

## **How should a Believer Respond to the Coronavirus?**

Psalm 27

Jeremy Cagle, March 15, 2020

Hello everyone, this is Pastor Jeremy here. And we're doing something unusual today, something we've never done before. We're having church over the internet. You are in your living room or in your home and I'm here in my office on Promontory speaking to you through the computer. And so this is something that's kind of unusual for us.

But I just want to say a few words about that, what's going on. And the reason that we're doing this. As some of you know, several weeks ago, a handful of us went down to California to the States for a conference. And we came back here to Canada. And as we were doing that, going through the airport, one thing we noticed was there were a lot of people wearing masks covering the lower part of their face, coughing, and looking worried. It was kind of an unsettling thing to see. Then we went to the customs line. And as we're in the customs line, customs agents ask the question, "Have you been to China? Have you been to India?" And if you had they had you go to a separate group and answer a whole list of questions there. We also noticed as we came back, schools were closing, and there was mad rushes to the grocery store. You also heard about the NBA and the NHL, closing their seasons; it's the first time in history both organizations have done that. The World Stock Market started plummeting. You heard all kinds of things like this and all over what has been now revealed to be known as the Coronavirus or Covid-19. It's a respiratory disease that causes shortness of breath, and even death in some cases.

Now, I don't know the science side of things. I can't weigh in on that; I'm not trained to do that. I haven't researched all of that, but I can say on the human side of things. I think I speak for us all when I say this is scary. It's a scary thing. It's unusual. It's a bit unnerving to see the world kind of unravel like this. I heard one person say this week they said, "You know, I've been through a lot of stuff. I've seen a lot of stuff. I've seen Ebola I've seen the Swine Flu, but I've never seen anything like this." And I would say as well from a pastoral perspective, I've canceled church for lots of reasons. We've done it for the weather. We've canceled it for power outages, even for sick kids, but never for an epidemic before. This is kind of a first for all of us.

And it leads us to ask the question today, how are we supposed to respond to this? As believers, as followers of Jesus Christ, what are we supposed to do? Should we panic? There seems to be a lot of that going on right now. Should we be enraged? That's another response that you're seeing with some people, a lot of social media anger coming out there. Should we freak out and run to the grocery store and knock everybody down on our way there? Maybe some Christians are maybe turning to eschatology to explain some of this; is this the end of the world? Questions like that. And I don't know if that's the place to go off the bat, I think a good place to take you this morning would be to the book of Psalms.

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And so if you have your Bibles with you, would you please turn with me to the book of Psalms. Now Psalms has been called the medicine chest of Scripture. It is one of the most comforting portions of God's Word. And it's a place to turn to in times like this. We need the comfort of the Word of God. And this is a great place to turn to. And as you're opening up to the Psalms, maybe to put some of this in perspective, I just want to remind you, this is not the first time there's been a catastrophe in human history. And this is not the first time that we've been through a horrendous trial and seeing pain on an epic level.

You know for example, one example of this in history, and I'm going to turn to look at down some of my notes for this but on October 29th 1929, known as Black Tuesday, the United States entered what was considered to be as Darkest Hour, called the Great Depression and due to several factors such as speculation on Wall Street and the deflation of the American Dollar, the US Stock Market crashed. And the depression would actually last 12 years from 1929 to 1941. And it would not end until the country entered World War Two. 12 years. We've been in the Coronavirus crisis here in Canada for about 12 days. So that was a very horrendous crisis in that country. Just a few facts about it, just to put it in perspective. during that first week of the catastrophe, the US Stock Market lost 30 billion dollars, which was more money than the country spent during World War Two. It was more money that was spent in the entire duration of the war. By the end of the depression, the market would fall 89%, and one analyst said that it would take you your entire lifetime to get the money back. So the amount of money loss in the depression would take your entire life to get it back. The employment rate dropped to 25%. We're worried when the rate today is around 6%; it was 25% back then. And because of the dustbowl that also occurred during the Depression, 750,000 farmers went bankrupt in the country.

And I just mention that to point out to you, and to remind you of the fact that this is not the first time North America has faced a crisis. And this is not the first time that we've experienced hard times. And most importantly, it's not the first time God has. I think we can lose that perspective sometimes and think this is the first time God has ever seen anything like this. Let me let me assure you of something. God saw the Coronavirus coming long before you did. God was aware of this trial long before it ever happened. This is nothing new to Him. He's seen all of this before. And you can take heart in that. The questions and the uncertainties, they don't get to Him.

