



Coronavirus, Politics, *Sacrificial Love* and The Book of Acts

3/15/20

Coronavirus Concern:

How to apply the book of Acts and sacrificial love

1. Maintain biblical priorities

In Acts we have recently learned that life is to be lived determining and obeying the will of God, trusting Him, saying "no," to fear, and seeking wisdom along the way.

Acts 20:22 ...behold, bound in spirit, I am on my way to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there,
²³ except that the Holy Spirit solemnly testifies to me in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions await me.
²⁴ "But I do not consider my life of any account as dear to myself, in order that I may finish my course, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify solemnly of the gospel of the grace of God.

Acts 21:12 ...we as well as the local residents *began* begging him not to go up to Jerusalem.
¹³ Then Paul answered, "What are you doing, weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be bound, but even to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus."

Acts 2:42 And they were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

... ⁴⁶ And day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart, (*meeting together was risky*)

Hebrews 10:24 ...let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds,
²⁵ not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging *one another*; and all the more, as you see the day drawing near.
... ³² But remember the former days, when, after being enlightened, you endured a great conflict of sufferings,
³³ partly, by being made a public spectacle through reproaches and tribulations, and partly by becoming sharers with those who were so treated.
³⁴ For you showed sympathy to the prisoners, and accepted joyfully the seizure of your property, knowing that you have for yourselves a better possession and an abiding one. (*meeting together was risky*)

Consider the risk in meeting with the underground church today

Philippians 1:27 ...conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ; so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;
²⁸ in no way alarmed by *your* opponents-- which is a sign of destruction for them, but of salvation for you, and that *too*, from God.
²⁹ For to you it has been granted for Christ's sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake,
³⁰ experiencing the same conflict which you saw in me, and now hear *to be* in me.

...**2:3** Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself;

⁴ do not *merely* look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. (the wellbeing of those more vulnerable and more concerned is to be placed above our own interests.)

2. Embrace biblical expectations

Romans 8:22 ...we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now.

²³ And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for *our* adoption as sons, the redemption of our body.

Matthew 24:7 "...in various places there will be famines and earthquakes.

⁸ "But all these things are *merely* the beginning of birth pangs.

Acts 11:27 Now at this time some prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch.

²⁸ And one of them named Agabus stood up and *began* to indicate by the Spirit that there would certainly be a great famine all over the world. And this took place in the *reign* of Claudius.

²⁹ And in the proportion that any of the disciples had means, each of them determined to send a *contribution* for the relief of the brethren living in Judea.

The context of our current study of *Acts* is similar (Romans 15:25-26)

1 Timothy 5:23 No longer drink water *exclusively*, but use a little wine for the sake of your stomach and your frequent ailments.

2 Timothy 4:20 Erastus remained at Corinth, but Trophimus I left sick at Miletus.

Philippians 2:30 ...he (Epaphroditus) came close to death for the work of Christ, risking his life to complete what was deficient in your service to me.

Galatians 4:13 ...you know that it was because of a bodily illness that I preached the gospel to you the first time (re. Paul see also 2 Corinthians 12:7-10)

3. Pray for the destruction of arrogance and for national revival

2 Corinthians 12:7 ...because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to buffet me-- to keep me from exalting myself!

⁸ Concerning this I entreated the Lord three times that it might depart from me.

⁹ And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may dwell in me.

¹⁰ Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.

2 Chronicles 7:13 "If I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or if I command the locust to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among My people,

¹⁴ and My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray, and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

4. propagate reality and trust not drama

Matthew 6:33 ...seek first His kingdom and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added to you.

³⁴ "Therefore do not be anxious for tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. *Each* day has enough trouble of its own.

5. sacrificially love your family

James 4:13 Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow, we shall go to such and such a city, and spend a year there and engage in business and make a profit."

¹⁴ Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are *just* a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away.

¹⁵ Instead, *you ought* to say, "If the Lord wills, we shall live and also do this or that."

¹⁶ But as it is, you boast in your arrogance; all such boasting is evil.

¹⁷ Therefore, to one who knows *the* right thing to do, and does not do it, to him it is sin.

6. sacrificially love each other

Philippians 2:3 Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself;

⁴ do not *merely* look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.

Please, carefully read our letter to the congregation, *Sacrificial Love and the Coronavirus* which contains 14 suggestions re. how to love each other.

7. sacrificially love your neighbor

1 Thessalonians 2:8 Having thus a fond affection for you, we were well-pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God but also our own lives, because you had become very dear to us.

⁹ For you recall, brethren, our labor and hardship, *how* working night and day so as not to be a burden to any of you, we proclaimed to you the gospel of God.

Our plea to all our friends: get right with God

Luke 13:1 Now on the same occasion there were some present who reported to Him about the Galileans, whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.

² And He answered and said to them, "Do you suppose that these Galileans were *greater* sinners than all *other* Galileans, because they suffered this *fate*?"

³ "I tell you, no, but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.

⁴ "Or do you suppose that those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them, were *worse* culprits than all the men who live in Jerusalem?"

⁵ "I tell you, no, but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish."