000 and 14,000. Why do they have two different numbers? Because the one is using the standard death certificates where you are supposed to list cause of death and the other is using the number of people that died having tested positive for it or a doctor thought maybe they tested positive for it. Understand, when you see that number that says, I think today it's up to 52,000 people that died of coronavirus, that's not what that number is. It's people who had symptoms of coronavirus or they tested positive for it and they died. It has nothing to do whether they died of it or not, but if they just said it's 13,000 people would be saying, 'Wait a second, we did this for 13,000 people?' so they have to inflate the number. We need to be a people that are a discerning people and we need to recognize they're just making wild guesses anyway, they assign things as COVID 19 deaths, but when they investigated, 99.2% of the people in New York that they investigated, and they did like

3,000 deaths, they had other pre diagnosed conditions. What did they die of? Did they die of the cancer? Did they die of hypertension that doesn't kill that many people? Did they die of the heart disease that they had? We will never know that answer because God kills and God makes alive. Even when we think about that, that doesn't mean that we can't know things, like the Spanish Flu, people knew when the Spanish Flu happened because one day someone is healthy and two days later they are dead. People said this was serious, we need to change our behavior. That's not what is happening here, there are times when God makes it very obvious that He is judging you with a plague. The Spanish Flu unquestionably was the judgement of God with a plague. I repeat what I said earlier, this is not the judgement of God with a plague of sickness, this is one of confusion and panic, that's what this plague is right now. Governments lie because they are more concerned about controlling people, a lot of times it's because they think they will be a blessing to people so we need to stop pretending that they don't have another agenda. 1 Samuel 8:10-18, explains what happens when you get a king, "So Samuel told all the words of the Lord to the people who asked him for a king. And he said, "This will be the behavior of the king who will reign over you: He will take your sons and appoint them for his own chariots and to be his horsemen, and some will run before his chariots. He will appoint captains over his thousands and captains over his fifties, will set some to plow his ground and reap his harvest, and some to make his weapons of war and equipment for his chariots. He will take your daughters to be perfumers, cooks, and bakers. And he will take the best of your fields, your vineyards, and your olive groves, and give them to his servants. He will take a tenth of your grain and your vintage, and give it to his officers and servants. And he will take your male servants, your female servants, your finest young men, and your donkeys, and put them to his work. He will take a tenth of your sheep. And you will be his servants. And you will cry out in that day because of your king whom you have chosen for yourselves, and the Lord will not hear you in that day.'" We need to understand this is what governments have always been like because this is what man is like, this is why God established multiple jurisdictions to constrain the other jurisdictions. We need to be declaring to the world that government is not the pillar and ground of truth, government does not stand on truth, they stand on power. The church is supposed to stand on truth, the church is supposed to be giving the interpretation of events. The church is supposed to say what God is doing because we have God's word that tells us what He is doing and we're supposed to understand the nature and character of God so we can say, not with precision like we heard it from the voice of God, but we can say that this is what makes sense from Scripture based on what God is doing here. That also means certain things like the principles of what was called science, that was based on biblical principles. The idea that God is a God of order, that sowing and reaping are principles He embedded into His creation so we could fulfill His commandments to men to take dominion of the earth. There's a real place for science, there's a real place for knowledge, there's a real place where determining what's happening, but that's not what we call science now because they keep putting these talking heads on the television shows and calling them scientists. When you read Scripture they are called magicians, they are called astrologers, they're not basing it on science, they are basing it on them seeing the future. God holds the future in His hand, not men. They don't see the future unless they got it from God. Science is things that can be measured, where you can make a hypothesis and test it to verify it, you can say this is a God of order, but what is being called science now is evolution and climate change and the death toll from the coronavirus. All three of

