

The Vincennes Voice

“...The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight...” (Matt. 3:3)

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GOD ON SOCIAL-DISTANCING

Larry R. Ping II

This current distress during which the world is suffering has introduced several new things. One of which is the idea of “social-distancing.” The technical definition of this is “a set of nonpharmaceutical infection control actions intended to stop or slow down the spread of a contagious disease.”

Were you aware this is not a new concept to God, or His Word? Did you realize God, on numerous occasions, commanded “social-distancing?” Consider these passages as verification.

1) “Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil” (Exo. 23:2). When a person of faith sees evil and the workers thereof, he is to “Avoid it, pass not by it, turn from it, and pass away” (Prov. 4:15).

2) “When thou art come into the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not learn to do

after the abominations of those nations” (Deut. 18:9). God made His wandering children constantly aware of the dangers of socially joining the heathen nations of the Promised Land. Regarding the practices of those folks God said, “Take heed to thyself that thou be not snared by following them” (Deut. 12:30).

3) “He that walketh with wise men shall be wise; but a companion of fools shall be destroyed” (Prov. 13:20). We ought to surround ourselves with those who are wisdom-filled (Col. 1:9). Encircling ourselves with worldly folks will bring destruction. Consider what happened when “the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose” (Gen. 6:2). “God saw...the wickedness” which resulted and said, “I will destroy man whom I have created” (Gen. 6:5,7).

4) “Be not deceived; evil communications corrupt good manners” (I Cor. 15:33). Any time the Bible employs the words “Be not deceived,” it indicates some have already been tricked, and men will continue to be so if the warning is not heeded! Solomon “loved many strange women” (I Kings 11:1). He had “seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines: and his wives turned away his heart” (I Kings 11:3). Neh. 13:26 says with reference to Solomon, “nevertheless even he did outlandish women cause to sin.” If the wise man can be deceived in this regard, so can I!

God, in calling for His people to “socially-distance” themselves from “unfruitful works of darkness” (Eph. 5:11) displays His great love and concern. May we heed the Divine call to keep ourselves from those who cause harm.

ACTIONS OF COLOSSIANS 3

Larry R. Ping II

Paul, in writing to the church at Colosse, made it abundantly clear the life of a child of God is an active one. This is especially true in the first part of the third chapter. Are you active in doing the following things?

1) “Seek those things which are above” (Col. 3:1). God’s children are those who pursue spiritual things. They are not overly concerned with physical difficulties of this life. The Lord said, “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto thee” (Matt. 6:33).

2) “Set your affection on things above” (Col. 3:2). Our affection is what we are most devoted to, what we love the most. John warned “Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world” (I Jn. 2:15). Jesus commanded “But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where

your treasure is, there will your heart be also” (Matt. 6:20-21).

3) “Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth” (Col. 3:5). The idea here is to “put to death” these actions, never to let them raise back up! This list includes “fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry” (Col. 3:5).

4) “Put off all these” (Col. 3:8). When one becomes a child of God, he is expected to rid himself of sinful activities. Paul’s list included “anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth” (Col. 3:8).

5) “Lie not one to another” (Col. 3:9). This was how the old man behaved. A child of God is honest and trustworthy. Recall, “all liars” shall “have their part in the lake which burneth with fire” (Rev. 21:8).

6) “Put on the new man” (Col. 3:10). It is not enough to just rid one’s self of sinful behavior. Something good must take its place. The Apostle commands to put on “bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, long-suffering; forbearing one another, and forgiving one another” (Col. 3:12-13).

7) “Put on charity” (Col. 3:14). Paul writes this is the “bond of perfectness.” Charity, or love, does many things. It is defined in I Cor. 13:4-8. We are told to “follow after charity” (I Cor. 14:1) and that it “shall cover the multitude of sins” (I Pet. 4:8). We are told to “love your enemies” (Matt. 5:44) and to “love thy neighbor as thyself” (Matt. 22:39).

Are you involved in these activities? Are you seeking and setting your affection on things above? Are you mortifying sinful deeds? Have you put off evil, and put on the new man? Have you put on love?

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MEETING TIMES (EST)

SUNDAY
Bible Study – 10:00 am
Worship – 11:00 am & 3:00 pm

WEDNESDAY
Bible Study – 7:00 pm