



The Bible Banner

April 2020

An extended "stay-at-home" edition



Christ or Crisis?

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A German botanist, who was traveling in Turkey, saw a rare flower hanging from an inaccessible precipice. He offered ten piastres, then twenty, then half-a-sovereign, and, finally, one pound, to a tempted but hesitating boy, if he would be slung over with a rope and cut the plant. The boy, struck with a new thought, said, "Wait a moment, and I will go for my father to come and hold the rope; then I will willingly go down and get it."

Likewise, Christians who are held by their Heavenly Father will have peace even if every earthly support is cut off. For it is written, *"My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand."* John 10:29 *"And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."* Phil. 4:7 Ultimately, when God holds the cord of circumstance, we need not fear.

Store Shelves Empty?

A RECIPE FOR IMPROVISATION

Flour "Stretchers"—These are items you can mix with flour to span it out in order to make it last longer.



- Ground up oatmeal (just blend it in the food processor)
 - Cornmeal, cornstarch, or arrowroot powder
- Dried clover blossoms ground into "flour" or apple fiber
- Cattail pollen or roots dried and ground into flour

Oil "Stretchers"— To replace or partially replace oil in recipes

- Nut or seed butters or nuts blended with water
 - Canned coconut milk
- Sunflower "oil may be extracted by boiling the crushed seeds and then skimming the oil from the surface of the water" (Wild Edible Plants of Western North America by Donald Kirk)

Toilet Paper replacements — Large leaves like mullein, thimbleberry (not devil's club) or banana leaves, gauze, cotton balls or pre-dampened paper—newspaper, etc. (not septic approved)

PROFITABLE TRADITIONS

Cultivate Preparedness - Create a meal using edible wild plants growing around your home. Wild lamb's quarter (yes, that's a plant) is very nutritious in salads.

Some of our favorite edible wilds have included stinging nettle quesadillas, rose petal jam, sheep sorrel lemonade, breaded dandelion blossoms, and cattail "corn on the cob." Once we even created a country stew from the insides of burdock root (like potato), mustard stems (kind of like green beans), beans and seasonings. Be creative.

Quotable Quotes

"Again and again the Lord has instructed that our people are to take their families away from the cities, into the country, where they can raise their own provisions; for in the future the problem of buying and selling will be a very serious one." -- Letter 5, 1904. {Country Living, pg. 9}



SHIELDED

A safari hunter was startled by the loud screeching of a bird. When he caught sight of the bird, it was darting back and forth around its nest. He was perplexed by all the racket until he noticed a huge snake moving up the tree. The hunter could have easily aided the bird with one shot from his gun, but he was captivated by the drama before him. As the snake slithered up the tree, the bird became silent and flew from the nest. It now seemed as though the snake would dine without resistance.

But, before the reptile could reach the nest, the mother bird returned with a leaf in her beak. She carefully placed the leaf over her babies then flew to another tree. **The snake raised his head to strike but then hesitated. It froze as if it had met a foe. Slowly, it recoiled from the nest and wound its way down the tree.** The puzzled hunter related the event to native Africans when he returned to his camp. They laughed with enthusiasm as they explained this unlikely victory of the bird. The leaf that the mother had used to cover her nest was poisonous to the snake. What looked like nothing more than a leaf was, in fact, a life-saving shield.

Instead of a leaf, Psalm 91 states that God's truth will be the shield of God's people even in time of pestilence. *"I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust. Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence. He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler."* Psalm 91:2-4

The truth of God's word prepares us for what is ahead. Today, we see, as predicted, *"pestilences"* and *"Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken."* Luke 21:11, 26 But the truth of the following verses are ever a comfort to the believer for we are told, *"And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh."* Luke 21:28

The truths of Bible prophecy allow us to know what to expect before it happens. Revelation 13:11 warns of a *"beast coming up out of the earth"* that has *"two horns like a lamb"* but speaks *"as a dragon."* Biblical truth seekers recognize this as a prophecy of a kingdom or government (beasts represent kingdoms: Daniel 7:17, 23) who appears gentle and even "Christ-like" or Christian (like a lamb—John 1:29) but speaks like *"the great dragon...that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world."* Rev. 12:9 Besides this government deceiving its people with lies, later in Rev. 13, we read of oppressive enactments, including a death decree (Rev. 13:15), forced on *"all"* the people by this government. So, when these things come to pass, it should be no surprise to students of prophecy who sink the shaft deep into the mine of truth.