those are in the same category. Remember that when they come and they say there won't be any snow in 2010, which they did say, and it's way past 2010. Those are the same people, with the same techniques, that are saying there will be 2.2 million dead in America from coronavirus. This isn't science. The church has a duty to reclaim science, science is the pursuit of knowledge and truth, it's not the pursuit of the future and predictions and all these things that have nothing to do with science. The church of God, instead of being the people that are constantly told they are anti-science need to speak up and say we're not anti-science, this is what anti-science is, to call yourself a scientist and then go and do things that have nothing to do with science. Right? The antichrist, the pope, calls himself a Christian, yet has nothing to do with Christ. That's what it means to be anti-science, that's exactly what these so-called scientists are. We need to start speaking and saying, understand they're as right about climate change as they were about the 2.2 million dead and they're going to shift their basis, and the person who wrote the paper shifted his basis then all of a sudden says there will be 50,000 and then there will be 8,000. He said that to begin with to manipulate people and our government embraced it to manipulate people. The church needs to be the advocate for seeking the truth and to understand the world because we have a duty to take dominion. I think one of the reasons that we stop doing that is we start to be afraid of what we would find. If you don't want to search the universe, like all these scientists are doing because they just want to find water on a planet because that proves there is life on another planet when God says this is the planet that has life. Christians are afraid of what they will find instead of saying God is God and there is no other. All the research with science, we should be the ones embracing the discovery of whatever is out there because we can trust the God who placed it there. Then the other thing that we need to be embracing and pleading for is reason and logic. I looked at what passes for logic, I looked at the arguments people are making and it's incredible that they're not ashamed to make these arguments. They make fun of President Trump for the arguments he makes and the things he says, then they turn around and say something equally ridiculous. We need to be a people of reason and logic. We should not expect those who are in darkness, who are groping around in the darkness to be able to reason things. Their ability to logically construct an argument is terrible, they make so many logical fallacies. They assume multiple worst case scenarios that are contradictory then they will make predictions based on these things that they know both can't happen. This is how they keep getting these numbers that are absurd. Are you in the position to say where the logical fallacy is, this is where your reasoning broke down? The church has a responsibility to do this, the church has the responsibility to protect our neighbors by being able to do that. Now, a hundred years ago, maybe longer than that, the church embraced this idea that Christianity is not an intellectual exercise. Well that's completely contrary to Romans 12, where we are supposed to take every thought captive. That's in the midst of Romans which is one of the most logical arguments ever made. Paul's not saying you should reason differently that he reasons, he is saying you should reason and be able to look at things that are logical, you should be able to pick apart things that aren't logical. Are you teaching your children how to be logical? This is one of the big failings of the church, we don't teach our children that they have to be logical and able to reason. The church must reject irrational thought just as we must reject every other form of deceit. Let me quickly say something else, if you look at Scripture, who is responsible for health? Which jurisdiction did God assign that to? He assigned it to the church. Dealing with quarantines is the responsibility of the church. When someone has leprosy, who do they go to?

When they're separated from society, who decides they are separated from society? Understand when the government is doing all this stuff, it's outside their jurisdiction, that's not the jurisdiction of the civil magistrate, that's the jurisdiction of the church. Why would that be? Because we are supposed to understand what God is doing. President Trump had his day of prayer, but he doesn't understand what God is doing because he doesn't know who God is. The only ones that can actually speak and say what is happening are those who have the Spirit of God in them. It's an important consideration in the society we live in to consider who we talk to. I go to the people in Nigeria and say that and they say it's not true. It's in Scripture, it is true. Isn't the one that should be directing be the ones who know the God who heals as opposed to the people who do not? God gave jurisdiction to the church to deal with sickness, to understand when it's right to quarantine. You know in Scripture what there is not anywhere, ever? A quarantine of the healthy. The people who are supposed to be quarantined are the sick, not the healthy. Another thing we need to be speaking against is moving ancient landmarks. When we think about that and God talks about how that's an abomination that He brings judgement on us, understand as a nation we're moving landmarks when we do this. Deuteronomy 19:14, "You shall not remove your neighbor's landmark, which the men of old have set, in your inheritance which you will inherit in the land that the Lord your God is giving you to possess." When we move the ancient landmarks, we lose our possessions. I want to make sure we understand the possessions we have do come from the idea of freedom of religion, it does come from the idea of freedom of speech and when we let the state move these things we should expect to lose the blessings that we have received in this country. When we allow them to remove the ancient landmarks, we stop having boundaries and we should expect to lose our nation. We've been moving so many ancient landmarks, but we should recognize everyone we lose, every one we allow to be moved, it does cause us to be thrown out of the land, it causes our nation to change. There are unrighteous things that our nation has done and we should be happy to move that, but the responsibility of the government to constrain the governing through the simple act of declaring truth, the simple act of protesting is not one of those. We have the right to petition God, there is no authority that does not have to receive petitions because God says He will receive them. The right of churches to speak, this is a separate right that churches have to speak, that's separate from the rights of the state. This is one of the big differences that comes out of America. This is one of the stark differences between us and most of the other countries in the world, most other countries in the world have national religions. Our national religion was Christianity, but it wasn't a particular form of Christianity and now the state is saying, 'You can't worship as you see fit even though our Constitution says it.' We need to recognize the danger of accepting that. Another thing we need to do is insist on letting your yes be yes. The government gave very clear reasons why they had to destroy the ability for people to provide for themselves. If they didn't the hospitals would have been overwhelmed and there would have been more deaths than happened otherwise. If they started by saying they were doing this so the coronavirus wouldn't kill anyone, people would have thought they were crazy. If it is this disease that is this pandemic all over the world killing all these people, you think you can avoid all deaths? But they have moved the goalpost and said, 'this is the reason.' That's why people are saying we need to be locked down for 18 months. They're moving the goalposts and other authorities have to stand up and say they don't have the right to do that. The curve has been flattened, you have a duty to reopen, the curve was flattened without your actions so you have a

