

Coronavirus, false gods & comfort from Christ

Read 2 Corinthians 1:1-7

Many of us have been experiencing fear and dread at the possibility of contracting COVID-19, of being hospitalized, perhaps even of dying. Some of you are fearful about elderly family members or other loved ones with compromised immune systems. But even if you aren't afraid of the coronavirus for health reasons, many of you are certainly worried for financial reasons. As businesses close, jobs have been disappearing. Many we know have already lost their jobs, and others have been cut back. People don't know where their next paycheck is coming from, so they are understandably anxious.

The pressing question that we are all facing this morning is this. **How are we going to hold up under these tremendous burdens and uncertainties?** Are we going to let a flood of fear and anxiety wash over us and carry us away into a really dark place? Or will we find Christ sufficient for us in our distress?

I. Please note that the gods (lower case g) that so many people _____ have been rendered _____

- **Read Joshua 24:14-15**

Joshua understood. He saw it clearly. The people had been following false gods, and they would continually be tempted to compromise their devotion to the one true God. He outlined with stunning clarity the choice before them and called them to a response.

A. The _____ we _____

The great reality is, whatever god you choose, you will ultimately serve. "Choose for yourself whom you will serve,"

B. The _____

There is no other true God. He is the sovereign King of heaven and earth. Nothing can touch Him; nothing can stop Him. When He determines a direction, nothing can interfere with His movement. No virus can destroy Him, no enemy can overcome Him.

C. What will be your _____?

Will we run right back to our idols, or will we have learned that there is only one God worth serving? And will we choose Him?

II. For those who choose to _____ to Him and _____ in Him...be reminded of these wonderful truths:

- A reminder of God's _____:
Say among the nations: "The Lord reigns. The world is firmly established; it cannot be shaken. He judges the peoples fairly." Let the heavens be glad and the earth rejoice; let the sea and all that fills it resound. ~ Psalm 96:10-11

- A reminder of God's _____:
"The Lord is the one who will go before you. He will be with you; he will not leave you or abandon you. Do not be afraid or discouraged."
~Moses, **Deuteronomy 31:8**; *"And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."* ~Jesus, **Matthew 28:20**

- A reminder of God's _____:
Lord, hear my prayer; let my cry for help come before you. Do not hide your face from me in my day of trouble. Listen closely to me; answer me quickly when I call... But you, Lord, are enthroned forever; your fame endures to all generations. You will rise up and have compassion on Zion, for it is time to show favor to her—the appointed time has come. ~Psalm 102:1-2, 12-13

- A reminder of God's _____ and _____:
For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so is his faithful love toward those who fear him. As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us. ~Psalm 103:11-12

His love toward His own is greater than we can imagine. His grace is deeper than the depths of the oceans. Because of our rebellion against Him, we don't deserve His goodness. But through Jesus He draw us near as sons and daughters. He has definitely set His love upon His people. He has looked upon us with love; He have given us grace. He taken our sins and cast them away from us; in Christ, He holds nothing against us. His gift to us is greater than all the goodness we could otherwise see in this life. His love is so vast that all the evil and hardships we face will one day fade to a distant memory. **Will you thank Him for His love and grace?**

- A reminder of God's _____:
The Lord will rescue me from every evil work and will bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever! Amen. ~2 Timothy 4:18