However, more importantly, the truth of God's word also gives us peace even in the face of a death decree. Christians need not be afraid of the coronavirus or any other potential cause of death, for Jesus declared solemnly, *"fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell."* Matt. 10:28

I am reminded of John Wesley, who observed a company of Moravians on board a ship sailing for America. Violent storms were encountered on the passage, and Wesley, brought face to face with death, felt that he had not the assurance of peace with God. The German Moravians, on the contrary, manifested a calmness and Christian trust to which he was a stranger. *"In the midst of the psalm wherewith their service began, the sea broke over, split the mainsail in pieces, covered the ship, and poured in between the decks as if the great deep had already swallowed us up. A terrible screaming began among the English. The Germans calmly sang on. I asked one of them afterwards, 'Were you not afraid?' He answered, 'I thank God, no.' I asked, 'But were not your women and children afraid?' He replied mildly, 'No; our women and children are not afraid to die.'"*--Whitehead, *Life of the Rev. John Wesley*, page 10. {GC 255.1}

Jesus Christ, the Truth (John 14:6), and His truths are indeed our shield in crisis. In light of this, *"The question for us to study is, 'What is truth--the truth that is to be cherished, loved, honored, and obeyed?'"* We... *"need to inquire at this time...What is the truth that will enable us to win the salvation of our souls?"*

"What think ye of Christ?"--this is the all-important question. Do you receive Him as a personal Saviour? To all who receive Him He gives power to become sons of God." {MH 456,457}

Today, each of us may choose -- Christ or a crisis?

Prophetic News Notes – 1st Amendment Rights succumb to the Coronavirus in Many US Localities

Across the United States of America as well as many other places in the world, “stay-at-home,” “shelter-in-place” or “self-isolate” orders have become commonplace. Various borders (country, state, and even county) have been closed and many stores and businesses have been forced to shut down by governmental mandates issued *“in order to fight the community spread of the coronavirus”*. In our state, the order *“directs all individuals living in the state of Idaho to self-isolate at their place of residence. Except that they may leave to provide or receive certain essential services...”* Businesses are directed to *“cease nonessential operations at physical locations in the state...”* The order is also *“ordering cessation of all non-essential travel.”* And *“prohibiting all non-essential gatherings of any number of individuals.”* Furthermore, *“All people in Idaho shall immediately cease hosting or participating in all public and private gatherings and multi-person activities for social, spiritual and recreational purposes, regardless of the number of people involved...Such activity includes...faith-based or sporting events...”* and even *“wedding and funeral events...”* The penalty? *“Violation of or failure to comply with this order could constitute a misdemeanor punishable by fine, imprisonment or both.”*

Frankly, I am a little offended that in several states, the sale of *“liquor, beer, and wine”* are considered *“essential businesses”* while those things that are *“spiritual”* and *“faith-based”* are classed as nonessential.



This reaction to the coronavirus scare, with its shutdowns and mandates, should be of great interest to those who have studied US History and the Constitution. It appears that some of our Constitutional rights, including portions of our religious freedoms, have quickly succumbed to the coronavirus in many US localities.

For example, the 1st Amendment of the United States Constitution (the first 10 are known as the Bill of Rights) states, *“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.”*

Lest we be confused, since in many cases it is states (or even counties) that have removed these rights, my high school history book notes, *“Originally, all of these guaranteed freedoms applied to Congress and the federal government, not the state governments. Adoption of the Fourteenth Amendment in 1868, as later interpreted by the Supreme Court, guaranteed basic freedoms in the First Amendment against infringement by the states.”*

The Fourteenth Amendment states *“No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of the citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law...”* Again, my history book notes, *“The due process clause of the Fourteenth Amendment is intended to protect the citizen from state oppression, through the federal Bill of Rights.”*

In addition, Article 2, #8 of the Constitution states that the President’s oath of office includes the affirmation to *“preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States.”* Article 6, #3 of the Constitution states that, *“The senators and representatives...and the members of the several state legislatures, and all the executive and judicial officers, both of the United States and of the several States, shall be bound by oath or affirmation, to support this Constitution.”*

In addition, 5 U.S. Code § 3331 states that, *“An individual, except the President, elected or appointed to an office of honor or profit in the civil service or uniformed services, shall take the following oath: ‘I, AB, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic...’”* Sadly, it seems the US Constitution, which has been serving us for the last 200 years, may be one of the “elderly” that has succumbed to the coronavirus.