Corrie Tenboom who survived the concentration camps in the horrors of World War Two once said, "There is no pit so deep that God is not deeper still." And friends I just want to remind you at the start of this message this morning is that God is bigger than the pits of life. God is bigger than the Coronavirus, amen? We all need to go home with that ringing in our heads today. He's bigger than this pandemic. And you really see that in the passage we're going to talk about today.

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If you want to turn over to Psalm 27. I originally called this sermon, “David's Great Depression” because in Psalm 27, King David is going through a great depression. He's not going through an economic depression or a medical one, but he's going through a spiritual depression. But as I went back over these notes, this is a sermon I preached years ago. I want to call this “How a Believer should Respond to the Coronavirus” because this is a trial we're facing today. This is the depression we're in right now. It's depressing to think you got to stay at home, or quarantine yourselves, or hear words like “epidemic” on the news. It's depressing, scary. But this is a time in David's life when he went through something very similar.

We actually don't know a lot of the details for what happened in Psalm 27, which makes it maybe even more relevant to where we're at today. A lot of the historical background is not revealed to us. But just to point out a few things that David was facing in this passage. If you look in your Bibles in verse two, he mentions evil men devouring his flesh and enemies being nearby. That sounds bad; it sounds pretty ugly. In verse three, he talks about an army, a host besieging him war breaking out. Verse five, he talks about the day of trouble. Verse six, enemies are around him. Verse nine, he mentions being abandoned and forsaken. Verse 12, you see adversaries and false witnesses and violence coming upon him. So this is a harsh passage of scripture; this is a very depressing time. It sounds like a pandemic when you read Psalm 27. This sounds like a great trial in the life of David. In our terms today, you could almost see David going around wearing a mask wondering “Why?”

“Why is this happening God? What are you? What are you doing?” You know, he's in a mad dash to the grocery store looking for things that have run out. He's standing in line at the border waiting to be asked hard questions. This is David's scenario that we're looking at this morning. So there's a lot we can learn from this. There's a lot that the Scriptures teach us here. And today, I just want to give you three responses to David's Great Depression. That's our focus for this message, three responses to great David's Great Depression, or we could say three responses we should have to the Coronavirus. Like I just said this is not the first time in history we've seen something like this. People have been scared before, David was scared in Psalm 27. He's in the pits. But he remembers that God is deeper still. And he gives us three responses. The first one is this. David praises God for his security.

The first response that he has to this horrible trial is that David praises God for his security. I don't think I have to tell you, we're living in a time at this moment when we don't feel very secure right now doing our world has kind of been shaken. foundations dropped out. David says in times like that you can still feel secure. He says, “Even though my enemies are great, God is still greater; even though my times are tough, God is still tougher; even though the powers of darkness are after me, I will prevail because God will prevail on my behalf.” And I just want to read this to you if you notice in your in your copy of God's Word in Psalm 27. Verses one to three tell us this, says,

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The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the defense of my life; whom shall I dread? When evildoers came up upon me to devour my flesh, my adversaries and my enemies, they stumbled and fell. Though host encamp against me, my heart will not fear; though war rise against me, in spite of this I shall be confident.

I don't know about you, but I love that word “confident”. Confident in a trial. To kind of unpack what David is saying here. In verse one, David gives three titles to the Lord. The first one is Light, which is a synonym for everything good or right in this world. In the Bible, light is often set against darkness as a way of saying good versus evil. So at the beginning of this Psalm, David says, “God is the one who gives me light.” Whatever happens in this life, justice and goodness will come from His hand. Second title you see in verse one is Salvation or Deliverance, because that's what God will give him as well. God will deliver him either in this life for the life to come, the Lord will restore his soul. And the third one in verse one is an interesting one because this is the title, Defense or you could translate this Stronghold. Verse one says, “The Lord is my light and my salvation, Whom shall I fear? The Lord is the defense of my life Whom shall I dread?” That word “defense” is *maoz* in Hebrew, which means place of safety or fortress or stronghold. It's actually where we get the word “Masada” from.

Masada refers to a rock fortress located 10 miles west of the Dead Sea in Israel that literally comes about 1000 feet off the ground. It's an impenetrable rock fortress. Just to give you a little history about that there is a story of the time Rome invaded Israel; and a group of Jews stayed up on top of Masada for I believe, a couple of years before the Romans could get to them. The Romans would try to go up a narrow path and every time they would the Jews with throw stones and shoot arrows at them and just held them off for forever. Finally, the Romans built a dirt wall up the side of the cliff and eventually invaded them. But Masada was impenetrable almost.

