

Bible Prophecy Update – February 28th, 2021

Update Links

- Christianity Today - Should Pastors Speak Up About the COVID-19 Vaccine?

<https://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2020/december-web-only/should-pastors-speak-up-about-covid-19-vaccine.html>

- The Christian Post - 2,700 evangelicals warn against politicizing coronavirus, urge Christians to take vaccine

<https://www.christianpost.com/news/2700-evangelicals-warn-against-politicizing-coronavirus-urge-christians-to-take-vaccine.html>

- Pew Research - Intent to Get a COVID-19 Vaccine Rises to 60% as Confidence in R&D Process Increases

<https://www.pewresearch.org/science/2020/12/03/intent-to-get-a-covid-19-vaccine-rises-to-60-as-confidence-in-research-and-development-process-increases/>

- Baptist News Global, Public health officials find churches are ideal sites for COVID vaccine clinics

<https://baptistnews.com/article/public-health-officials-find-churches-are-ideal-sites-for-covid-vaccine-clinics/>

- The Washington Post, “Churches pair up with clinics to deliver coronavirus vaccine to those who need it most”

https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/churches-coronavirus-vaccine-clinics/2021/02/10/522025f8-6b17-11eb-ba56-d7e2c8defa31_story.html

- USA Today, “Faith groups step up to host vaccine sites. Why churches are key places, especially for people of color”

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2021/02/24/covid-vaccine-sites-churches-offer-vaccinations-help-us-rollout/4550240001/>

- News12 New Jersey, “Churches across the Garden State prepare to open as vaccine centers”

<https://newjersey.news12.com/churches-across-the-garden-state-prepare-to-open-as-vaccine-centers>

- Florida Phoenix News, Churches as venues for COVID vaccinations — ‘They ultimately trust the pastor’

<https://www.floridaphoenix.com/2021/02/08/churches-as-venues-for-covid-vaccinations-they-ultimately-trust-the-pastor/>

- Tampa Bay Times, “Local pastors call for more vaccinations in communities of color”

<https://www.tampabay.com/news/health/2021/02/03/local-pastors-call-for-more-vaccinations-in-communities-of-color/>

- NJ News, “New Jersey ministers get their COVID vaccinations. Now they can spread the word”

<https://www.nj.com/coronavirus/2021/02/nj-ministers-get-their-covid-vaccinations-now-they-can-spread-the-word.html>

- Pastor James Coates, Grace Life Church, Edmonton, Alberta Canada, "Directing Government to its Duty" Romans 13:1-4

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dh6nXD4Rtg0>

- Prophecy Update, “The Mask Mandate” - July 26th, 2020

<https://youtu.be/0ayBZF06nh0> <https://subsplash.com/+d6kc/lb/mi/+fwm8nyq?embed=true>

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Why?

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All right, good morning, and welcome to our weekly Bible Prophecy Update. We're so glad that you're joining with us online. I'm going to get right to it if you don't mind.

Today I want to answer the "why" question as it relates to Christians and the Christian church being so divided, so confused, even deceived in these last days. I have to confess that I'm quite taken back by all the confusion, all of the division, and especially the deception within the body of Christ today.

I've shared very openly, very honestly, really about this in prior updates in particular. I think you would agree with me that this is happening, but if you are anything like me, and I suspect that you are, what is really troubling is "why" it is happening.

After seeking the Lord, I sensed that I was to address this matter. I would argue that it is seemingly getting worse with each passing day, sad to say. While I realize that this is yet another sign of how close we are to the rapture of the church, it's still heartbreaking. It's heartbreaking to see Christians so divided, and it seems that Christians are fighting with everyone about everything and anything.

It is interesting to note that for the last several weeks, our second service verse-by-verse teaching has sort of dovetailed into the Prophecy Update, but today, interestingly, it is the other way around.

Instead, today's Prophecy Update actually dovetails into the verse-by-verse teaching in Titus today titled, "Get Your Affairs In Order," and the reason being is that we are closer to the rapture of the church than any of us even realize.

We are going to livestream; this will be at 11:15 a.m. Hawaii time in our trek through the Bible book by book, chapter-by-chapter, verse-by-verse. Our text today will be Titus Chapter 1, verses 4 through 8. I encourage you to turn with us at this time.

Also, really quick, before we get started, I want to take just a moment to update you on the website JDFarag.org website. We are making progress, but there do remain a few hurdles that we have to overcome in order to make the site as easy as possible for you.