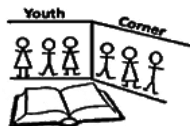
How should the Christian react? It is my belief that we should conform in all things to the laws of the state, even to the extent of waiving some of our rights, as long as we can do so without conflicting with the Law of God. When man’s laws contradict God’s law, like Peter and the other apostles, who were told they could not preach in the name of Jesus, we must say, *“We ought to obey God rather than men.” Acts 5:29*

Brown—Idaho Department of Health and Welfare “Order to Self-isolate for the State of Idaho”

Country Blue—US Constitution (Our Land, Our Time, pg. 175, 179, 180-183)

Orange-- <https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/5/3331>

Brick Red—My High school USA History Textbook comments (Our Land, Our Time, pg. 180)



The Miracle Meal

Author Unknown

"And the barrel of meal wasted not, neither did the cruse of oil fail, according to the word of the LORD, which he spake by Elijah." 1Kings 17:16

It was the last week of the month. As I was getting ready to prepare our Sabbath meal, I stood in front of my pantry, looking at the empty shelves. What can I do? I thought. The small ration that the Communist government of Cuba allowed per family per month was gone. Only two cups of rice and a small bit of oil and part of a loaf of bread were left. From my summer garden, I had a green plantain (a banana that you cook), two tomatoes, and a small head of lettuce. That was all the food I had to feed my family for Friday night, Sabbath and Sunday. Because the first day of the next month was on Monday, I could not go to the store to buy more food until then. For my little family of three--my husband, Hugo, our daughter, Lena, and me--there was not enough food.

We usually had visitors come to our home for Sabbath dinner, *But not this Sabbath!* I thought.

I put the rice to cook in a little pot. With one of the tomatoes I made a little salsa and cooked six small "meatballs" made out of the single plantain. There it was--all of our food for two days! When Hugo arrived home that afternoon, I explained our food situation to him.

"Please don't invite anyone home for dinner tomorrow," I asked. He understood. When I heard our doorbell ring a little later and went to see who was at the door, I heard the voice of a young man who had come from a distant city. We knew he was interested in one of the young ladies in our church, so we had told him that whenever he wanted to visit our church, he was welcome to stay in our home. *But why today?* I thought. The fact was, though, that he was there; and I knew that we would have to share what little food we had with him.



While the young man took a shower, I quickly prepared a glass of water with sugar and a slice of bread for each member of my family. That was our supper. When our visitor came out of the bathroom, I served him a little rice, two of the plantain balls, and one leaf of lettuce made into a salad. "We have already had our supper because we have to go to the church for the AY meeting." I explained to him. When we arrived at the church that evening, I learned that the girl our friend had come to visit was out of town. *Oh, no!* I thought, *Now we will have to feed him lunch tomorrow!*

My husband gave me the solution the next morning. "Let's tell him that we are fasting today so you can then give the food to him and Lena." I agreed.

While sitting in church that Sabbath morning, I noticed a man from a neighboring church attending with his young son. He had to bring his older son to a nearby hospital and had decided to stay at our church for the church service. My thought was, *Two more for lunch today!*

Later in the morning, Hugo whispered to me, "There is a couple visiting from Havana. When I was in the Seminary, I was assigned to the church where they are members. Many times they had me to their house for Sabbath dinner. We have to take them home."

My immediate reaction was desperation, but in a flash, Bible stories passed through my mind: the manna in the wilderness, the oil and flour of the widow, the little boy's lunch that the Lord used to feed thousands. "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today, and forever" (Hebrews 13:8), I remembered. Trusting only the Lord, my Provider, I answered my husband with a confident, "Sure, invite them home. The Lord will provide."

When we arrived home after church, the visiting lady graciously offered her help in the kitchen. "You're on vacation," I said. "It's time for you to rest. I will take care of everything in no time!"

Going into my kitchen, I knelt in front of the stove on which sat those two little pots with almost no food in them. I told my Lord and Provider, "Lord, here are my fishes and my loaves. It is all I have, and You have asked me to feed these people as You asked your disciples to do that day long ago. I give you what I have. You do the rest."

While the rice and the plantain balls were warming on the stove, I took the small head of lettuce and the tomato which I had saved for the salad. Walking over to my china cabinet, I reached in to take out a small salad bowl, but it was as if the Lord was talking to me. "Where is your faith? Haven't you asked Me to multiply your food? You need a larger bowl--enough for all the people and some left over."