That's what David says the Lord is to him. He's a refuge. He's a hideaway. He's a fortress. The Lord is the defense or the Masada of my life. In verses two through three, he works out the implications of this. He tells you what this means practically. In verse two he says, “Because of God's protection, evil men can't touch me.” In verse three he says, “Even when a host, an army encamps around me, I won't fear.” The worst thing you could see in David's day was an army encamped around you. Today, the worst thing would be an atom bomb, virus, something like this; but they often said it was worse to stare at an army than to just attack them because they would just play tricks on your mind and scare you half to death. David said even when I see that I don't fear. Matthew Henry said it this way, he said, “Host cannot hurt us. If the LORD of hosts protect us.” That's David's thinking in this passage. Nothing can touch me when I'm resting in God.

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And with this in mind, let me just ask you this morning. What are you praising God for a time like this? What are you thanking God for in a trial of this magnitude? When you're sitting at home, when you're having church on a computer what are you hoping in? To ask this another way, do you thank God in a trial? Do you praise Him at times like this? Or do you just complain? Most of us, if we're honest about it, we complain we say, "Why? Why do I have to wait in line? Why do I have to wear a mask? Why, why, why, why?" David doesn't even go into that here. He starts off thanking the Lord for His security.

It was Francis Shafer, who said that most Americans and Canadians live for two gods – Prosperity and Comfort and they don't care what happens to them as long as those gods are satisfied. Friends are you living for two gods today? Do you worship money? Do you worship comfort? See, it's times like this when gods like that get shattered. It's times like this when the Lord takes those golden calves, those idols and just throws them to the ground. Friends don't make Gods out of things like that. Those things are going to depress you. They're going to discourage you. They're going to throw you in the pit. Put your hope in God, put your trust in the One True Stronghold of this life, he will always be there for you. Comfort won't always be there for you. Friends won't always be there for you. Money won't always be there for you. But this God will.

So the first way to respond to this, the first way to David responds to his Great Depression is to praise God for his security. David praises the Lord for being as one true thing, his Masada, his Stronghold, and that's where we need to start today.

It brings us to the next point to talk about, the next way he responds to his depression. And the next way we should respond to the Coronavirus is this, he prays to God for his intimacy. Second response, we should have to a trial like this. We should pray to God for His intimacy. One thing happens when your security is shaken is you don't always feel close to God, right? He feels far away. David just cuts it off at the pass here and he spends the next eight verses praying for God to stay close to him. And that's another lesson we need to remember in this trial. And this prayer actually falls into two sections. The first is in verses four through six. So if you read the starting in verse four with me, David goes on and he says,

One thing I have asked from the Lord, that I shall seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord and to meditate in His temple. For in the day of trouble He will conceal me in His tabernacle; in the secret place of His tent He will hide me; He will lift me up on a rock. And now my head will be lifted up above my enemies around me, and I will offer in His tent sacrifices with shouts of joy. I will sing, yes, I will sing praises to the Lord.

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If you notice, as you read this passage, David is not actually talking to God in verses four through six, he's talking about God. Starting in verse seven, he will start to talk to the Lord. But here in verse four, David tells the listener what he wants and he says, "One thing I've asked of the Lord, that I shall seek: that I will dwell in the house of the Lord, all my days." It's been speculated David might have been banished from the tabernacle at this time in his trials, he might have been thrown out of the physical place with the Lord's presence was, and as a result of that, David calls out to the Lord. I want you to notice how many things he asked for in verse one. You notice how many? It's one, right? One thing. "One thing I've asked from the Lord." He doesn't ask for 100. He doesn't ask for 10. He doesn't even ask for two. One thing, and one thing only, and that is to dwell in the house of God.

David doesn't want to visit God's house. He doesn't want to drop by on Wednesday and Sunday and spend the rest of the week playing golf. He wants to live in the house of the Lord forever. In light of all that's happening to David in Psalm 27, Enemy's attacking, armies and camping against him, David wants to be in God's presence. He wants to stay in God's presence, and that's all he wants. It's a simple prayer in Psalm 27. There's not any bells and whistles on it. David's going to ask for more things in verse seven, but they all fall under this one thing, David wants to be near God. Let me just point out here that when you're hurting, it's best for you to do this as well. In a trial like this, it's best for you to focus on one thing. When you're struggling and going through times like we are right now, it's best to keep things real simple. Some of you know this, if you're in a hospital or a funeral home your mind is too scattered to think about a lot of things. It's just too hard; you need to stick with something simple. One thing.