We're also in the process of adding more features as well as all of the archived teachings, and we are also working on a mobile app as well.

Also, we are hoping, Lord willing, soon to have the International Ministry Teams' translations. This is an amazing team of brothers and sisters all over the world that translate the updates into other languages. We are hoping to get that in place and on the site as soon as possible.

One last thing. Last week, and we appreciate your patience with us, it took quite a bit of time to get the actual video uploaded to the site after the livestream. We're hoping that we have resolved that today so after the livestream ends on the JDFarag.org site, it shouldn't be too long, and then that video will be available on the "On-Demand Page" on the site.

Again, we very much appreciate your continued patience with us, but more importantly, that you continue praying for us. As you know, the Prophecy Updates were censored on YouTube recently, which is why now we only, on YouTube, livestream the introduction to the update and not the complete update, which is why we have the site for you for the uncensored update.

Let's get started. Before we begin, as we always do, we do so with the Word of God, and we do this in order to establish a firm foundation as the basis. In other words, we want to go to the Word first, then what is happening in the world to connect the dots. Not go to the world and see what is happening in the world and then go to the Word to connect the dots. That's backwards.

I would encourage you to search and examine the Scriptures for yourself, as did the Bereans in Acts 17:11 where we're told that the Bereans Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, "and we are told why. It's because "They received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day [daily] to see if what Paul said was true."

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Our first passage also happens to be in Acts 17, where Paul is in Athens, and he is distressed, heartbroken to see that the city was full of idols, so what does Paul do? True to form... we love this about the Apostle Paul, right? He begins to preach to the people of Athens, and in verses 30 and 31, he says this - very interesting.

"Truly these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent." And here is why in verse 31, "because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man, [speaking of Jesus] whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead."

Our next passage is also in the Book of Acts, this time back in Chapter 5. I need to give you a quick back-story first because this is going to be germane to our understanding. The Lord had just miraculously freed Peter and the other apostles from prison, which they were thrown into prison because they were preaching the Gospel.

They were also keeping their churches open, if you will, going against the restrictions. Thank you for laughing. It is a good sign. It's a good start.

Then when the High Priest, along with the Sanhedrin, realized this, they were at a loss, we're told, but then they're also told where Peter and the apostles were. Where do you think they were? Back on the streets preaching the Gospel, and that is what landed them in prison, to begin with.

We pick it up in verse 27 of Acts 5, and we're told, "The apostles were brought in and made to appear before the Sanhedrin to be questioned by the High Priest. We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name [he said], yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and are determined to make us guilty of this man's blood." Wow, true that! That's not in the passage; that's in the NIV, actually. [joking] Verse 29, I love Peter. I cannot wait to meet him, by the way. "Peter and the other apostles replied, "We must obey God rather than men."

2 Timothy Chapter 3, I want to read verses 12 and 13, and I'm including verse 12 for a reason. Actually, it is something I am still petitioning the Throne concerning for a future update. Paul is writing to Timothy, and we were in 2 Timothy in our verse-by-verse study.

But in verse 12, he says this to Timothy, "In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted." And while those living a godly life in Christ Jesus are going to be persecuted, here's what is going to happen. "Evildoers and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived." Those who are deceived, deceive, that it's not a play on words. Those who are deceived will deceive. Deceivers deceive.

In Matthew's Gospel, Chapter 13, Jesus is teaching a parable. We refer to it as the parable of the soils when really, it's about different types of soils upon which the seed of God's Word is sown. When the disciples asked Him why He spoke in parables, He answers them as to the reason He does, but He also explains to them the meaning of this particular parable. In verse 22, He says, "Now he who receives seed among the thorns is he who hears the Word and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the Word, and he becomes unfruitful."

2 Corinthians Chapter 11 verse 3, This is one of those places in God's Word where you really get a glimpse into the heart of the Apostle Paul. I don't know how you see Paul. I am sure he may have been intimidating in some ways and just a real strong personality.

But one thing is for sure about the Apostle Paul: He had a huge heart for the church of Jesus Christ. He expresses his fear here, and he says in 2 Corinthians 11:3, "But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ."

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James 1:22, the Apostle James by the Holy Spirit writes, "Do not merely listen to the Word and so deceive yourselves, do what it says." Did you catch that? Deceive yourself? It is called self-deception. Do you know what self-deception is? Again, I know this is deeply profound. It means that self has been deceived by self. No, think about this. You can be so deceived by yourself that you believe your own lies in your deception, self-deception, and notice that said self-deception is connected to the doing, not merely the hearing of God's Word. Hold on to that; that's going to come back into play.