"Forgive me, Lord," I said, taking out the largest salad bowl I had. As I took off leaves of lettuce, washed them, and cut them into my salad bowl, I did not see the leaves multiplying, but it seemed that the head of lettuce was always the same size, and more and more leaves were coming off it. When I finally got to the last leaf, the bowl was completely full. Then I began to cut the tomato, and it remained the same size until I had enough to combine with the lettuce into a nice tossed salad. The same thing happened with the small piece of bread! Always I was able to cut another slice until I had filled a basket. By now my faith was very strong, so I took out a big serving dish for the rice. I had to laugh when I saw that big dish beside the small pot, but I knew what the Lord was doing. I began scooping the rice into the serving dish, and always, the same amount was left in the pot until the dish was completely full. And there was still the same amount of rice left in the pot! "Lord," I said, "You are providing not only for these people today, but You are providing also for us tomorrow, aren't you?" I could imagine a smile on His lovely face while He was nodding to me. Then came the plantain balls. When I turned on the stove to warm the food, I saw that there were only four plantain balls left. Now, I had a big bowl in my hand, and I smiled, in spite of myself. When I took the pot lid off, the pot was full of plantain balls! I filled the big bowl full, and there were still enough balls left in the pot for the next day!



When I was ready, I went into the living room. To my husband, I said, "Honey, I know you were planning to fast today, but since we have these beloved brethren with us, why don't you join us for dinner? You can fast at any other time, if you want." Hugo looked at me as if to say, "Are you out of your mind?"

As our visitors went into the bathroom to wash their hands, I led my husband to the dining room table. He could not believe his eyes, and two big tears rolled down his cheeks while he whispered, "Thank you, Lord!" That Sabbath dinner was the best dinner of our lives. Though a very simple meal, it was provided directly by the Lord.

This story is a lesson for us today, when the store shelves are empty or we may feel that every earthly support has been cut off; we have the promise *"But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."* Philippians 4:19. Thankfully, God is not limited by circumstance. He is the same yesterday, and today, and forever. And He is just a prayer away.



Three+ Common Things more Deadly than the Coronavirus (COVID-19) and How to Protect Against Them

As I write on the 30th of March, deaths recorded from the coronavirus worldwide total **37, 552 deaths**.¹ Assuming they were to continue at the same rate for the remaining portion of the year the annual total of deaths from the coronavirus worldwide would be somewhere around **150,000**. Despite the epidemic of panic caused by these numbers, there are several common things that are more deadly than the coronavirus.

Worldwide, tobacco use is at the top of the list. *"Cigarette smoking is the leading preventable cause of death worldwide."*² According to the CDC, it *"causes more than 7 million deaths per year. If the pattern of smoking all over the globe doesn't change, more than 8 million people a year will die from diseases related to tobacco use by 2030."*³ Sadly, many of the deaths are not just from those who smoke, but from secondhand smoke. *"Cigarette smoking is responsible for more than 480,000 deaths per year in the United States, including more than 41,000 deaths resulting from secondhand smoke exposure. This is about one in five deaths annually, or 1,300 deaths every day."*³



However, the normal response, in the USA at least, is not quarantine of tobacco, or shutdown of its production, or required stay at home orders for those who smoke to protect those who may ingest secondhand smoke, but instead a warning printed on cigarette packages stating that smoking causes cancer.

And then there is tobacco's henchman, alcohol. According to the World Health Organization, *"Worldwide, 3 million deaths every year result from harmful use of alcohol, this represent 5.3 % of all deaths."*⁴ This represent[s] 1 in 20 deaths. Not all those who die of alcohol are those who ingest it either. *"Approximately one-third of all traffic crash fatalities in the United States involve drunk drivers."* In fact, *"one person was killed in a drunk-driving crash every 50 minutes in the United States in 2018."*⁵ These numbers fail to include social health effects of alcohol use, like the rise in number of children orphaned, and an increase in the occurrence and severity of domestic violence cases. Yet like tobacco, despite these things alcohol production has not been shut down due to its danger, neither have all the bars and saloons been closed for the sake of public safety. Instead, there are simply warnings that you shouldn't drink too much or that you shouldn't drink while driving.

