

## A Christian Response to Covid-19

Whenever we are faced with a crisis it is natural to look for its cause or the reason for our suffering. And in this particular world-wide crisis many will try and tell us the spiritual reasons as to why we are facing it. But as God's people, we need to be sure that our response to a global crisis like this is one that is biblical and achieves God's kingdom purposes. Scripture gives a very real and tangible response straight from Jesus himself.

*Luke 13:1-5 "There were some present at that very time who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. And he answered them, 'Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered in this way? Not at all! But unless you repent, you will all also perish. And what about the eighteen people who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them? Were they worse sinners than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish'."*

Two very tragic things had recently happened that had people questioning why. The first was an act of terror by Pontius Pilate. The second was a tragic accident. And the human response was to question what sin caused these two tragedies. Jesus answers in a way that should be our response to any tragedy outside of our hands – rather than look for the reasons why or who to blame, we should be humbled by these circumstances to consider our own position before God, and let it move us to repentance before an Almighty Judge.

Tragedy is part of the human condition. We live in a fallen world that is subject to the universal consequences of sin and evil (that may even affect the innocent). Romans 8:20-22 tells us that even creation is affected by this. Scripture encourages us, rather than placing blame for any disaster or suffering we experience, to hear God's warning in it to return to him ourselves before it is too late and we are eternally destroyed (which is far worse).

Often disasters also raise questions about end-time prophecies and theories about the mark of the beast and the anti-Christ. Be encouraged – we put our hope in Scripture that says:

*"If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved" (Romans 10:9)*

No one or nothing can take that right-standing with God away from us. Therefore, as a child of God, we should not fear as the world fears. We have a peace from God because He has reconciled us to Himself.

Now is the time to fix your eyes on Jesus. God is, has, and always will be sovereign over all things. May we hear his voice in this pandemic and respond to his grace. And may we be fervent in our prayers for our world, that people would turn to God in repentance and accept his eternal salvation.

Let us be encouraged by Scripture:

Romans 8:18-26a *“Yet what we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory he will reveal to us later. For all creation is waiting eagerly for that future day when God will reveal who his children really are. Against its will, all creation was subjected to God’s curse. But with eager hope, the creation looks forward to the day when it will join God’s children in glorious freedom from death and decay. For we know that all creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. And we believers also groan, even though we have the Holy Spirit within us as a foretaste of future glory, for we long for our bodies to be released from sin and suffering. We, too, wait with eager hope for the day when God will give us our full rights as his adopted children, including the new bodies he has promised us. We were given this hope when we were saved. (If we already have something, we don’t need to hope for it. But if we look forward to something we don’t yet have, we must wait patiently and confidently.) And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness.”*