2 Thessalonians Chapter 2 verses 9 through 12, a passage I am sure is familiar to most. We refer to it often. "The coming of the lawless one [speaking of the Antichrist] will be in accordance with how Satan works. He will use all sorts of displays of power through signs and wonders that serve the lie and [verse 10] all the ways that wickedness deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refuse to love the truth and so be saved. For this reason, God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness."

The last verse, Romans 13, is where Paul is writing to the church in Rome about obeying governing authorities. Now I want to draw your attention to verse 8 specifically, and I think you will see why here toward the end of the update.

He says in verse 8, "Let no debt remain outstanding except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law." The common thread is woven into the fabric of these passages, and really the many others like them are that they all speak to this propensity on the part of God's people towards deception, confusion, division.

Again, it is clear "THAT" this is happening, but the elephant in the room, if I can say it that way is "WHY"? Why it's happening, and that's what I'd like to take and tackle today.

At this time, we are going to end the livestream here and encourage those of you that are on YouTube or Facebook to go to JDFarag.org. The link is below, and you can click on that link for the uncensored remainder. When you go to the homepage, select "Go to Livestream page" on the bottom left-hand corner as pictured here. It should be a seamless transition.

If you will kindly allow me to, I am going to answer the aforementioned question of "why" Christians and the Christian church are so divided, confused, and deceived concerning COVID-19 and the vaccine. I'll add to this list of divided, confused, and deceived, also feckless, impotent, and weak so much so that instead of the church winning the world to Christ - the world is turning the church from Christ.

While there are several reasons for this, it is my belief that the main reason is because the church has had it too good for too long, particularly here in America. As such, the Christian and the Christian church have become spiritually soft and flabby, and it has fostered an unprecedented biblical illiteracy. Here is the thing: It is not just biblical illiteracy. It is a profound ignorance when it comes to biblical prophecy.

One need look no further than to publications like Christianity Today, which I am hesitant to quote, for a number of reasons, not the least of which is the publication, "Christianity Today" is a mirror image of the true state of Christianity today.

It is evidenced by this article on December 11th, in which they asked, "Should Pastors Speak Up About the COVID-19 Vaccine?" The sub-heading reads, "With Christians split on the issue, some urge vaccination as a form of neighborly love, while others leave it up to conscience."

Here are some quotes: "Given the split among Christians, how should pastors engage with their congregants about the COVID-19 vaccine? Should they encourage church attendees to receive the vaccine?"

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CT heard from five Pastors about how factors like [listen to this] race, theology, and congregational makeup affect their approach to the issue." Stop right there. Excuse me? What about the Word of God? Oh, no, it is race because Black Lives Matter. No, eternal lives matter! Oh, but we are going to make it about race. The race is going to dictate to me how I pastor my church, not...!

I'm sorry. I asked the Lord; the Lord knows my heart... This explains it, though, doesn't it? Theology, don't think that's doctrine. No, that's theory, theology, our interpretation.

Then how about this one, "Congregational makeup." You know what that means, right? We're going to look at the demographics. We are going to tailor the church to the demographics, so the congregational makeup dictates to us how we do this and whether or not we talk about this.

It sounds a lot like the church of Laodicea to me. You know the word "Laodicea"? It is a combination of two English words transliterated "laity and dioceses." The laity decides and rules. This is the church of Revelation 3 that Jesus isn't even in anymore. He is knocking on the door, asking to come back in. Why? Because apparently, this lukewarm church that Jesus wanted to vomit out His mouth had determined that they were going to do church according to the demographics of Laodicea.

The article then goes on to quote these 5 pastors, of which one said, and I quote, "To receive the vaccine is yet another way to practice love for neighbors."

Another pastor was quoted as saying, "If they are asked whether they plan to take the vaccine, they should state their answer and follow with the statement like, "That is my decision. You must do the hard work and make your own decision."

It sounds at first blush like a good balanced approach, right? However conspicuously absent from this is any mention of the truth about the dangers of the vaccine and, worse yet, the evil, prophetic agenda behind the vaccine. I will take it a step further and suggest that instead of talking about the dangers from it and the evil agenda behind it, some pastors are actually even promoting of it.

