

I Am Persuaded

Have you ever seen anything like it?

Shelves and shelves that were filled with toilet paper a few days ago that no one was interested in- are empty.

- Gone!
- It's almost a phenomenon to me actually.
- Did the toilet paper manufactures shut down or something?

What's really amazing is not that the toilet paper selves are empty, but that much of the meat sections have plenty of beef, pork, chicken, etc.

- It's like people are more afraid of not being able to do what they do with toilet paper than they are of eating.
- Did you know that 70% of the world's population does not even use toilet paper?
- "You can live without it guys!"

What a day we are living in. It is truly unprecedented.

- Paranoia.
- Fear
- Anxiety
- Terror

Should we throw caution and common sense to the wind?

- Absolutely not, but it makes me wonder is anybody trusting the Lord right now?
- Is there a virus? Yes
- Is it deadly? Yes
- Are we going to be affected by it? Yes
- Will we or someone we know die from it? It's very possible.
- Does that mean that God is still not on the throne? Absolutely not.

But, let's put some things into perspective.

- There have been over a half a million seasonal flu hospitalizations this flu season according to the CDC.
- There have been somewhere between 30,000 and 55,000 deaths, not from Coronavirus, but from the seasonal flu.

Does that mean that God is not in control?

- Absolutely not.
- He is God all the time.

Did you know...

- Over 40,000 people die in automobile accidents each year.
 - An additional 20-50 million are injured or disabled.
 - More than half of all road traffic deaths occur among young adults ages 15-44.
 - Do we tell our kids they can't drive until they are 45?
 - No, we give them the keys, say a prayer, and trust that the God that we serve is well able to care for our kids.
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- Over 606,000 people died of cancer in the US this last year.

Is the flu dangerous?

- Yes

Is Coronavirus dangerous?

- Yes

Is driving a car dangerous?

- Yes

Is cancer dangerous?

- Yes

Psalm 91:5

Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day;

Listen folks, this is all part of the cursed world that we live in.

- And this is why God gave us a redeemer in Jesus Christ.

When the world shutters in fear.

- God's people can rejoice in the God of their salvation.

People are scared to death that they are not going to run out of toilet paper...

- Where is our faith in God?
- Where is our trust for His provision?
- Where is our confidence in His ability to bless us even in the midst of a drought?

Has anybody been listening lately?

- How many years have you been coming to church?
- How many messages have you heard?
- Hundreds?
- Thousands?

What have they all been telling you?

- That God is in control.
- That He loves you.
- That he has a plan and a purpose for your life.
- That Nothing is going to separate you from Him

Romans 8:35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

Romans 8:37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Have we forgot about the widow who thought she was going to starve to death along with her son?

Did someone forget the “Handful of meal in a barrel and a little oil in a cruse.”

1 Kings 8:16

She thought she was going to starve, but she kept listening to the voice of God and that handful of meal never did get empty and that little oil in a cruse never did run out.

I’m talking about having faith in God.

- Trust
- Confidence
- Providence
- Healing

Philippians 4:19

But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

All your needs...

- What do you have need of today?
- Trust God for those things.
- I’m not preaching this messages because there is a Coronavirus Pandemic,
- I’m preaching this message because there are actually bigger problems in this world than a Coronavirus Pandemic and we need God to come into our nations and into our lives and heal us of the things that are trying to destroy our nations, our families, our souls and our churches.

“Thus saith the Lord”

These words are mentioned hundreds of times in the King James Version of the Bible followed by His direction and his promises.

Who are you listening to right now?

- The spirit of fear?
- The voice that says we are all going to die?

Or are you listening to the voice of the One who holds the stars in His hand?

- The One who created the all in all.
- The One who is well able to supply all your needs according to his riches in Christ Jesus
- The One who walked on the water.
- The One who raised Lazarus from the dead.
- The One who raised Jairus's daughter.

God is still God and the Church is still the Church!

- We are bought by the blood of Jesus Christ.
- Never forget that.
- Not only was our sin nailed to the cross of Jesus, but so was our sickness.
- If we can trust him with our sin, we can trust him with our sickness... and that includes Coronavirus.

1 Peter 2:24

Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

Do you believe that today?

