

Devotional by Jim Burke

Why does God Allow this Pandemic?

The question of why God allows war, earthquakes, flooding, 911, the Coronavirus and other tragedies is one of the toughest Christians face. I don't know the answer, but I do know these 3 facts:

1) Sin has ravaged earth since the fall in the Garden of Eden. Not only did all humans become doomed to sin but it also cursed the planet we live on.

To Adam he said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate fruit from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat from it,' "Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat food from it all the days of your life. - Genesis 3:17

2) The Lord allows this kind of challenge so that people will be reminded that the worldly we so proudly desire is not where we should place our attention. In the face of the Coronavirus, we have already changed from concentrating on our own needs to serving the "least of these". Whether it be war, poverty or a virus, we will see more and more examples of faith in the Lord and heroism as the virus's impact grows and then recedes.

But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. He told them how Saul on his journey had seen the Lord and that the Lord had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had preached fearlessly in the name of Jesus. - Acts 9:27

3) We know that no matter the struggle, even to the point of death, God has provided a room in his mansion; that our physical death is just the beginning of life with our Lord and of those loved ones who have gone before us.

My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? - John 14:2

PRAYER

Lord of wisdom, peace and comfort, we ask for your blessing and mercy on all those who have been claimed by the Coronavirus, their families and all those who will contract the disease in the coming weeks. It is your provision of a place beyond all expectations that we can go after this life is over that makes us grateful. Unfortunately, sin gets between our relationship with You and we ask for your mercy as we confess that we have too often violated your ways. A special blessing is needed for our Paoli Presbyterian Church members, the missions we support near and far and all those whose hearts will be forever changed learning that faith in you is stronger than the Coronavirus. No matter what this life throws at us, we know that you sacrificed so much more in giving your only son over to a terrible death. All of this is prayed in your Son's precious name, Jesus Christ. Amen

Congregational prayer is powerful!

I ask each person receiving this to pray the prayer again at 6pm.

SONG

Please listen (and watch) this song by Casting Crowns: "Praise You in This Storm" Click on the address below or cut and paste it into your browser:

<https://youtu.be/vCpP0mFD9F0>