

May 10, 2020

What The World Needs Now

by Jim Kocher, elder in the Wheeling, WV congregation

This recent COVID-19 virus outbreak has given us time to reflect on just how small we are as individuals when a tiny, microscopic germ can kill thousands of people.

True, to date, it has not been as devastating as the Black (Bubonic) plague of the early middle ages or even the more recent Spanish Flu at the end of World War I. Despite those comparisons, this recent outbreak should be a humbling experience to all of us.

The most disturbing element that continues in our country is the in-fighting and division amongst our government leaders. Everyone has their own ideas about how to handle the crisis. There has been no real “oneness” of mind demonstrated throughout this crisis. Many politicians seek their own agendas rather than what is best for the public. Instead of being public servants, it seems like the public ends up serving them. How humble is that?

If we would have had this type of divisive, selfish attitude and division in the 1940’s would the United States had even won World War II? I seriously doubt it!

During a time of crisis like this one, we as a church should be humbled, which in turn, should lead us to a state of HUMILITY. *Holman’s Bible Dictionary* defines HUMILITY as a personal quality of being free of arrogance and pride and having an accurate estimate of one’s worth.

Having HUMILITY, or a humble spirit, is a recognition of one’s sinfulness in comparison to a righteous God (Isaiah 6:5). God looks favorably on those who have a contrite (humble and repentant) heart (Isaiah 66:2). God promises blessings to those who are humble and have humility: Wisdom (Proverbs 11:2) and Honor (Proverbs 15:33).

In 2 Chronicles 7:14, God told King Solomon that if the people would humble themselves and turn from their wicked ways that He (GOD) would heal the land. This would include things like deadly viruses and extreme weather. Example: Below freezing weather during the growing season in May, which we just recently experienced.

We need to humbly pray that God would heal our land. Our country desperately needs to follow a path of HUMILITY! We must pray for God’s will, not ours, to be done. If God wants something to happen, it will!

On a personal level we must strive to be humbly obedient to God while living in a very imperfect world. Jesus Christ set the perfect example for us to follow (Hebrews 5:8).

The odds are against a true Christian in this sinful world, but God can put the odds in our favor. How can we make this happen? By putting away arrogance and pride and realizing the *accurate* measurement of our worth. Our goal should be to strive to become ripe first fruits so we can be ready for that first (early) harvest. Jesus Christ is looking forward to reaping us (Revelation 14:12-15). Read and mediate on these words.

Let's look forward to Pentecost, the Feast of First Fruits, on May 31st! Focus on our belief in God's truth, have faith and hope in His plan for humankind, and continue to develop HUMILITY in our personal lives. These attributes will lead us to a wonderful future ahead. This will be a time of peace and harmony for all people on earth.

What does the world need now? HUMILITY!