Back on August 20th, the Christian Post published a stunning article about how "2,700 evangelicals are warning against politicizing coronavirus and urging Christians to take the vaccine." The article is centered on a Christian statement on science for pandemic times, which warns against the politicization of the new coronavirus and urges Christians to take appropriate action against it [listen] including taking a vaccine."

Quoting, "We are deeply concerned about the polarization and politicization of science in the public square when so many lives that are at stake. The word, "Science" [still quoting] has become a weapon in the culture wars. Scientists are vilified and their findings are ignored while conspiracy theories go viral. Sadly, Christians seem just as susceptible to these trends. Thoughtful Christians may disagree on public policy in response to the coronavirus, but none of us should ignore clear scientific evidence."

I agree, by the way, because do you know what the clear scientific evidence says? Get this: Nobody died of the flu last year, a miracle. Oh, by the way, while we're at it, the number of deaths? It's the same. Don't take my word for it. You can call me whatever you want, you conspiracy theorist. Fine. It's the truth.

Here is a quote from the statement, "We call on all Christians to follow the advice of public health experts and support scientists doing crucial biomedical research on COVID-19. The statement acknowledges that the economic losses and social hardships of the pandemic are painful, and thoughtful Christians will disagree on how to balance those needs with health needs."

The article then goes on to say of this statement, quote, "Nevertheless, it urges Christians to wear masks, get vaccinated, correct misinformation, work for justice, and pray. Mask rules are not experts taking away our freedom, but an opportunity to follow Jesus' command to love our neighbors as

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ourselves. Christians are called to love the truth. We should not be swayed by falsehoods. Get vaccinated against COVID-19! A large fraction of the population needs to be vaccinated to develop 'herd immunity,' which protects the immunocompromised and others who cannot be vaccinated. Vaccination is a provision from God that will prevent disease not only for ourselves but for the most vulnerable among us."

I suppose this Pew Research Center report from December 3rd should come as no surprise given the articles like these in Christianity Today and The Christian Post, both of whom are pro-vaccine.

According to Pew, "Intent to get a COVID-19 vaccine has risen to 60%." It's working, and here's the thing: It is not just about the vaccine. It is also about the mask, which by the way, those who get a vaccine, do you think you can throw your mask into the rubbish? You better hang onto it. Actually, you should throw it into the rubbish because it is full of germs. I am not going to go there.

Here is what the report had to say. "Americans are much more likely to say they are bothered by people not wearing masks in public than by stores and businesses requiring masks for service. About seven-in-ten Americans (72%) say they are bothered a lot (49%) or some (24%) when they are around people in public places who are not wearing masks. By contrast, just 28% say they are bothered at least some by stores and businesses that require customers to wear a mask. Far more (72%) say such a requirement does not bother them much or at all. Those who are very (73%) or somewhat (61%) concerned about getting a serious case of COVID-19 are far more likely to say it bothers them a lot when people around them do not wear masks than those who are not too or not at all concerned at all about getting the coronavirus."

No wonder churches have bought this lie, and no wonder they've either kept their churches closed or, if they do open, force their people into compliance, requiring them to wear a mask and social distance in church. Why? I would submit that it is because churches today have listened to science as a god, little "g," and not listened to the God of science.

Let me say the same thing in a different way: We're told, listen to science. No! I'm going to listen to the God of science, how about that? How about that? Oh, by the way, He created science, just so you know.

... The Bible and science are not compatible. They pontificate and stroke their beard and smoke their... [joking] Well, you know the thesis is that according to science. These are the same ones, by the way, that say that you came from the "goo to the zoo," according to science.

By the way, that takes a lot more faith. We talked about this on Thursday night. I mean, think about it. You know the Big Bang Theory, right? Actually, technically God said, bang, and He created the heavens and the earth.

But this whole thing about evolution, I mean, just think about it. I like how one illustrated it. It would be like an explosion in a factory and having all the parts form a functional Boeing 747. That's faith. I mean, wow! It takes a lot more faith to believe that! But I digress.

Science now has replaced the God of science, so much so that some churches that have opened their doors have done so not to preach the Word, but rather to vaccinate the people.

What follows are several shocking examples of this.

Wednesday, February 3rd, Baptist News Global, "Public health officials find churches are ideal sites for COVID vaccine clinics."

Wednesday, February 10th, The Washington Post, "Churches pair up with clinics to deliver coronavirus vaccine to those who need it most."

