

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)

A teaching bulletin produced and provided by FIRST CITY CHURCH OF CHRIST

Volume 1 ♦ Issue 15 ♦ April 12, 2020

OPPORTUNITIES PROVIDED BY COVID-19

Larry R. Ping II

Unless you have been living in a cave for the last few months, you are very aware of the COVID-19 virus making its treacherous trip around the globe. As of this writing, there have been 1,767,609 recorded cases of COVID-19, resulting in 108,178 deaths. While it is certainly true this is a sad and strange time during which to live, it also needs to be identified as a time of opportunity. Have you taken advantage of these opportunities brought to you by COVID-19?

1) Opportunity to Pray More Often. People of God are people of unceasing prayer (I Thess. 5:17). They, by command, are “careful for nothing, but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God” (Php. 4:6). People of God, at times, are forgetful, and neglect their communication with God. Be as David, who prayed “Evening, and morning, and at noon” (Psa. 55:17). Recall as the old song suggests, “Don’t Forget to Pray!”

2) Opportunity to Improve Family Life. Most states have some sort of “stay-at-home” order. With such being true, families are together much more often and longer these days. When life is busy and hectic as normal, family life usually takes a cruel hit. Husbands, are you loving your wives “even as Christ also loved the church” (Eph. 5:25)? Wives, are you submitting to your husband “as unto the Lord” (Eph. 5:22)? Fathers and mothers, are you raising your children in the “nurture and admonition of the Lord” (Eph. 6:4)? Parents, are you spending this extra allotted time with your children, the “heritage of the Lord” (Psa. 127:3), knowing one day, that time will no longer be? Benjamin Franklin famously said, “Remember, time is money.” May we be using this opportunity to spend time with and work on our families.

3) Opportunity to Appreciate God’s Creation. David declared “The heavens declare the glory of God; and

the firmament showeth his handiwork” (Psa. 19:1). While there is a fair amount of complaining and grumbling occurring these days, perhaps we ought to take some of this “down time” and just be in awe of God and His beautiful creation. Whether it is a “spring rain” (Job 29:23), a “tree planted by the rivers” (Psa. 1:3) or the “fowls...among the branches” (Psa. 104:12), may we truly appreciate the beauty and grandeur of God’s creation.

4) Opportunity to Teach. There is a time when all “ought to be teachers” (Heb. 5:12). This, in God’s plan, is especially true of fathers and mothers (Duet. 6:7-9). Using social media is wonderful, and there are many talented men to preach and teach. However, COVID-19 has provided a grand opportunity for fathers to step up to the plate, and teach their families. What a great example it is for a father and mother to sit down with their family and their Bibles and study God’s Word (II Tim. 2:15)! Have you taken advantage of this opportunity?

IF THERE BE NO RESURRECTION

Larry R. Ping II

This weekend, there will be thousands of references to the “Empty Tomb.” Of course, we are tremendously thankful the Christ arose from the dead (Matt. 28:1-10) and ascended to Heaven (Acts 1:9-11) to sit at the right hand of God acting as the “one mediator” (I Tim. 2:5). Did you realize the best way to appreciate Jesus’ resurrection was to think about the results of a non-resurrection, an occupied tomb? Paul wrote about this very subject in I Cor. 15:12-19. Ponder the catastrophic consequences if there is no resurrection of the dead. If there is no resurrection of the dead, then...

1) Is Christ Not Risen (I Cor. 15:13). We frequently speak of the birth of Christ, and weekly observe His death (Acts 20:7), but often neglect the importance of His resurrection and ascension, both of which are necessary for our salvation (I Pet. 1:3; I Pet. 3:21). Without a risen Lord, there is no life.

2) Our Preaching is Vain (I Cor. 15:14). Preaching is the mode of transportation God has chosen to move His Word into the hearts of hearers (I Cor. 1:18). Paul emphasized the importance of it in Rom. 10:13-17. But if there is no resurrection of the dead, or Christ, then all we preach and teach is of no value at all!

3) Our Faith Is In Vain (I Cor. 15:14). It takes considerable time and effort to build up one’s faith (Heb. 11:1-3). The Bible points out “it is impossible to please him” without faith (Heb. 11:6). If there be no resurrection of the dead, or Christ, then the labor to develop faith is useless!

4) The Apostles Are False Witnesses Of God (I Cor. 15:15). A requirement of an apostle was “to be a witness with us of his resurrection” (Acts 1:22). The apostles claimed to be “witnesses” that God had “raised up” Jesus (Acts 2:32).

If there be no resurrection of the dead, or Christ, then the apostles’ words are invalid!

5) We Are Still In Our Sins (I Cor. 15:17). Jesus came to “save his people from their sins” (Matt. 1:21). Saul was taught baptism would “wash away thy sins” (Acts 22:16). The same is true of all who have been baptized (Mk. 16:16). If there be no resurrection of the dead, or Christ, then those sins are still on our account, and nothing can be done!

6) Those Who Have Fallen Asleep In Christ Are Perished (I Cor. 15:18). If there be no resurrection of the dead, or Christ, all those faithful ones who have passed away are perishing in torment (Lk. 16:19-31).

7) We Are Most Miserable (I Cor. 15:19). If there be no resurrection of the dead, or Christ, then we are “without hope” (Job. 7:6). Can it be more miserable?

We thank God for raising His Son, nullifying these dreadful possibilities.

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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