

Coronavirus and the Christian^[SEP]:

15 truths to shape our thinking and our praying at this troubling time...

1. We still have God as our Father, and live under his daily care, provision & protection (Isaiah 43:1, Luke 12:7, Ps 34:4-6).
2. Our Father is still in control of his world, and of every single thing in our lives (Matt 10:29, Ps 115:3).
3. Our infection depends not merely on statistics or risk factors or age, but on the Lord's permission to allow it (Isaiah 45:7, Job 2:4-7).
4. Fear the Lord more than Coronavirus, and love the Lord more than health (Luke 12:4-5, Mark 8:34-35).
5. Sin is far more deadly. Keep staying clean of that more than infection (Rom 6:23, Isaiah 1:4-6).
6. Beware of how fear can drive us to self-centeredness (& stockpiling!), so keep serving & caring for other as they deal with the virus. Share resources. Be generous (Acts 4:34-35).
7. Read the Scriptures and think on God's word more than obsessing about the latest news! (Col 3:16).
8. Give thanks for God's gracious provision of the NHS, wise medical advice & government care (James 1:17).
9. Pray for our government and leaders around the world (1 Tim 1:1-2)
10. However let your ultimate sense of safety & comfort come more from the Lord's care & control, than the government & NHS (Ps 44:6, Isaiah 33:1).
11. In God's mysterious plan, the appearance of this virus will be one of God's means to make us more dependent on him (2 Cor 12:8-9).
12. The reality of Coronavirus can wean us off worldliness as it reminds us of the falseness of this world, the reality of death and the provisionality of everything here (Rom 8:22-23).
13. My ultimate hope isn't to be free from infection, but to be found in Christ and glorifying him (Phil 1:20-23).
14. What our minds meditate on is worship – so beware a mind overrun and obsessed by fears and anxieties about infection (Phil 4:8, Mark 4:18-19).
15. Our true hope isn't health in this world, but being with God forever (Rev 22:1-4)