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Wednesday, February 24th, USA Today, "Faith groups step up to host vaccine sites. Why churches are key places, especially for people of color."

Sunday, February 14th, News12 New Jersey, "Churches across the Garden State prepare to open as vaccine centers."

By the way, if I am not mistaken in New York and New Jersey, it is still against the restrictions to open your church. The churches that are open in those states and other states like them are in defiance of these restrictions. I will talk more about that in a moment, not just in America, all over the world.

Monday, February 8th, Florida Phoenix News, "Churches as venues for COVID vaccinations... And then the heading says this: You already read it. Can you wait for me to read it? [joking] It sends shivers up and down my spiritual spine. Do you know why? Quote, "They ultimately trust the Pastor." I think James had something to say about that.

Wednesday, February 3rd, Tampa Bay Times, "Local pastors call for more vaccinations in communities of color." Pictured here is a photo of a group of Tampa Bay Area pastors holding a news conference.

Wednesday, February 17th, lastly, and I saved this last for a reason. New Jersey News, "New Jersey ministers get their COVID vaccinations. Now they can spread the word." Spread what word - about vaccinations?

What's so shocking about these examples is that they actually represent the majority, and conversely, pastors in churches that dare speak up - are in the minority. Even in saying "minority" is really a gross understatement such that I know of only a small few who are even sounding the vaccine alarm. The problem is that the ones who are, do not necessarily pastor a church. Rather, they have done the research, and they know the truth. The truth is: It's a lie. That's the truth. This is all a lie.

Thankfully, there are some pastors who have counted the cost, put everything on the line, knows the Word, rightly divide the Word, and preach the Word, and speak the truth in love because they love.

One such Pastor is James Coates of Grace Life Church of Edmonton, Alberta, in Canada. Pictured here is a screenshot of his sermon on YouTube. It's out of Romans Chapter 13 verses 1 through 4. It was on February 14th, titled, "Directing Government to its Duty."

I would highly recommend that you view this. Hopefully, it is on YouTube. We've provided the link. I always download these videos onto my computer so I have them if they're ever pulled. This was his last sermon before being arrested and incarcerated, which as of today, he is still in prison awaiting trial for defying Canada's COVID lockdown order.

What follows are several quotes from this sermon, and I share them because it speaks to the biblical illiteracy, even on the part of pastors, especially when it comes to the role of government. As I share from his sermon, I would humbly ask that you pay particular attention to what he says about loving one another.

Quoting, "How do we decide when civil disobedience is necessary? Let me give you three categories. #1. When the government forbids what God commands. For example, forbidding the preaching of His Word. Can't comply with that.

#2. When the government commands what God forbids. For example, commanding worship of a golden image. Can't comply with that.

#3. When the government commands what isn't theirs to command. For example, the terms of worship for a local church. Can't comply with that, not their jurisdiction. They have no jurisdiction at this juncture, so we cannot comply with that.

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Three categories that call for civil disobedience, but all of that, of course, is geared toward our response to the government, and we want to hone in on the God-ordained role of government, and so we're going to do that.

Whose role is it to inform the government of its God-given responsibility or to call them to repentance? It is the church. Why? Because we've been entrusted with the revelation that spells all this out.

In fact, if the church refuses to fulfill this role and function, then it's walking in negligence, a negligence that's incredibly unloving." Did you hear what I just said, actually what he just said? Unloving? Yeah.

Why? Because those who are walking in governmental misconduct are actually storing up wrath for themselves for the day of judgment. [Don't you care?] By not informing the government of its God-ordained role and not pointing out when the government is out of step with that rule and by not pointing out that they are actually governing unjustly, we're not loving... [That's not love.]

These are individuals, human beings who are accountable to God, who need to be confronted with their sin in order to realize they need to be reconciled to God through the Son Jesus Christ."

Stop right there. I need to parenthetically say this; I've been saying this as of late. These are people. Is that how you see them? Do you understand that when you buy the lie that they are the enemy?

They're demon-rats. They're Leftists. They're Liberals. They're globalists. No, they're not. That it's not who they are; who they are is a person that Jesus loves. That Jesus died for. How about this? Think about this. He loves them as much as he loves you.

We talked about this a couple of weeks ago; I think it was. It might have been last week. That's textbook right out of Satan's playbook: Divide & Conquer. We also talked about it in the "10 Stages of Genocide." You symbolize; you categorize, polarize. I mean, it is just textbook.

