

AN UPDATE REGARDING CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

With all the news and concerns surrounding the coronavirus (COVID-19), we want to let you know how Mount Moriah Baptist Church is responding. The church leadership is carefully and continually monitoring this situation. As information materializes, this page is the primary, most up-to-date place for you to receive answers (relevant to our church) to commonly asked questions. We are in contact with other Godly men and ministries with regards to the most Biblical and appropriate response to these circumstances in which we are called to shine as light. We are committed to doing everything we can to provide a safe environment for our church family, friends, visitors, and surrounding community.

Is Mount Moriah continuing services?

In light of Governor Northam's declaration of Emergency and his March 15 adjustments, all services will be cancelled at least through March 27th. The Virginia Assembly of Independent Baptist is strongly recommending that we follow the CDC and Governor's recommendations. We are prayerfully and carefully evaluating this liquid situation and seeking Godly counsel.

We will work diligently to record regular videos to post on our website and social media in an effort to keep God's Word prominent in our lives. We will also make every effort to maintain regular communication via emails, texts, and phone calls. We do not currently have digital giving options but are examining some options.

What precautions can we take to try to slow the spread of this virus?

We encourage everyone to take certain steps to protect themselves and others from the coronavirus, flu, and other illnesses, including:

- * Washing your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
 - * Using hand sanitizer when soap and water are not available
 - * Not touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands
 - * Avoiding close contact with people who are sick
 - * Staying home if you are sick
 - * Covering your cough or sneeze
 - * Disinfecting objects and surfaces regularly
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What precautions will Mount Moriah be taking to make our facilities as safe as possible once we can resume services?

We will be taking extra cleaning precautions at this time. These include:

- * Wiping down all common area touchpoints (e.g., doors, light switches, countertops, etc.) with an EPA certified disinfectant
- * We will maintain hand sanitizer dispensers in common areas
- * We will be performing added in-depth cleaning of our facilities before resuming services

In addition, we encourage everyone to take commonsense precautions and consider other greeting interactions like waving or fist bumping instead of hand shaking

How can I better understand the coronavirus (COVID-19)?

Coronavirus is a type of virus that causes respiratory illness, an infection of the airways and lungs. COVID-19 is a new strain of coronavirus and is part of the same family of coronaviruses that includes the common cold. This new coronavirus outbreak was first identified in Wuhan, China in December 2019. Since then, the virus has spread to other countries.

The most common early symptoms appear between 2 and 14 days after infection. Symptoms can be mild to severe and include fever, cough, and shortness of breath. Older people and those with underlying medical problems like high blood pressure, heart problems or diabetes are more likely to develop serious illness. People with fever, cough and difficulty breathing should seek medical attention. Most people recover from the disease without needing special treatment.

Like many other viruses, the coronavirus (COVID-19) seems to spread from person-to-person through a cough, sneeze, or kiss. The **Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)** states that the risk in the U.S. is still low. They will update this status regularly on their website [here](#).

Maybe the greatest danger associated with the virus is the fear-based response we are seeing in many countries. Fear often leads to illogical reactions among the populous. Institutions take drastic and reactionary measures which can create economic problems and promote further fear. People begin stockpiling resources as if an apocalypse is coming – hence the low supply of toilet paper at your local WalMart! When people act in fear, things become somewhat unpredictable and this may be the greatest danger of the coronavirus.

How should I respond spiritually to the coronavirus?

Believers have the opportunity to show the world the right response to a virus like this. **2 Timothy 1:7** *For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.* What are the right responses? Let me share some thoughts compiled from my Scripture reading and some other men of God.

LOVE GOD — this is the greatest commandment! What does that look like in times like these?

Live by Faith, not Fear.

God is still in charge! He is still on the throne! As Christians, we are not to fear that which can destroy the body, instead we are live in the fear of the Lord. We must live by faith and show the world around us what that looks like. Yes, we should take precautions, but we also don't have to be reactionary because we believe in a God who is greater than the Coronavirus. If we were to die, we know where we would go! Consider reading Romans 8:28-39 and Psalm 91 (which actually mentions disease!).

Live for God not Comfort.

God has redeemed us for the next life. This life is to be lived for God and for His glory – and that's what best prepares us for the next life. That means God's glory directs my choices, not comfort. That means living in the light of eternity! Let Coronavirus be a reminder to all of us that this world is broken and in need of a Savior!

LOVE OTHERS — this is the second most important commandment. How do we love others during a situation like this with CoViD-19?

Pray

The Bible reminds us to avoid worry and trust the Lord as we pray to Him for our protection and provision. **Philippians 4:6** *Be careful [worrisome] for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.* Pray for God's name to be Exalted, God's Kingdom to be Expanded, and God's Will to be Implemented.

Pray for all those who have been affected by this virus; pray for the medical professionals; pray for our President, Vice-President, and other government officials who are seeking to make wise decisions for our country and local communities. Pray for families that are impacted because of school closings, job losses, reduced hours, etc.

Take Precautions

We can show love for others by protecting them from the virus – as best as we can. If there are others in need around you, care for them! Show the love of Christ at every opportunity. Reach out to those who are at high risk; make sure they have supplies, food, and necessities. Let them know you love them and are praying for them.

Remember and Share the Good News the Lord gives us. This world-wide story is “bad news” that impacts us all. The coronavirus (COVID-19) is yet another reminder that we live in a fallen world of sin, sickness, suffering, and death. Ultimately, none of us are immune to any of these things. But that’s why the gospel is such **good news**. God has not left us alone in this world of sin, sickness, suffering, and death. He has come to us in the person of Christ Jesus.

The greatest news in all the world is that Jesus lived a life with no sin, died on a cross to pay the price for our sin, and rose from the grave in victory over sin. Now, anyone anywhere who turns from their sin and trusts in Jesus will be forgiven of all their sin and enter in to a relationship with God forever. That means that through Jesus, we never have to fear sickness or death because we know we have eternal life with God.

If you do know that you have eternal life with God, we urge you to share your faith in Jesus with others. Times like these remind us all of the fragility of life and the inevitability of death. So, let’s spread the greatest news that death has been defeated and eternal life is available to all who trust in Jesus.