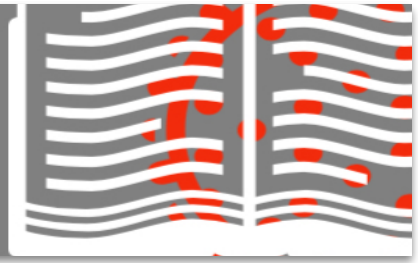


## A GODLY RESPONSE TO THE CORONAVIRUS



### **A Godly Response to the Coronavirus**

#### **Key idea:**

We should respond to times of sickness and suffering with faith in God rather than fear, and act with love for our fellow humans, looking for how God is working to draw people to Himself.

#### **Key text:**

Psalm 46

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. <sup>2</sup> Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, <sup>3</sup> though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging. Selah <sup>4</sup> There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy place where the Most High dwells. <sup>5</sup> God is within her, she will not fall; God will help her at break of day. <sup>6</sup> Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall; he lifts his voice, the earth melts. <sup>7</sup> The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. Selah <sup>8</sup> Come and see the works of the Lord, the desolations he has brought on the earth. <sup>9</sup> He makes wars cease to the ends of the earth; he breaks the bow and shatters the spear, he burns the shields with fire. <sup>10</sup> "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth." <sup>11</sup> The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. Selah

#### **Key points:**

1. Christians are called to live out of faith in God, not fear of circumstances.
2. Our posture of faith rather than fear does not depend on our current circumstances but rather on our response to the fact that God is with His people at all times.
3. It is essential for Christians to live out of faith in God rather than fear because we can't possibly love our neighbors and promote the cause of the Gospel if we are living in fear rather than faith.
4. True Biblical faith does not lead to presumption or foolish actions that are really testing God rather than trusting Him.

5. True Biblical faith prompts prayer and acts of love for our neighbor, even in the midst of difficult times such as communal sickness.
6. We pray and look for how God will move in difficult times to draw many to Himself through the Gospel.

**Questions for discussion/application:**

1. What part of Sunday's text and teaching stood out most to me? Why?
2. Has any part of the current situation produced fear in me? How have I responded to the increased spread of the Coronavirus? How have I responded to the fall of the stock market and the potential of economic difficulties in the future? How have I responded to increasing changes in my daily lifestyle being retired by the government at present?
3. Is it really possible to live out of faith in God rather than fear? What would I need to do to live in this way?
4. Psalm 46:8-11 indicates that even in the midst of seeming world collapse God is at work and we can see and experience Him in a deeper way. Have I been doing this during the current situation? If not, how can I grow in this area?
5. Bret said, "We can't possibly love our neighbors and promote the cause of the Gospel if we are living in fear rather than faith." Do I agree with this? Why or why not?
6. What is the difference between true faith and presumption? Is it faith to say "God controls my days so I do not need to change anything in response to the Coronavirus. God will protect me, and if not He was going to take me now anyway."? Why or why not?
7. In times of spreading sickness like this, how can I show love to my neighbors in my daily behavior? Even if I am at low risk for becoming really ill, how should I act to love and serve my neighbors who might be at greater risk?
8. If a situation arose where others were suffering and even dying from something like the coronavirus, would I choose to leave the area if I could, or would I choose to stay and help? How should a Christian decide what to do in such circumstances? Do all Christians have to do the same thing, or might God have a different call for different people?

9. Thinking of recent conversations I have had with other Christians, how could I have helped them to think in a more biblical manner about how to respond to this situation?
10. Can I think of unbelieving family, friends, coworkers, or neighbors who seem to be responding with real fear to COVID-19? How can I reach out to them with the good news?
11. Whom can I pray for, share what I have learned, and invite to join our online worship this week?