Because see, if that person isn't a person, then all of a sudden, you've stripped them of their humanity. They are not a person. They're a ____, and you fill the blank. When you dehumanize – which is another stage in the genocide. When you dehumanize people and categorize people, and symbolize people, then when they are sent to the guillotines, the ovens, they are not human, so what is the problem?

These government officials? They are people that need Jesus, and here's the thing: The Lord has convicted my heart in this regard. When I see people, I don't see them as anything but either saved or lost, and doing that just changes the whole complexion of everything.

It changes my heart toward them because if they're lost, they need Jesus. I don't see people as Left or Right, or Republican or Democrat, or anything, but either lost or saved. That's really what it boils down to in the end, right? Instead of being angry with them, now when you see them like that, you have a love for them. That is how it changes you.

By the way, you know when Jesus said, pray for your enemies, those who spitefully use you, speak evil of you? Okay, I will pray for them. God, in the Psalms it says, "Let their teeth get crushed in their mouth, so they choke and die on their own teeth. In Jesus' name." That it's not what that says. Nice try, though.

It might start off pretty rough, right, when you pray for your enemies? I mean, you're praying, God, bl... bl... It's hard at first, bless them, aggggh! Then God blesses them, and you are like, wait a minute! That is what changes your heart. They're no longer your enemy now because you prayed for them, and you prayed that God would bless them. It is not so much for them as much as it is for you and me towards them. These government officials, these governors, these mayors, they need Jesus. Continuing on.

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This is a great sermon, by the way. He says, "You see, complying with unbiblical and unjust government laws is neither faithful nor loving. Affirming the government has an authority it doesn't actually have is neither faithful nor loving. It doesn't demonstrate true love for those in authority. It doesn't demonstrate true love for our neighbor. It doesn't demonstrate true love for the church. It doesn't demonstrate true love primarily for the Lord Jesus Christ. The church of all institutions has this obligation to call the government to its God-ordained duty."

That's love. We actually devoted a Prophecy Update to this under the title of "The Masked Mandate." This was back on July 26th of last year. In it, we formerly stated our position in this regard. I think it would be apropos to restate it today, especially for the benefit of those of you who are new to our church.

By the way, we are so glad that you're here. We want you to be welcomed and loved on here. We preach the Word here, by the way, in case you haven't noticed.

This is the formal position. "In response to the City and County of Honolulu's Thursday, July 2nd Amendment to Emergency Order No. 2020-18, which requires "All individuals within the city to wear face coverings while outdoors in public spaces when maintaining a physical distance of 6 feet from persons who are not members of the same household or residents is not feasible, and whereas section 11 on page 35 of said amendment limits 'in-person spiritual services' we have been forced into non-compliance.

While we certainly wish to obey the laws of the land as the Apostle Paul exhorts us to in Romans 13:1-2, the City and County of Honolulu has regrettably and unlawfully overreached, and as such, we must posture ourselves as did Peter and the apostles in Acts 5:29, who, after being told that they had strict orders not to teach, proclaim and worship Jesus Christ stated, "We must obey God rather than men." Moreover, the City and County of Honolulu have unlawfully exercised authority ordering us to disobey the Word of God and the God of the Word.

Simply put, God has not given government authority over the church, its pastors, and its leadership and is prohibited from any interference with church matters that would in any way overrule the church's God-given authority. Furthermore, the church of Jesus Christ is not subject to government officials; rather, government officials are subject to Jesus Christ.

Finally, we will never seek the government's permission to assemble as a church, nor are we contending for the constitutional right vis-a-vis the First Amendment of the United States Constitution, which states: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof," as our religious freedom of worship is a command given by God, and not a privilege granted by the state."

You will forgive me for the bluntness for which I say this, but what we are witnessing now is only the beginning of the end - because this is how it ends. I was thinking about it just this morning before I came here today.

March 29th, 2020, Sunday, Prophecy Update, I made the statement almost a year ago, "This is how it ends." The collective gasp, except there was nobody here because at the time we were live streaming and shut our doors because we were thoroughly convinced that we were all going to die!

I am thinking about the letter to the church of Philadelphia where God says, look, I've set before you an open door that no man can shut. If I open a door, no man is going to shut it, and if I close a door, no man is going to open it." I was thinking about in the context of churches closing their doors, and I thought to myself, that is very interesting, very interesting. Maybe God shut those doors. Maybe those doors needed to be shut.

