

# THE CORONA COLLECTION

## *“Silence Their Ignorance”*

Scripture Reading: 1 PETER 2:13-15

- ) Today’s order of service will be different than our normal order of service. Current event issues need to be addressed. And I want to do just that today.
- ) Read today’s Scripture text.
- ) As I have said the past two weeks, I really want to get back into our routine in our expository study of the Book of GALATIANS. But for as much as I like routine, it is important to address current events, especially when they have a dominant effect of us, the people of God.
- ) Christians and pastors and churches, and many denominations are finding themselves in uncharted territory due to this corona crisis. How to manage a church during a global pandemic is not what I have studied for the past 25 years.
- ) Over this past week I have spoken with several pastors and have also followed the FB accounts of several churches. Most of us have arrived at the same three general conclusions.
- ) Conclusion #1: Every church has people on every side and every opinion of this issue. And most of these people think everyone should think just like they do. Their dedication to their stand ranks right up there with religion and politics.
- ) Conclusion #2: Some church people want to either exegete or eisegete the Scriptures to suit their belief system to prove how Biblically correct they are. *“Here’s what the Scriptures say.”*
- ) Conclusion #3: No matter what decisions I make concerning how we do church throughout this time of crisis, I will not please everybody. But that’s OK. I stand on GAL 1:10.

- ) *“For am I now seeking the favor of men, or of God? Or am I striving to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ.”*
- ) God is going to require of me how I led His people (all of us) through these times. He’s not going to ask me how I felt about my American freedom. He’s going to ask me how obedient I was in preaching His Word. So, the only “*side*” I will take in this corona crisis from this pulpit is that of God’s Word. And I want everyone in here to know that up front.
- ) With that said, there are a couple of things I want us all to remember as we navigate these uncertain times.
- ) **POINT 1.** No matter how bad we think we have it, the apostles Peter and Paul lived in far more dangerous and uncertain times. Yet even under that corrupt and pagan government system, Paul tells us in ROMANS 13:1-7 and Peter tells us in 1PETER 2:13-15 to obey and honor our government and to pray for our governing officials.
- ) So, I ask. Have we been told by our government to do anything evil? No. Inconvenient, yes. Have we been told by our government that we cannot share the Word of God? No. God’s Word is not confined by these walls. Have I been told by our government what I can and cannot preach? No.
- ) As long as the law of the land does not contradict the Word of God, we must be obedient to those laws no matter how ridiculous we may think those laws or restrictions may be. That leads me to my next point.
- ) **POINT 2.** While we are inside this church, we will obey our government laws. Why Mike? I don’t want to obey a stupid law and wear a stupid mask when I come here or go anywhere in public. Here’s my answer. Because by doing right (either in here or in public) we silence the ignorance of foolish men. That’s not a suggestion. It’s a Biblical command and promise.

- ) What would we rather do BGCC? Obey the law, be submissive, and show good example, or disobey the law and give the unbelieving world and liberal governing officials another reason to hate Christians and call us all hypocrites?
- ) I know for a fact that other pastors and other churches have instructed their people to do whatever they want when they attend church today. I can't say that. I won't say that. That is blatant rebellion against the Word of God.
- ) If that's what you want, then either I need to be replaced or you need to find another church. I will never preach or teach you to disobey our government laws and be a rebellious church. And that leads me to the third point I want to make this morning.
- ) **POINT 3.** No matter how dedicated and how sincere and how wise we may all think we are as Christians and followers of Christ during this pandemic, we all still have the human condition.
- ) Satan loves the fact that we still have the capability to sin even though we have trusted our lives to Jesus Christ. The enemy may have lost us in one way, but so often he still owns us in other ways. Are we going to allow that to happen to us?
- ) And folks, if there's ever a time when we may have lost our foothold with our Master and caved into the deceiver, it's now. We are tired of these new life conditions that we are being told to live under. We are short-tempered. Hatred has taken root.
- ) And once again Satan lives up to his description as one who has come to steal, kill, and destroy. Listen BGCC. He wants to destroy your marriage, your family, and this church, and he will use this pandemic to do just that. Do NOT allow him to use you to be the means to his end. One last point.
- ) **POINT 4.** Do not allow your emotions outweigh the commands of God. Our emotions are a powerful force and they are being stretched. I'm there. You're there. We're all there.

- ) ROMANS 5:3-5a. *“And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; and hope does not disappoint.”*
- ) OK. We know there’s tribulation. So, if tribulation brings about perseverance, how are you doing with that? If perseverance brings about proven character, how are you doing with that? If proven character brings about hope, then I ask. Where is your hope? Is your hope in the freedoms this country has to offer, or is your hope in the freedom that Jesus Christ provides when He hung and died on a cross for sinners like us?
- ) BGCC, our obedience is being tested. Our love for our neighbor is being tested. Our trust in God to get us through this is being tested. Our faith is being tested. So, I ask all of us. Who is passing the test and who is failing the test?
- ) We all have different views and opinions about this virus, about wearing masks, and about how we feel about our governor. I know because I’ve spoken with many of you and I read FB. On those issues we must agree to disagree in love.
- ) What you do and what you say concerning this corona virus and wearing masks outside of this church is your choice, your business, and your responsibility. I am only responsible to you. I am not responsible for you.
- ) But what transpires inside this church I am responsible for and inside this church we will obey the law of the land as long as it does not usurp the Word of God. I, for one, want to silence the ignorance of foolish men. And to do that, we must be obedient. We must love our neighbor. We must trust God. And we must agree to remain a united body of believers through these times.
- ) The truth isn’t always easy, but it does matter. And the truth will set you free!

5/31/2020 at Beech Grove Christian Church