

seriously because it IS serious. BUT, sin is worse in that it is universal! Everybody “gets infected.” The Bible says, “*all have sinned and come short of the glory of God*”. It matters not what shade your skin is, your country of origin, economic status, or religion. God has declared us ALL sinners. And that, my friend, is ETERNALLY serious.

Third, with the coronavirus some are at greater risk than others. Immune system compromise, asthma, COPD, and, of course, old age make some more vulnerable than others. People in these conditions need to be especially careful and should stay out of the public scene. But with sin, ALL are equally at risk because “*there are none righteous, no, not one*”. Notice the emphasis the Bible gives, “*none*”, “*no, not one*”. John’s gospel tells of a religious Jewish man who needed Jesus, then the next chapter speaks of a Samaritan [people hated by the Jews] women with moral weaknesses that needed Jesus. Neither were righteous before a holy and just God. ALL people are EQUALLY at risk for being eternally lost without a personal relationship with God through his Son Jesus Christ.



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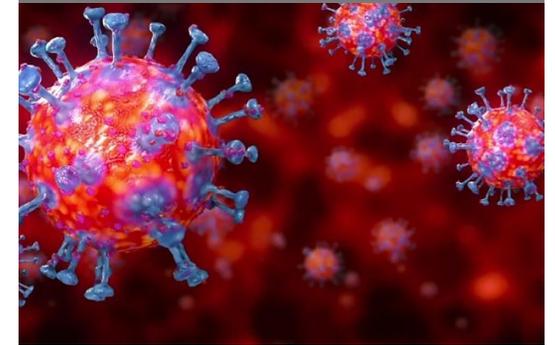
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Is there anything worse than the Coronavirus?



Who would have thought just a few short months ago, let’s say around Christmas time, we’d be SO consumed with a virus? Many were singing, “Joy to the world the Lord is come...” or “O come all ye faithful” as we eagerly anticipated Christmas celebrations with our family and friends. Maybe we, or someone in our family, had the sniffles or sore throat, but we knew nothing of the coronavirus. BUT it was alive on planet earth. Across the other side of the world? Sure, but here none the less. But now we can’t get away from the word, the news, or its effects on the global scene or local communities. **Can there be anything worse?**

Well it may surprise you, but the answer is “yes.” In the next few lines, you’ll see that as bad as the coronavirus is, there’s something much worse with FAR-REACHING consequences both now and in the future. And what might that be? **Sin.** “Really?” you ask. Really! Here’s why.

First, the origins of the coronavirus are somewhat uncertain. Most believe it started in Wuhan, China, but others have come up with other theories, some of which are conspiratorial. On the other hand the origins of sin are very clear from reading the Bible. Genesis 3 gives the familiar account of our first parents, Adam and Eve, and how they brought sin into the human race by violating God’s clear command NOT to eat of a certain tree in the Garden of Eden. Their disobedience broke their daily fellowship with God and they were kicked out of the Garden. And because of their disobedience we all live in a fallen world with hate, lust, pain, deceit, brokenness, viruses and even **death.**

Second, the spread of the coronavirus is serious. We’ve seen this all around the world as tens of thousands have contracted the virus and many have become deathly sick and even died. And though some are nay-sayers, and don’t want to cooperate with social distancing, the majority of the people are taking this

Fourth, the cost of the coronavirus is already in the billions. Whether government is helping businesses or individuals survive this crisis, the money needs have increased exponentially — that means real fast and real high. Now I’m thankful we live in America and can even consider these measures, but we’ll be digging out of this for a LONG time. However, would you believe the cost for our sin was MUCH higher than billions? In the Bible, 1 Peter 1:18-20, says the price for mankind’s sin was more than silver and gold. The price was *“the precious blood of Christ”*. You may have heard some preacher talk about salvation being “free”. Well, that’s true in that it is free to us! **BUT IT COST JESUS HIS VERY LIFE’S BLOOD!** And he was willing to lay down his life for us that we might be saved!

Lastly, the coronavirus has no cure at this time. Scientists around the world are working feverishly to discover a vaccine, but even that, at best, can’t help those who have passed away already, and may not help ALL once it is discovered. But I’m so glad to tell you that the solution for our sin, the death of Christ, can and will save anyone! Romans 10:9-13 informs us we must believe in our heart that Jesus is Lord, that God raised him from the dead [which proves he was the perfect Son of God], we must be willing to confess our

belief in him before others and we will be saved. And this is for ALL who will take this step according to verse 13, *“whosoever calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”*

So should we take the coronavirus seriously? Absolutely. We need to take all the precautionary measures given by the experts to have the best chance of getting this crisis behind us. But dealing with the virus and NOT dealing with our sinfulness is an eternally bad decision. **Call on the name of the risen Lord and be saved today.** If you’d like to discuss this further call us at the number on the back and we’ll set up a time to talk. God bless you as you seek safety from the coronavirus as well as your eternal safety by receiving **Jesus Christ** as Lord.

Pastors Rick and Greg