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I am going to try to bring it to a close. I appreciate your patience with me. We are almost done. I truly believe that what lies ahead prior to the rapture of the church is very likely going to get considerably worse for the church. But God. God is using this to bring people to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ by virtue of how many are being set free by the truth. The truth is Jesus Christ, and "whom the Son has set free is free indeed."

As I mentioned at the beginning, I am petitioning the Throne, inquiring of the Lord about an update dealing with the persecution of the church of Jesus Christ. I have to confess to you that I am so convicted in my own heart before the Lord because I know what is happening around the world.

In China, prior to the Communist Party taking rule in China, there was an estimated 1 million Christians. Do you know what China is like today? I would imagine some of you do. Do you know how many Christians there are today under that regime?

By the way, it is not controlling the Christian church. It is eradicating the Christian church now. They do it by way of social credit scores, which we've talked about and may talk about in yet future. If they, with their surveillance, see you walking to a home Bible study? Oh, they know there is a home Bible study there and that you're attending it. You get docked on your score. So, when you try to go buy groceries at the store? "No can." That is China today. You would think there would be less, right? How many Christians there are in China estimated conservatively now? Not 1 million, 100 million! 100 million!

In the Middle East, with the Arab people, they are coming to Christ by the multitudes, and it is costing them everything, even their lives, and here we are in America... Please hear my heart, don't misunderstand me when I say this. We've had it so good for so long - too good for too long. I think if we are honest with ourselves, just the mention of persecution just fills us with fear.

On Sunday mornings, when I get in the car, come here, before the Lord and, again, the Lord knows my heart. I know what's possible. I know what could happen, and if you think it can't happen here, you are sadly mistaken. Whatever happened to, like Esther would say, "If I perish, I perish." Or how about Job? "Though He slay me, yet will I praise him." Dare I say that persecution could be the best thing that could ever happen to the church today?

This is why we do these weekly Prophecy Updates. It's why we end with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and a simple explanation of salvation by way of the ABCs of Salvation.

What is the Gospel? You can actually find it in 1 Corinthians 15:1-4. The Apostle Paul writing says that Jesus Christ came, He was crucified, He was buried, and He rose again on the third day. When he writes about the Gospel to the church of Thessalonica, he says that He's coming back again one day. That is the good news. That is the Gospel of salvation in Jesus Christ.

The ABCs of Salvation is just a simple, childlike simple, explanation of salvation.

Starting with the A, which is really where it has to start because there has to be this realization that I have sinned. I am a sinner. This acknowledging of my sin and my need for a Savior. Romans 3:10 says, "There is no one righteous, not even one." You might be a good person, but you will never be good enough.

Romans 3:23 tells us why. It is because "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." We were all born sinners, which is why we must be born-again to enter the kingdom of heaven. Romans 6:23 is interesting because it sort of packages the bad news first, and it is really bad, with the good news. What is the bad news? Oh, "The wages of sin is death." It is the death penalty. You have been sentenced to death because of sin. That's the bad news.

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JD Farag

Are you ready for the good news? I am. "The gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus, our Lord." Gift/Earn; Do you see the contrast here? A gift is not something you pay for. If you pay for it, it is not a gift. It's a purchase. But if you receive a gift, somebody had to purchase it. Exactly.

You were purchased with a price. Jesus paid in full the price. We are not our own. We have been bought with a price. He paid in full our penalty, our sin debt, the death penalty in our stead. He paid for it, and He offers us this gift of eternal life.

Here is the B. The B is for: Believe in your heart that Jesus Christ is Lord. As Romans 10:9-10 says, "If you believe in your heart that God raised Jesus from the dead, you will be saved."

The C lastly, is for: Call upon the name of the Lord. Or as Romans 10:9-10 also says, "If you confess with your mouth 'Jesus is Lord' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." And here is why. "For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved." Lastly, Romans 10:13 seals the deal. "All who call upon the name of the Lord will be saved." That is very simple, right?

For the last several weeks now, we have been sharing some of the creative ways that people are sharing the Gospel with the ABCs of Salvation. I would like to mention two today just real quick, starting with this one from Daniel De Pedro.