Interestingly enough, the footnoted chart on Wikipedia, covering "Preventable Deaths" in the US, actually lists *medical errors in hospitals* as the leading cause of preventable death. Medical errors are listed as causing 23.1% of all preventable deaths. This number is rivaled by *tobacco* ranking at 18.1%. *Being overweight and obesity* come next followed by *alcohol* and *infectious disease*.⁶ Which brings us to Influenza, since the flu is a very common infectious disease.

Annual death numbers from influenza also top COVID-19 even without including flu pandemics, according to MedicineNet. They state, *"Seasonal flu kills 291,000 to 646,000 people worldwide each year, according to a new estimate ... The new figures from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other groups were published Dec. 13 in 'The Lancet' medical journal. The updated numbers, which do not include deaths during flu pandemics, are based on more recent data from a larger and more diverse group of countries than the previous estimate, the CDC said."*⁷

So, how do we avoid the many causes of death that are actually greater than the threat of death from COVID-19?

1. Boost your immune system and lower your blood pressure by drinking plenty of **water** so that you don't get sick, thus preventing you from having to go to the hospital, where you could die from a medical error. (Matt. 9:12)
2. Practice **temperance** in all things. Don't use tobacco or drink alcohol.
3. Avoid obesity by concentrating on **nutrition** in the foods you eat. Avoid eating too much or too much junk food. Also protect your thyroid and adrenals from environmental stress. This will help you to maintain a healthy metabolism. Also, **exercise** daily to boost your metabolism.
4. Boost your immune system by spending plenty of time in the **fresh air** and **sunshine** and **sleeping** with your window open. During the 1919 flu epidemic, it was found that when they received fresh air, the hospitalized patients' mortality rate dropped to zero. Outside air has negative ions. Inside air has positive ions. *"Puck and Sagik reported that viruses must carry certain electrical charges to be able to attack and invade cells. Assuming that cells and viruses have the same negative charge, the viruses are repelled and made incapable of breaking the protective barrier. The presence of positive ions seems to inhibit or neutralize cellular resistance, allowing the virus to enter and pursue its work of destruction."*⁸
5. Make sure you are getting enough **selenium**. Not only can a deficiency make you more susceptible to the flu, but scientists reported discovering that inadequate intake of selenium boosts damage caused by influenza viruses. Science Daily states that *"Influenza virus that has been passed through mice deficient in the trace nutrient selenium mutates and emerges from the mice more virulent than before, a new study shows."*⁹ This remedy could be as simple as two or three Brazil nuts a day.
6. Consider **elderberry**. *"After watching viruses and elderberry in the laboratory, Mumcuolglu [an Israeli scientist] found that the active ingredients in elderberry actually disarmed the spikes [on viruses that invade cells by puncturing them] by binding to them and preventing them from piercing the cell membrane."*¹⁰ When a double-blind study was done with half the group of flu sufferers given a placebo and half given an elderberry extract *"within 24 hours, flu symptoms of fever, cough and muscle pain in the elderberry group had dramatically improved in 20 percent of the patients. By day two another 75 percent had clearly improved and by day three more than 90 percent of the group was better. In contrast, among those taking the placebo, only 8 percent showed any improvement after 24 hours, and the remaining 92 percent took about six days to improve... The elderberry group also had a higher level of antibodies to the flu."*¹⁰ We have personally seen the efficacy of this little berry. Try cooking them up in pancakes.
7. **Trust in God** and take some **Vitamin C** to mitigate stress and further boost your immune system. *Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.* 3 John 1:2



1-- <https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/> Accessed March 30, 2020

2-- <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4998250/>

3-- https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data_statistics/fact_sheets/fast_facts/index.htm

4-- <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/alcohol>

5-- <https://www.nhtsa.gov/risky-driving/drunk-driving>

6-- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Preventable_causes_of_death

7-- <https://www.medicinenet.com/script/main/art.asp?articlekey=208914>

8- {Air, Air, Precious Boon of Heaven by George Chen, M. D.—Puck, I and Sagik, B, Virus and Cell Interaction with Ion Exchangers, Journal of Experimental Medicine 97: 807-820, 1953}

9-- <https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2001/06/010608081506.htm>

10-- Bottom Line's Prescription Alternatives, by Mindell & Hopkins, Pg. 238, 242

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STUDY TO SHOW THYSELF APPROVED—God's Plan for the Crowning Serpent Virus of Sin



Consider the meaning of the word "coronavirus." The Latin dictionary defines corona as "*literally garland, chaplet, crown*". Interestingly enough, the third definition for corona is "*a military technical term, 'the besiegers of a city'*". Likewise of interest, the second definition given for the word virus is "*poison, especially of snakes, venom*." When all these definitions are combined coronavirus means "*crowning, besieging serpent poison*" (Cassell's Latin Dictionary (Latin-English), ©1968 by Wiley Publishing)

The Bible warns us of a serpent and his poison of sin and lies.

