

**"WE SHOULD PUT OUR TRUST IN
THE LORD!"**
Various Texts

INTRODUCTION

With the developing situation concerning the Corona virus, it's so hard to keep up with all the news and headlines. We will post information on the church website to update everyone about what is happening here at church.

WE NEED DISCERNMENT

First of all, in the midst of a worldwide epidemic, we all need discernment. This is spoken of in **Psalm 119:66**, by Solomon in **1 Kings 3:9** and in **1 Chronicles 12:32** speaking of the sons of Issachar who had understanding of the times and what Israel ought to do. With all the information available, we don't want to put our heads in the sand, but Jesus said to take heed what you hear. Even Israel had true prophets and false prophets. With different messages, it was difficult to know what to do. We as the church need to be careful of passing along things we read or see on social media. Are we propagating truth? We need to be discerning!

THE TRIAL OF OUR FAITH

In **1 Peter 1:6, 7**. For the church, times like this are a test. Without God we are not much better than animals. Trials by fire remove impurities in our lives. They show who we trust or in what we trust. Our weaknesses will be exposed. In **2 Timothy 1:7** the Lord has not given us a spirit of fear, but power, love and sound mind. We should ask for His power. We should love God and others. (Let's not just love ourselves and become hoarders!) A sound mind is a disciplined mind! As the church is being tested we need to trust the Lord. **Isaiah 26:3; Psalm 61**. We need to go to the Rock! **Psalm 121**. We are not ignoring the facts. We are just trusting another set of facts that God is greater! **Psalm 27:1-5**. Let's read this *more* than the headlines or articles. We need to have our minds renewed by the Word of God!

OUR OPPORTUNITY

In **Matthew 5:13** we are called light and salt. Peter says we are a chosen generation. Esther was used for such a time as this. Salt stops infection. This was even used in **2 Kings 2:19-22**. If we lose our savor, we are just walked upon or trodden under foot. Christianity is light during times of trouble like this! Instead of criticizing our officials, let's pray for them. Let's use the time of this virus to help people and stand out.

CONSIDER

In an open letter, Martin Luther wrote "Whether One May Flee from a Deadly Plague". In this he exhorts Christians to pray against every form of evil. He said that if we stay, God can use us and protect us sovereignly. We are free to flee, however, but that may not be enough to protect us. There is evil everywhere! Therefore, in any case, let us put ourselves in the hands of God for His direction and will to be done in our lives. Here are four take away points: 1) Be discerning. 2) Let's pass this test. 3) Let's keep our eyes on the Maker of heaven and earth. And finally, 4) Let's use this opportunity for *His glory!*

PRAY.....

- * That our health care workers would be protected and strengthened.
- * That God's wisdom would be granted to our leaders.
- * That the church would be strong during this crisis by the power of the Spirit of God!