Hi, Pastor JD. My name is Daniel. I am from the mainland of Southern California, and I live with my wife and 17-year-old son. We've been watching your Bible Prophecy Updates for the last eight years or more. Me and my wife and son are passionate about sharing the Gospel on the streets here in Southern California. Little did we know that the ABCs of Salvation would reach beyond here and would be displayed publicly at a fast-growing city in Tagbilaran. I'm probably mispronouncing it; my apologies. Tagbilaran City, Bohol, Philippines.

It all started with my wife's conversation through Facebook Messenger with her nephew, who is a mariner. He was waiting for his employer to call him to report to their main office in Manila. While waiting, he felt like he had nothing to do. Suddenly the Holy Spirit put a burden on his heart to do something for the Lord.

My wife had been sharing about the ABCs of Salvation billboards of some of your followers or online church members. Her nephew had a similar idea, but instead of billboards, he planned on putting the ABCs of Salvation with a link to your website on tarpaulins (or tarps) and smaller versions of it on poster cards. To make a long story short, that conversation led to us working together as a team (me, my wife and son, and my wife's nephew) with the help of his brother, and father-in-law (my wife's brother), and some friends from his church's men's group and fellowship.

Listen to this, talking, about government officials, they found favor with the city engineer and mayor there, allowing them to post the tarps and poster cards in public waiting sheds, barangay halls, basketball courts, areas near public schools and churches, and even allowing them to use the city vehicle to post these ABCs of Salvation around 3 more towns in the areas in public places. Total: about 30 tarps and 300 poster cards. Praise our Lord, Savior, and King Jesus!

This is in the Philippines. Isn't that interesting. Instead of protesting, they are requesting. Do you mind if we put these up? Yeah, sure, here, use my car. I say it like that for this reason: You never know.

In fact, let me take it a step further. Just bear with me, please I think this is the Holy Spirit. I am personally of the belief, and it has been my personal experience that those government officials that we think are the enemy, they are watching our Christian lives.

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Do you know what they are hoping for and looking for? Hope. These are people under considerable pressure, by the way, I might add they have got families. These are people like you and me, and they need Jesus.

And if they are looking at you because you say that you know Jesus, and they want to know if it's real and if it works. They want it to be real. They want you to be the real deal. They want it to work because if you're real and it works, then they have hope. You can give it to everyone, an answer of that hope that lies within you.

Think about it like this. I just wonder what would happen if you, myself, were to reach out to someone in a position of authority in the government and say, hey, can I take you to lunch? I will wear my mask. Can I take you to lunch? Can we just talk? I wonder what would happen.

I wanted to end with this one because it is really quite humorous. It is just a reminder that God has a great sense of humor, which I am reminded of every time I look in the mirror. It comes from Henry Berroteran. Again, I hope I am saying that correctly.

Hi, Pastor JD, I want to tell you how we did the ABCs of Salvation. We printed them in small sizes and bought vials to put them inside because we wanted them to look like a small scroll as a message in a bottle. We rolled them and tied them with red floss, and put them inside the vials. We wanted to do it this way because mankind is naturally curious and for certain will want to know what is inside the vial.

After we finished them, we noticed that they ended up looking like a joint in a vial. They kind of do. So, we decided to still give them out so we can certainly attract more people that way, right? I gave one to one of my employees that is already saved, and she took it home.

Later, another day, I asked if she read it, and she told me that her son saw it and was asking her what it was. Then she told me that she saw in his face how much intention he had to open the vial and read the scroll, but he didn't. Then I gave her another one to give to him so he could open it and read it. She gave it to him, and he read it and was so excited to have received a message from the Lord.

We totally did not intend for them to look like a joint in a vial, but I guess that is how our Lord wanted them to look like, to be able to call upon a specific group of lost souls. As only God can, right? So creative, praise the Lord.

Why don't you stand, and we will have the worship team come up? Again, thank you so much for your patience. God, You are so good. You are so good, Lord. Who is like unto You, O Lord? You are worthy of all of our praise, and for all eternity, we are going to worship You and praise You. Lord, thank You.

Lord, I thank You for the gift of eternal life. I thank you for salvation, the gift of salvation. Thank you for going to that Cross and dying on that Cross and paying in full for all of our sins. For loving us so much that whosoever would believe in You would not perish in hell for all eternity, but have everlasting life.

Oh, Lord! Lord, if there is anybody here in this church today or watching online that has never called upon You or even unsure in their hearts toward You, I pray that they will settle it today and not delay one moment longer.

Please, Lord, this is the most important decision of our lives for eternal lives and eternal lives matter. In Jesus' name. Amen.