

MORE DEADLY THAN CORONAVIRUS

John Edwards

There has been widespread fear and panic over the Coronavirus. Sporting events cancelled. Schools closed. Restaurants, gyms and cinemas ordered to close. In-person gatherings, including church services banned. Stay at home orders. Countries on lockdown. We haven't seen anything like this before. All to slow the spread of Coronavirus. Thus, folks are staying home, self-isolating or in quarantine, practicing “social distancing”, wearing masks and gloves, all in an effort to protect themselves and others from the Coronavirus.

At the time of this writing, there are 398,918 Coronavirus cases with 17,261 deaths around the world. 48,720 cases in the United States with 588 total deaths. (worldometers.info) It is not known what the final toll will be. Pray it be as minimal as possible.

It is heart-breaking when a single person suffers and dies. Life is precious. We are in sympathy with those suffering from Coronavirus and have lost loved ones. Your pain is real. So, I am not minimizing or making light of the situation by any means. As good citizens,

we ought to submit to the orders issued by our government to protect the health and lives of people.

At the same time, has it occurred to us that there are some things more deadly than Coronavirus?

Take, **abortion**, for example. According to Worldometer, there have been 9.4 million abortions from January 1 up to now. The World Health Organization estimates that every year in the world there are 40-50 million abortions. This corresponds to approximately 125,000 abortions per day. In the United States, there are over 3,000 abortions per day. Where is the panic over something so deadly?

How about **alcohol**? According to the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, an estimated 88,000 people die from alcohol-related causes annually, making alcohol the third leading preventable cause of death in the United States. Yet, not much panic about alcohol. In fact, during the stay at home orders, liquor stores have remained open in some places as an essential business!

Consider **cigarette smoking**. According to the Centers for Disease Control, cigarette smoking is responsible

for more than 480,000 deaths per year in the United States, including more than 41,000 deaths resulting from secondhand smoke exposure. This is about one in five deaths annually, or 1,300 deaths every day. That's a lot of deaths! Yet, not much panic over this.

This caused me to think about **More Deadly Than Coronavirus**. There is an enemy that is far, far deadlier than Coronavirus. Do you know what that is? S-I-N!

SIN DEFINED. Sin is defined as: **Lust conceived.** James taught, “*But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin...*” (Jas. 1:14-15). This took place when Eve “*saw*”, “*took*”, “*and did eat*” (Gen. 3:6).

Transgression of law. John said, “*...sin is the transgression of the law*” (1 Jn. 3:4). Another word is “lawlessness.” That is, without law. So sin makes one an outlaw. **Unrighteousness.** It is written, “*All unrighteousness is sin...*” (1 Jn. 5:17). To commit unrighteousness is to sin.

CONSEQUENCES. Sin brings about separation or quarantine. Isaiah revealed, “*But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his*

face from you, that he will not hear” (Is. 59:2). Sin results in death. “The soul that sinneth, it shall die...” (Ezek. 18:20). “For the wages of sin is death...” (Rom. 6:23). “...sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death” (Jas. 1:15).

SINS MORE DEADLY. Read these passages to identify some things more deadly than Coronavirus:

Romans 1:29-32: “Being filled with all unrighteousness, **fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful:** Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.”

1 Corinthians 6:9-10: “Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither **fornicators,**

nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.”

Galatians 5:19-21: “Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; **Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revelings, and such like:** of the which I tell you before, and I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.”

Not too much panic over these sins that are deadly!

GOOD NEWS: THERE IS A REMEDY! If there was some Coronavirus shot or cure, folks around the world would be lined up to get it. It would be “more precious than gold” right now! Yet, there is a remedy for sin — the blood of Christ! Jesus came “to seek and to save that which was lost” (Lk. 19:10). He is the Great Physician, “the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin

of the world” (Jn. 1:29). There is not a case He can’t cure! Paul said, “This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief” (1 Tim. 1:15). “But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him” (Rom. 5:8-9). We avail ourselves of the benefits of Christ’s blood through gospel obedience. “...for it [the gospel of Christ] is the power of God unto salvation...” (Rom. 1:16). The Romans were made free from sin when they obeyed (Rom. 6:17-18), which included baptism (Rom. 6:3-4).

TIME IS OF ESSENCE! The song, Why Do You Wait? reminds us, “There’s danger and death in delay”. “How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation?” (Heb. 2:3). The jail keeper obeyed “the same hour of the night” (Acts 16:33). There may not be another night, or another hour! How different things would be if we had as much concern over the soul as there is panic over the Virus!

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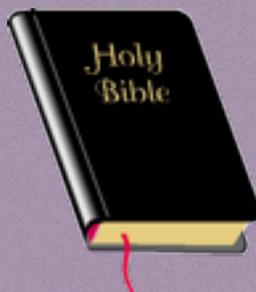
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