- Are you trusting that the stripes that were laid on the back of Jesus Christ were for your healing today?

Psalm 20:7 King James Version (KJV)

Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the Lord our God.

The name above all names.

- The authority above all authorities
- The power above all powers.

Acts 4:12 King James Version (KJV)

¹² Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

Do you realize what happened the other day?

- President Trump called last Sunday a national day of Prayer.
- “A National Day Of Prayer”

Why do you think President Trump called for a national Day of Prayer?

- He Knows...
- The answer does not lie within his own office,
- Or congress
- Or the House of Representatives
- Or the CDC.

The answer lies in the name above all names.

- There is no hope in any other.
- There is no salvation in any other

Acts 4:12 King James Version (KJV)

¹² Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

While the nations tremble, God is still on the throne.

- He is still the one Kings and Presidents answer and bow to.

Philippians 2:10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;

- He is still the one with the keys to Death, Hell and the Grave.

- What a powerful God He is.
- What an amazing God He is.

What is it you are afraid of today?

- Running out of toilet paper?
- Catching Coronavirus?
- Dying in a car wreck on your way to work this week?
- We ought to be concerned about these things.
- But understand, your worry and your fear does not negate God's power and His Authority over all disease, and famine, and peril and all sickness.

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It's crazy

- People are worried about the worry.
- They are cleaning out the supermarkets because they are worried that other people's worry will cause our supermarkets to not have enough food and supplies to go around. So they are "stocking up".
- They are not stocking up...
- They are hoarding.

Instead of common sense, they are taking things in excess that other people will have to go without.

- That's greed!

My friend who has a special needs grandson told me that he is driving around trying to distilled or filtered water and formula that his special needs grandson absolutely has to have to survive and he can't find it because people are raiding the shelves of water and hording it.

Now I remember drinking from the hose as a kid.

- I remember the smell of the well water we drank from.
- We are not going to run out of water guys...
- Does anyone remember when they didn't bottle it up and charge us a buck a gallon for it?
- I do.
- I thought it was the dumbest thing in the world when someone said they were going to charge as much for a bottle of water as they were for a bottle of pop.

And here Fred is driving all over Houston Texas trying to find filtered water for his special needs grandson because panic has caused hording.

- And non-Christians are not the only one's hording.

Do you know what hording tells me?

- People don't trust the Lord for their provision.
- They don't trust that God is able to provide for them.

Romans 8:15

For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

Fear brings with it Bondage.

- But adoption brings an understanding of who our Heavenly Father is.

Adoption brings protection

- Adoption brings provision
- Adoption brings care

‘Jesus I’m not afraid of the Coronavirus, because I know when I cry out to you, you are going to hear my prayers.’

“If I get sick with it, I know you’ll heal me of it.”

“And if you don’t heal me of it, I’m still going to trust you.”

Daniel Chapter 3 – an amazing story.

Read it for yourselves.

But, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego; end up being not only threatened by but ultimately thrown into a fiery furnace because they would not bow down to a false God that Nebuchadnezzar made.

- So the king gets mad, heats the furnace 7 times hotter and throws, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego; into the fire.
- Certain death.
- The fire was so hot that it instantly burned to death the men who threw, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego; into the fire.

But what about, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego;

Daniel 3:23 And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell down bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.

24 Then Nebuchadnezzar the king was astonished, and rose up in haste, and spake, and said unto his counsellors, Did not we cast three men bound into the midst of the fire? They answered and said unto the king, True, O king.

25 He answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.

We threw 3 into the fire... but who is that 4th guy?

- “It looks like the Son Of God.”

Listen folks, Jesus didn’t just show up as the Baby in the manger in Bethlehem.

- He showed up on the day that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego needed a savior.

- And He'll show up in your life today too if you will let him.

Hebrews 13:8 King James Version (KJV)

8 Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.

He was Jesus in the firey furnace,

- He was Jesus the day you needed a savior,
- and He is the Jesus you need in your life right now for help, protection, strength, blessing,
- and the faith to have courage when the rest of the world is in calamity.

Why don't we lift our hands and our hearts and just magnify Him because He is God right now!

Come on, let's glorify the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords together.