You know as a personal example of this, I've shared this with some of you, but in December of 2010, my cousin was killed in Iraq. He was a cavalry officer, a cavalry soldier, and his unit was hit unexpectedly and he was caught in the crossfire and he was killed. And my family asked me to do the funeral which was a real honor, it was a real privilege, but it was very emotional for me. I remember just, it was a shock. He was a young man, he had been newly married, we were looking forward to great things from him; and he was dead. And I remember during that funeral, all I could think about was one thing. I just wanted the gospel to go out to my family. I didn't have a list of requests to the Lord. I didn't have a long list of petitions. I just had one thing on my mind. I was too numb to think.

When you're in a time of great pain, this is what you have to do, you think about one thing. David says, "I just want to be close to you, Lord, I don't really care about other things. At the end of the day, I don't want the pain to go away first. I don't want the trials to end first. I don't want the Coronavirus out of my mind first. I want to be close to you." David goes on to say why he wants this in verses five through six. "Because in the day of trouble, God will keep him safe," is what he says. This phrase, if you notice in verse five "secret place of His tent," could translate "secret place of His tabernacle." It could refer to the Holy of Holies where the presence of the

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Lord rested, that was the safest place in Israel at the time, the safest place in the world. The high priest is the only one who could enter that once a year on pain of death if you didn't do it the right way. David says, "This is why I want to be close to you, God because you are that safe." We talk about a safe place a lot today don't we? We hear that a lot. This is a safe place. That's a safe place. Let me tell you, this is the safest place there's ever been is the presence of God.

And he goes on in verse seven to start a second section of request to the Lord, the second round of petitions where he's actually talking to God and let me read these to you and then we'll go through them quickly. But verse 7 he says,

Hear, O Lord, when I cry with my voice, and be gracious to me and answer me.  
When you said, "Seek My face," my heart said to You, "Your face, O Lord, I shall seek." Do not hide Your face from me, do not turn Your servant away in anger; You have been my help; do not abandon me nor forsake me, O God of my salvation! For my father and my mother have forsaken me, but the Lord will take me up. Teach me Your way, O Lord, and lead me in a level path because of my foes. Do not deliver me over to the desire of my adversaries, for false witnesses have risen against me, and as such as breathe out violence.

Apparently God was taking a little time in answering David's requests and giving him this one thing, so David continues to come to the throne of grace and beg the Lord for help. And He gives what we could call eight mini requests, eight requests a fall into this one large one. I just want to go through these quickly with you. Verse seven, he gives the request "hear." David asked the Lord that to hear his prayer, pay attention to what he's saying. Verse seven gives another one, "Be gracious to me and answer me," he goes from asking God to begging God. In verse nine he says, "Do not hide your face from me." Someone's face was a sign of approval, so to hide your face was to disapprove of the person and ignore them. David says, "Lord, please don't do that with me. Listen to my prayer." Verse nine, he says, "Do not turn your servant away in anger." That's the fourth mini request in the list. Verse nine also echoes the same thing, "Do not abandon me nor forsake me." Verse 11, "Teach me your way O Lord, instruct me so that I may please you." Verse 11, "Lead me in a level path because of my foes." And this all culminates in one final request in verse 12. This is really the only selfish request in the whole chapter. And that is, "Do not deliver me over to the desire of my adversaries."

David says everything else is more important. Everything else comes first. But eventually in verse 12, David gets around to praying to be rescued from his enemies, whether it's from Saul or Absalom, or something ugly that we're dealing with like the Coronavirus. We don't really know what's going on here. But I want you to notice as you see this, David has eight smaller requests here. Seven of them have to do with his soul, and only one of them has to do with his body. Do you see that in the passage there? Seven were concerned with his spirit, with the inner man, and

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only one had to do with the outer man here. “Be gracious. Do not hide, do not turn, do not abandon, teach me, lead me,” all that came before he said, “deliver me from this mess.” Friends, hear me out here. I'm not saying it's wrong for you to pray for your physical needs because it's not. “Give us this day our daily bread,” is a very biblical prayer. But it comes after things like “Your kingdom come, Your will be done.”

You need to pray for what's going on right now in our country. You need to pray for things like the medical staff and the government to make right decisions. You need to pray for your neighbors that they won't panic. You pray for all of those things. It's important, it's huge, absolutely huge. But what I'm trying to show you is don't do it to the exclusion of this. Your prayers should focus on the hidden things, not the visible things. Your prayers should concentrate on the things of life that you can't see. Not the things that you can see.