duty to reopen. The church needs to say that the state is not who kills and who makes alive, that's not the role of the state, that's what God does so the state is just wandering aimlessly saying they have to save lives, but they are stumbling in the darkness. Why are they stumbling in the darkness? Because the church is not shining forth light. One more, we need to be declaring that the idolatry of the state is evil. This is where people are, this is why people are hunkering down in their homes. Some are doing it because we should honor the civil magistrate and I'm not saying we shouldn't do it for that reason. That's not why most of society is doing it, they are naturally rebellious because that's why they are in rebellion to God. The state is trying to say we are all-knowing, the state is trying to say we are the ones who save, we are the saviour and the church has to be saying they're not, they can't save anyone. Only Jesus Christ can save. I want to close with this thought and I'm going to read a fairly long passage from Jeremiah 33, but I want us to think about it as I list all these things and what we need to be doing. I wasn't giving specifics on what we should be doing, but I think we need to talk about specifics of what we should be doing as a church, but I want to close with the idea that weddings have been cancelled. Do you realize how serious that is? God says it's really serious, that it is a serious judgement when weddings are cancelled. Jeremiah 33:6-11, "Behold, I will bring it health and healing; I will heal them and reveal to them the abundance of peace and truth. And I will cause the captives of Judah and the captives of Israel to return, and will rebuild those places as at the first. I will cleanse them from all their iniquity by which they have sinned against Me, and I will pardon all their iniquities by which they have sinned and by which they have transgressed against Me. Then it shall be to Me a name of joy, a praise, and an honor before all nations of the earth, who shall hear all the good that I do to them; they shall fear and tremble for all the goodness and all the prosperity that I provide for it." "Thus says the Lord: 'Again there shall be heard in this place—of which you say, "It is desolate, without man and without beast"—in the cities of Judah, in the streets of Jerusalem that are desolate, without man and without inhabitant and without beast, the voice of joy and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride, the voice of those who will say: "Praise the Lord of hosts, For the Lord is good, For His mercy endures forever"— and of those who will bring the sacrifice of praise into the house of the Lord. For I will cause the captives of the land to return as at the first,' says the Lord." Someone did a study that they polled 3,000 people and 95% of them said they were depressed or afraid or anxious, 95%. This is us, make sure we recognize this is us. This is what is missing, this is what we need to be saying to the civil magistrate, "Praise the Lord of hosts, For the Lord is good, For His mercy endures forever"— and of those who will bring the sacrifice of praise into the house of the Lord. For I will cause the captives of the land to return as at the first,' says the Lord." When God judges by removing weddings, it is a serious judgement and this judgement isn't the virus. The virus isn't affecting that many people. The serious judgement is we're not a joyful people, we're not a people that say the Lord of Host. We're a church that remains silent instead of speaking and we should expect greater plagues to come if we're not willing to speak. We need to ask ourselves individually what we should do, but my main point here is more as a group because as a group we have authority. As a church we have authority and we have the responsibility to constrain other authorities that are going off the rails. So we need to be asking what we should be doing, how we should be responding and not just saying it will take care of itself because God says the captives won't return until the voice of those who praise the Lord of hosts for the Lord is good and His mercy endures forever.

Let me close us in prayer. Oh Lord God, we do thank You for this time. We thank You that You have put us in this place. This is even a testimony of Your mercy for we see the evil, we see how we're like Sodom and Gomorrah, but you have not rained fire and brimstone upon us. We see Your mercy Lord. Let us be a people that are bolder to declare that You must be praised. Let us be a people that are bolder to declare that truth must be known, that we should not put our trust in the government. We should fear, we should honor, but we shouldn't put trust in the government to do something they're not equipped to do. Lord, we pray that You give Your church, Your bride, the voice that she should have as a nation, as a body of kings and priests. Lord, let us not remain silent, but let us speak. Lord, let us be like Moses, if we fail to do what we should do, we should expect destruction with pestilence and the sword. Lord be merciful to us, in Jesus Christ's name we pray, amen.