

# “A Million Questions”

Scripture Reading: 1 PETER 1:1-2

- ) It seems like forever since we were in our expository study of the Book of GALATIANS. We will return there next week. Today I want to speak to you about our present world situation.
- ) **SLIDE 8.** I have titled today’s message “*A Million Questions.*”
- ) It comes as no surprise we live in strange times. We all know what is happening with this thing we have officially called the “*Corona Virus Global Pandemic.*” We have all been watching the news, reading the newspapers, and cruising our social media outlets for the next interesting bit of information.
- ) And as a result, we probably have a million questions. I know this because I have asked them and so have you. Questions such as: Is it really as bad as they say it is? Are the number of cases being inflated so states can receive more money? Could this whole pandemic be a quest towards a one-world order or a movement against DT? And Christians are asking is this event ushering in the end times and the return of Jesus Christ?
- ) We have all asked why liquor stores are considered essential while privately owned businesses whose family income relies solely on that business remaining open must close down. Why can Home Depot, Lowe’s, and Walmart have 300 people going up and down the aisles, some wearing masks and others not, while a church that can hold 220 people cannot have 35 show up on a Sunday for a worship service?
- ) On a society level, we are in a time of uncertainty. We do not know who to trust because there are “*experts*” on every side of this issue. Which expert do we believe because I need to make some important decisions and take a direction that is best and safest for me and for my family?

- ) And at any given moment we may be swayed from one side (fearing this thing is serious) to the other side (where we really just don't care anymore). Quite often we may find ourselves somewhere in between depending on what we are reading at that moment or who we are speaking with.
- ) People are not as friendly now as they were when this thing started. Anxiety levels are rising. The natives are getting restless. In 9 months, the birth rates are going to skyrocket. In a few months, the abortion rates are going to increase dramatically. Domestic abuse and divorce numbers will be on the rise. When this is over, adulterous affairs will be commonplace and sin will run rampant. Satan loves this crisis.
- ) We are all getting bored and angry because this VIRUS has held us hostage. Or is it just a giant conspiracy by the deep state that has held us all hostage?
- ) All of this uncertainty leads us to be asking a million questions. But I am convinced that we are all seeking the same thing. We are all seeking the truth. That's all. The truth. Because we know if we have that, life has a little more sanity. Decisions are easier to make. And I have been saying it for over 12 years now; the truth matters. Doesn't it? Even in worldly issues.
- ) I'll be the first to admit that the condition of this world at this time can consume and dominate our thinking. Look how many life changes many of us have made. Some of our lives have taken a 180. However, depending on what changes we have made, the believer could be led on a very unprofitable path in his/her Christian walk.
- ) This morning I want to encourage all of us to put those million questions aside and get back on track to where our minds need to be focused. It's way too easy to get caught up in the science and the debates and the politics and the conspiracies that this corona quarantine has introduced to us. And that's not healthy.

- ) What would this world be like if we spent just as much time in the Word of God, praying, and sharing the gospel as we have on social media informing others of our opinion (which most others really don't care anyways), trying to convince others of our opinion (which none of us will ever do), or having endless discussions with others about COVID-19 knowing our discussions solve nothing except generate more questions.
- ) Confession time. Over these past 9 weeks or so, my focus has not been where it should be. I was being consumed by the world and had spent way too little time in the Word. A turning point began for me beginning the week of May 3<sup>rd</sup>. God woke me up. Actually, He smacked me (sanctified smack).
- ) **SLIDE 9**. There was something in the message I spoke last week that lingered in my mind and would not go away. It was point #4 when I said, "*Cleaning up unbelieving America on the outside decreases our focus on the Kingdom of God.*" There was something in that point that woke me up.
- ) Sure. Maybe I'm not trying to clean up America at this time, but my primary focus has been on COVID-19 and my quarantine restrictions and my focus on the Kingdom of God has certainly decreased.
- ) **SLIDE 10**. Then I quoted 1PETER 1:1: "*Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who reside as **aliens**, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia.*"
- ) And then I made this statement: "*Augusta County in Virginia in the USA in North America on this planet earth is not my home. I am an alien here. My home is in heaven. So, there is a very large part of me that simply says that I will leave this country and this pandemic into the hands of Almighty God and I will focus my efforts on kingdom work.*"
- ) But how easy, exactly, is that?

- ) We cannot totally ignore this corona crisis because its effects are everywhere you go. On the other hand, we cannot totally ignore God, His Word, prayer, or our commission as Christians. So, I ask. Have we been able to successfully balance these two? Because I assure you, if we are going to tip to one side, because we are humans, we will tip with the world and not the Word.
- ) I want to give us all some sound Biblical advice because I don't want any of us to be overly consumed by the world and underly involved in the Word.
- ) **SLIDE 11.** My **POSITION**. As a Christian, I am a child of God. I am His (1PETER 1:2). We must remember this. We don't have our claim on God. God has His claim on us. There's a big difference. It's a God-centered theology not a man-centered theology.
- ) And too often in difficult times we forget who has His claim on us. Believer! We are children of God! We are fellow heirs with Christ!
- ) **SLIDE 12.** ROMANS 8:16-17. *"The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him."*
- ) Do we fully understand whose family we belong to?
- ) **SLIDE 13.** My **PLACE**. As a Christian, my home is in heaven. I belong to a new Kingdom. Peter says in 1 PETER 1:1 that we are just aliens passing through this world. And Paul tells us in COLOSSIANS 3:20 that our citizenship is in heaven.
- ) **SLIDE 14.** In JOHN 18:33, Pilate asks Jesus if He is a king. Jesus replies in v36, *"My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting so that I would not be handed over to the Jews; but as it is, My kingdom is not of this realm."*

- ) Have we balanced our time with being children of the Kingdom and being citizens of the USA? Or is one of those dominating our thoughts and our actions? More American than Biblical.
- ) **SLIDE 15**. My **PREFERENCE**. As a Christian, I am in this world, but not of this world. So, I ask. Which do we prefer? We need to choose which one we love more. This world or His Kingdom? ROM 12:2 tells us not to be conformed to this world.
- ) **SLIDE 16**. There are plenty of verses in the NT alone which warn us not to be friends with this world. JAMES 4:4. Granted, they are all referencing the “*world*” as synonymous with sin. But when we start flirting with the world more than we spend time in the Word, we will be asking for trouble.
- ) **SLIDE 17**. And 1 JOHN 2:15-17 also warns us not to love this world.
- ) These are uncertain times. These times here in 2020 may be the most difficult times you have ever found yourself going through. And we just can’t put our heads in the sand and pretend like nothing is happening out there. Our world situation does call for our time and making wise decisions.
- ) Would you like those one million questions to be but a few? Do you want to make life a lot easier? Do you want to sleep well at night? Do you want not to worry? If you answered “yes” to any of those questions, then 1) Remember who you are. If you are a believer, God has His claim on you. 2) Remember where your real home lies. It’s not here. We are Kingdom children. And 3) Prefer to love God more than loving this world.
- ) **SLIDE 18**. MATTHEW 6:33-34. “*But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. So do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.*”
- ) Our focus. Is it on this world or on His Word? The more you focus on His Word, the fewer questions we will have.

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