

BE READY!

A few days ago I received a letter from some very kind people who live in Big Bear and who are very concerned about the virus being spread by people around them. They really believe that we should wear masks and practice the distancing that is recommended and regretfully disagreed with what I have written about it.

I appreciate that they wrote to tell me their response, and I respect their position. Many agree with them. Needless to say, it's a difficult issue, one in which truth is near impossible to find.

Who do we believe? The lying media? The dishonest leftist politicians pushing their agenda of absolute power? The Governor of California, who seems to think he is the Pope of our state, who has the right to control churches, and to decide whether or not they meet together, whether or not they can sing (!), and whether or not small groups can come together in homes to pray and study the Bible together? Unbelievable! Outrageous!

I believe that the virus is real, and that it affects different people differently. Yes, we hear stories of people becoming very sick, some even passing on, some recovering very slowly. Those are sad stories, and our hearts go out to those who suffer in that way.

And again, how do we put that in perspective? Are people becoming infected and ill to any greater degree than they did with other virus epidemics? If we reported the annual flu strains that pass through every winter the same way we report this virus, wouldn't we hear similar stories of suffering on the part of the victims? Is this virus really any worse than most of the others? Is it more contagious? Is the way it seemed to speed through the whole world really any different than the way other flu viruses have spread, only we weren't made aware of it?

We cannot know the answer, because we cannot trust the eyes of our societies to tell us the straight truth. Who are the eyes? The media – print, television, and social. They no longer see clearly, nor do

they report objectively. They have positioned themselves to be the mouthpieces of the left, which has radicalized into hateful enemies of this nation as founded, its duly elected President Donald Trump, and those of us "Normals" who still believe that it is (was) a God-blessed country that has brought light and help to the entire world.

Don't you feel like we are wandering through a fog of deceit, reaching out with our hands to find something, anything solid we can trust? Don't you feel in your gut that you are being played, that you are mere pawns in big game that leads to no good end for you, your family, and your kids?

You must have heard of some of the tell-tale signs that all is not as it seems. For instance, hospitals are paid more when they attribute deaths to coronavirus, so they tend to fudge the

their agenda. Wearing masks indiscriminately is a kind of flagship symbol of our submission!

So what do we do?

How should we conduct ourselves when all around us we feel or see destruction of everything we had learned to trust, cutting us loose from our moorings, leaving us floating in a sea of uncertainty? And more recently is added the anxiety about the violent mobs literally tearing apart the outward symbols of our formerly stable lives

– public buildings, statues, small businesses, political institutions, which includes their demand that the police be defunded or even removed entirely.

I know what we are doing at our house. We are practicing trusting God, and talking to Him a lot more than ever before. We are looking to Him for our security, as we are moored to the only true reality of His existence and His Holy Spirit.

In some ways, we look forward to our not-so-distant end of life here on this earth, when we can join Him in His kingdom!

Although in our humanness we do feel concern and anxiety over all of this, and we ourselves are not immune to the pressure to panic over the virus, our overarching response is joy, yes, JOY, that we are His people, and we are living at a time such as this. He warned us of coming chaos, violence, pestilence, and the unraveling of civil society. We get to watch it all happen!

But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power.

(2 Timothy 3:1-5)

Are these the end times, as many suspect? I can't answer that, but it sure feels like it's at least the



numbers. Many hospitals are so empty that they are forced to lay off staff! Statistics are "corrected" constantly. Death rates could be calculated based on total population, or total "positive" cases with or without symptoms. Alarmist headlines are in our faces multiple times a day.

THEY (whoever "they" is) WANT US FEARFUL. THEY WANT US TO LEARN WHO'S BOSS AND TO LEARN TO BOW IN OBEDIENCE! "They" use a tactic of "truth-truth-falsehood", hiding their sloppy or deliberate lies under a mantle of some truth, and then work to intimidate us into submission to

lead-up to it. All I do know is that we are to be ready, if we want to spend eternity with our wonderful Father. Any alternative to that is unthinkable! Jesus warned the disciples and us:

"But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only. For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one left. Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one left. Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming."

(Matt. 24:36-42)

Linda Gammel

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

Contributed. From the Web.

HUSBANDS & WIVES

Bookseller conducting a market survey asked a woman, "Which book has helped you most in your life?"

The woman replied, "My husband's check book!!"

A prospective husband in a book store "Do you have a book called 'Husband – the Master of the House?'"

Sales girl: "Sir, fiction and comics are on the 1st floor!"

Someone asked an old man: "Even after 70 years, you still call your wife – darling, honey, luv. What's the secret?"

Old man: "I forgot her name and I'm scared to ask her."

Pharmacist to customer: "Sir, please understand, to buy an anti-depression pill you need a proper prescription.

Simply showing your marriage certificate and wife's picture is not enough!

MESSAGE BY A WIFE: Dear Mother-in-law, don't teach me how to handle my children. I am living with one of yours and he needs a lot of improvement

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

LVEDA Meeting

(Lucerne Valley Economic Development Association)

WED. AUGUST 5, 5 PM.
at the **Moose Lodge** on Foothill Road, just west of Tradepost Road. Outside patio with misters & food service available.

- **Dr. Nguyen** will share information about the new clinic.
- **Sgt. Siebert** will update us on crime stats, arrest logs, and the County Marijuana Task Force.
- **Supt. Peter Livingston** on how our schools will be operating.
- **Covid Stats** in Lucerne Valley.
- **LVEDA's (pending) letter** to County Supervisors, Code Enforcement and Mojave Water Agency on illegal grows/trash/lack of enforcement/water use.
- **Updates** on proposed solar projects, watermaster and our water rights, businesses open around town and more.

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