Listen, friends, we're Christians, we're believers, which means the inner man has been made alive. There is life in your soul, there is life inside of you, and it needs to come out in your prayers. It needs to come out in what's important to you. That should be the focus. That's David's focus here. You know, if you're like me, you often get this so backwards. Your prayers are all wrong. You've got seven physical needs for every one spiritual need. And you talk about the trial far more than you talk about your soul. This is what's important to God. This is what He wants you to focus on. However it works, whatever happens friends, one day the trials will come and go, but this stuff lasts. The hidden lasts, and that's what we have to focus on in times like this.

Which leads to one more point want to consider today one more response David has to this trial. Just to review the first one David praises God for His security. He praises the Lord for being his One Sure Thing, his Masada, his stronghold. And then second, David prays to God for His intimacy. He asked the Lord for one thing; his hope is in one thing and his prayer is in one thing. He asked the Lord to be near to him, friends, I just want to maybe just ask you, are you praying for that right now? Do you see that your God can make beauty out of ashes? Do you see He can bring life out from the dead? And even in the worst of times, like what we're facing right now. God can do good things in you and He can do good things in others. Are you praying for that? Do you believe that? Friends we should be the most optimistic people on the planet because we serve a God like this.

You know, you can almost picture David writing this song in the middle of the night on the battlefield. And he doesn't know if he's gonna die tomorrow. He doesn't know if his friends are gonna die tomorrow. And he's praying this way. Friends you can pray this way right now. You can have the same response to the Coronavirus.

It leads to one more response we should have. One more response David has to his trial that we should have to ours and that is that David pledges to God his loyalty. The third response to this



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Great Depression in David's life. Third response to the Coronavirus we should have is to pledge to God your loyalty. I love this part of the song, It means a lot to me. It's the shortest part, but the sweetest part because after giving 12 verses showing us how to praise God in the midst of the trial. David tells you what to do after you pray. You guys know what this is like you pray for something. What happens when you don't get it? What happens when you have to wait? Essentially David answers that and he says you need to be loyal to God.

That's how you should respond and he expresses his loyalty in two ways in verses 13 through 14, if you notice, the first is by being confident in God. David is confident in God in verse 13. He says,

I would have despaired unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.

You can just feel the confidence come out as you read that. As David has prayed his prayer and told God what he wants, he closes by saying he is confident in God. And not only does he say he's confident in God, but he's confident that God will be good to him in the land of the living. Land of the living is another way of saying this life where living people are. David says, "I know God will be good to me here. He'll be good to me there. I know He'll be good to me in heaven. I got that. Absolutely. But he will also be good to me now."

I have the privilege of talking to a lot of people about their problems, through biblical counseling, just part of pastoral ministry. And I've learned It's wonderful to encourage Christians, that God will be good to you in this life. It's common for believers to struggle and to be afraid and to panic. Some of you may be doing that right now. And if that's the case, I want to encourage you with this passage says is you don't have to wait until later to experience the goodness of the Lord. You can experience it now. Psalm 34:8 says, "O taste and see that the Lord is good." And that means taste and see that the Lord is good, now.

Going back to what David said earlier, God is your life. He's your salvation and He's your stronghold. If God is before you who can be against you? God will be good to you, now. You can have that confidence.

It leads to a second way, David demonstrates his loyalty to God, and that is to wait on God. He ends this wonderful chapter in God's Word by talking about waiting on the Lord. If you look in verse 14, he says,

Wait for the Lord; be strong and let your heart take courage; yes, wait for the Lord.

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If you see there the phrase “wait for the Lord” is repeated twice for emphasis. Because after you pray, what do you do? After you bring your requests to God, how do you respond? David says you should wait. You should wait. You be patient and wait for the Lord to answer. I love the Greek translation of this Hebrew word *chazaq* or “be strong” in verse 14, because it means to be a man. That's the Greek translation of this word to be a man or a man up.

You know some of you know the story, but on October 16, 1555, Hugh Latimer and Nicolas Ridley, two of the early English reformers were burnt at the stake for preaching the gospel in England. They were two of the first Protestant reformers who died under Bloody Mary, Queen Mary. And as they were being tied to the stake, Hugh Latimer turned to his old friend Nicholas Ridley. And he said, “Be of good cheer master Ridley and play the man, for we shall this day light such a candle in England as I trust by God's grace will never be put out.”

And friends, I read that story to you because I think some of you need to do that today in your prayer life. With all the scary things going on, and all the frightening things in the news and social media, some of you need to play the man. Because you pray for things and you ask for relief and when you don't get it you say, “Oh no, God has left me. Oh no, where is God? Why doesn't He care? Why is he taking so long?” You know what David would say to that? You know what the warrior would say? He would say, “You need to man up.” He would say, “You need to act like a man. Stop whining.” What does a man say when he has to wait for something? He says, “It'll get here when it gets here.” If you guys had a grandfather like that, that's what my grandfather would tell me all the time. I can still see him wiggling with his knife on the rocking chair telling me, “You know it'll be here when it's here, it'll come when it comes. Settle down. A man doesn't wring his hands and get anxious and say, “I hope God hasn't forgotten me. I hope he remembers me. I hope he knows there's a Coronavirus.” Friends, He knows. He knows. He's well aware of it. He knew about it before you did. What you need to do now is realize that and wait on Him. Wait on him. He's a good God. Be confident in His goodness and learn to wait like a man. That's how you show loyalty to God.

You don't show loyalty by being anxious. That's not loyalty. That's disunity. That's factiousness and dissension. You don't show loyalty by panicking, by going into a to a fit, or griping or complaining. You do it by being strong and taking heart and waiting on the Lord.

So how do we respond to the Coronavirus? I don't respond to this terrible thing. I don't think we respond to it by making it better than it is. It's a trial. It's a difficulty. We don't respond to it by panicking and getting angry and saying, “Where is God?” We don't do that either. You need to pray. You need to ask God to intervene, focusing on your soul, focusing on the hidden things of the heart, and then you wait for an answer. You know, it's been said that when you go to the hospital, the first thing they do is make you wait. You go to the waiting room, you don't go to the

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operating room, you don't go to the consulting room. They don't start stitching you up right away. You have to wait. It's the same way here.

Friends, let me encourage you. I've said this so many times this morning, but I want to say it again. God knows what to do with this trial. He does. He knows what to do with every trial. It's not the first time He's faced this, it won't be the last. He will still be on the throne. And let me also say it this way, friends we have to grow in this area. We have to grow in the way we handle trials. It was years ago in the first couple centuries of the church. And then one enemy of the faith said, "You can say what you want about these Christians, but they die well." I think we're forgetting that we're supposed to suffer well. That's what we do. Other people handle the good times well, we handle the bad times well. If we need to rise up anywhere, we need to rise up here. If we need to stand out anywhere, we need to stand out here.

In fact, the strange thing that we're experiencing right now is, is not how much the disease and problems we see in Canada but how few. We live in a very blessed country. We have a medical community that's trying to help. We have a government that is stepping in to do something. We have supplies. More importantly friends, let me remind you this morning we have a God who's faithful and we have a God who will take care of us, and He will still be on the throne when all this is said and done.

Let's pray to Him now. And thank Him for his faithfulness. Would you go to the Lord with me in a word of prayer?

Father, my, my heart is heavy. And I know my friends' heart is heavy as we approach a subject like this. Because no matter what we say when it comes to trials and suffering, we never say enough. And we can never think it through enough. Lord, these are deep things. These are hard things. And sometimes we want to put our hands over our mouth and just be silent. But Lord, we thank You that we have a Word from You that we don't have to be silent. We thank You that your scriptures do address problems like this. And so we turned to Your scriptures in this time when we thank You for what David has taught us. And we go through this week, especially this week of all weeks, and put it into practice.

God, I pray for Grace Fellowship Church, I pray for all the faithful churches across the world, across Canada and British Columbia. Lord, may we stand out in times like this? May we realize that you have made us believers for times like this. This is when we rise up, this is when we show what You have done in our lives. And we pray for your help in that today.

God may Christ be glorified through something as horrible as a virus and a potential pandemic. We do pray that it would end we pray that it would end with as few deaths as possible. We pray for all of those things. Pray for the doctors that are fighting it, the nurses that are working

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through it, all the government officials that are trying to make decisions on this. But in the light of all of that, Father, our greatest prayers for You to be glorified. We do want to be near You in this time.

And Lord, I pray You would use this time to make the gospel shine brighter in a dark world in a dark situation. We love you, Lord. We pray all these things in the name of our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ who has made a way for us to be close to You. We pray this in His name because of the cross. Amen.

I just want to say that may the Lord bless you this week, may He keep you. May you stand out in a dark time here in Chilliwack and in British Columbia and in the world. God bless you.