Rev. 12:9 And the great dragon was cast out, that **old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth** the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

John 8:44 Ye are of your father **the devil**, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for **he is a liar**, and the father of it.

2 Cor. 11:3 But I fear, lest by any means, as **the serpent beguiled** Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

1 John 3:8 He that committeth **sin is of the devil**; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.



Just as there is a plan in place for slowing the coronavirus, **God has a plan in place for dealing with Satan's serpent poison of sin.**

Testing—1Thess. 5:21 **Prove all things**; hold fast that which is good.

Eph. 5:10, 11 **Proving what is acceptable** unto the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them. **How to test**—Heb. 4:12 For **the word of God** is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is **a discerner** of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Making a difference between those infected and those not infected—Eze. 44:23 And they shall teach my people the difference between the holy and profane, and cause them to **discern between the unclean and the clean**.

Rom. 12:9 Let love be without dissimulation. **Abhor that which is evil**; cleave to that which is good.

Handwashing and sanitation—James 4:8 Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. **Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.**

Isaiah 1:16,17 **Wash you, make you clean**; put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil; learn to do well.

Eph 5:26,27 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the **washing of water by the word**, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

Medical missionary protective gear—Jude 22, 23 And of some have compassion, making a difference: And **others save with fear**, pulling them out of the fire; **hating even the garment spotted by the flesh**.

Eph. 6:13-18 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your **loins girt about with truth**, and having on the **breastplate of righteousness**; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking **the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked**. And take the **helmet of salvation**, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with **all prayer** and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

Social distancing from those infected—2 Timothy 3:1-5 This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: **from such turn away**.

Quarantine of the plagued city—Rev. 18:2,4-5 And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.... And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, **Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues**. For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.

The only Remedy for those who are sin-sick -- Rev. 12:11 And they overcame him by **the blood of the Lamb**, and by **the word of their testimony**; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

Psalms 103:2,3 Bless the LORD, O my soul... **Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases**;

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life **through Jesus Christ our Lord**.

The blue sea slug or Glaucus Atlanticus, also commonly known as blue glaucus, sea swallow, or blue dragon lives in the water off the coast of Europe, South Africa, Mozambique, and east Australia.



CC BY-SA 2.0, by Sylke Rohrlach -Wikipedia--Glaucus atlanticus

This sea slug is a brilliant blue and fun to watch. The blue sea slug floats upside-down with the blue side facing up, and the silver-gray side facing down. It floats on the surface because it has a gas-filled stomach. Sometimes, the blue glaucus can wash up on shore, so they can be found on beaches.

Although they are quite small, these creatures eat other venomous (poisonous) creatures, like the blue bottle jelly fish. The blue sea slug stores the poison in the thin feather-like "fingers" on its body. Picking up the blue sea slug can result in a very painful and potentially dangerous sting.

The blue glaucus reminds me of sin and naughty things. Sometimes we see sin and think it looks pretty and would be fun to play with, but sin will sting us and make us unhappy every time. I don't want to play with sin anymore, do you?



Proverbs 22:3
A prudent man foreseeth the evil,
and hideth himself: but the simple
[foolish] pass on, and are punished.



Christian saw poison ivy leaves in the woods.
He remembered that he had been told that the leaves were poisonous and could give you an itchy rash if you touched them.
Christian walked carefully around the leaves and didn't touch them.
Christian was happy that he had been careful and so he didn't get a rash from the poison ivy.

Carnal saw poison ivy leaves in the woods too. He remembered that he had been told that the leaves were poisonous and could give you an itchy rash if you touched them, but he told everybody that he wasn't allergic to poison ivy. Carnal foolishly rubbed poison ivy leaves all over his face. The next day, Carnal didn't feel good because he had an itchy rash all over his face and hands. Carnal wished he hadn't been so foolish.

Note: As usual, this story is based upon an actual happening, and is shared to help teach children to learn to reason from cause to effect.



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