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- realizing the power of a life in Christ-

LIVING IN A TIME OF MASSIVE DECEPTION

"Watch out that no one deceives you."

- Matthew 24:4 (See also Mark 13:5 and Luke 21:8)

Certainly we all know that this covid-19 coronavirus is a serious disease. At the same time we also know, or at least some of us recognize, that there is something really wrong right now – in our nation, in the world.

Jesus warned of deception as his primary warning for our day, the time just before his return. We have been living for years now in a period full of deception – from all sorts of people – many politicians, media, business leaders, religious leaders, entertainers. Now we are living in the midst of the greatest deception we have seen thus far: This CORONAVIRUS – COVID-19 “pandemic,” its implications, and the reactions of the world and the world’s leaders to it. Yes, this is a contagious disease and yes some people die from it. But we have had diseases on earth forever, including some we do not have a medical cure for. We still don’t have a cure for AIDS, for example. And we just survived a bad Ebola outbreak in Africa that threatened to spread. We survived those.

Studies are coming out now, along with our just plain observation of the statistics, that show this virus is not nearly the lethal risk it was portrayed to be in the early days. And in any event, those greatly affected come largely from one group of people – old people who are already suffering from some other serious health problem! Hardly any younger people die from this disease.

In New York City, as of April 14 about 72% of the deaths were from people age 65 or older, with the majority in that group having some other serious condition such as diabetes, obesity, heart disease, and more. They weren’t normally healthy people! Less than 5% of the deaths were people less than age 45.

Looking at the whole country and the number of coronavirus deaths reported thus far, what is the actual risk of death to all people in the USA from this virus? .02%! That is two hundredths of one percent. That rate is higher for older people and almost zero for younger people.

Let’s be honest, the only really serious outbreak of this disease in the USA has been in the New York City metropolitan area. Nearly half of the deaths from the disease in the country are there. Why New York City? Because that is the great port of entry into the United States, the great international city. Back in January when this disease was just becoming known in the US, hundreds of thousands of persons from other lands came into New York City, including many from Asia, from China. The President’s ban on travel from China did not start until February 10, and the ban on travel from Europe later than that.

Somehow, in some way, the world’s health bureaucrats coupled with anxious accomplices in the press and some willing politicians managed to create great fear of coronavirus throughout the world. The leaders of the nations responded by shutting down societies and economies. Some states have people living at home in a condition close to house arrest (using the language of the USA Attorney General).

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It has been astounding. Americans willingly gave up freedoms they normally would have fought to preserve. Why? Because somehow they were convinced of a grave danger here. It will be interesting to see how quickly and when some of these political leaders relinquish the new power they now have over people's lives.

Other countries quickly followed suit. Even poor highly populated countries that have no ready way for their citizens to obtain food if they are forced to stay home. Yet if you look at the statistics for most of the world's countries, you will see little coronavirus disease and death in the great majority of the world's countries.

Let me give just one example, the country Kenya with which we have some familiarity. There are 51 million people in Kenya. The government has an enforced stay at home policy. A man may leave his home for two hours a day to get food. But for many, how is that going to happen, since he is not working? Several people have been killed in Kenya by police in enforcing this stay at home policy. Yet when I look at the statistics, I see that in this large country only 14 people have died with a case count of less than 400 cases. I guarantee you there are many more cases of and deaths from malaria and tuberculosis in Kenya than that. How many more people will be killed by the police and by not having food to eat in Kenya than by this disease?

I could write the Kenya story about many other places as well. Many of the other countries of the world similarly have followed suit. Why? Because they are following the advice of the "experts" and the behavior of the modern nations such as the USA and Europe. But they themselves really have few cases. About 150 of the world's 200 or so countries are each reporting less than a hundred deaths from this disease.

Deception. Big deception.

So why has most of the USA been shut down? Couldn't we have let persons under 65 continue to live their lives as normal, encouraging them perhaps to wash their hands more thoroughly and not be hugging each other? And couldn't we have focused our health concerns on those 65 years old and older? Maybe institute special senior shopping hours in all stores, not just grocery stores? And maybe especially put some strict and wise health protection regulations on nursing homes and assisted living homes. Have you noticed how so many of the cases and deaths are residents of such nursing homes?

Why have the world and its leaders so enormously overreacted? And why have the people so readily given up so many rights?

Deception. The master of deception has been at play here. Fear has been at play here. And once that demon fear gets going, he spreads rapidly. So now there are all sorts of controls and rules in effect that would be valuable if everyone on earth was about to get sick with a deadly disease. But that is not the truth. Most are not about to get sick with a deadly disease. Even if they did catch this disease, most people would survive it. Certainly most healthy people.

People who are not true believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, who do not have the gifts of the spirit and in particular the gift of discernment, cannot tell truth from falsehood. They just cannot discern the times and the events. And thus you have the explanation for so many highly anxious news commentators on TV and so many government leaders and medical "experts" so concerned with ever more controls on people's lives. They just can't see and discern and understand the times. They don't know.

The people of the planet have been misled. The government and the medical leaders of the USA and the world have misled Americans. And the media, always ready to run with an alarm, have been a major accomplice. None of this is malicious, at least for most that is true...but it nevertheless is the result of deception.

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Yes, we certainly need to focus on how to provide better protection for our older citizens, but that is it. Nothing more. And we need to open society up again.

Destroying the economies of the nations will bring about far more deaths than this disease has or apparently will. Not having money to pay the bills, to buy food, to pay the rent or the mortgage, to care for people that need caring for – those things lead to suicide and excess drinking and stress and all sorts of related medical conditions. Increased crime. More.

There are some more really serious points we could focus on, but this is already too long. Let me just mention them for your consideration:

- Consider for a minute who China's greatest opponents and competitors in the world are – the United States and the European countries. And who are the nations most affected by coronavirus? The USA and several of the larger European countries. Where did this disease come from on earth? China.
- The current president of the USA is in his last year of his administration. His platform for running for reelection was surely to be the great positive turnaround in the economy. Now, suddenly, the economy is in shambles and the country in disarray. This president is one who in his policies opposes globalism and big government. But all the regulations put into place to fight this disease have gone just the opposite way, taking away individual freedoms and moving toward bigger government. Remember, it is a one-world government the Antichrist seeks to rule.

All of this that has been so frightening and destructive to our nation and world is most surely the work of the evil one, the devil, working through his ready accomplices on earth, through persons who are deluded and who cannot discern the truth. Remember also, in the last days God sends a spirit of delusion on those who just refuse to accept the truth (e.g., of Jesus, of the gospel).

Time to wake up, America and world. Deception is one of the great signs of the last of the last days. We are living in it. Jesus is coming soon. This covid-19 coronavirus is a pestilence. And pestilence is a sign of the last days (see Luke 21 and Matthew 24). It also is one of the things the fourth horseman of the apocalypse brings to the world, the pale horse whose rider is death and who is followed by Hades.

One last thought in case you might think I forgot – all true born again, spirit filled believers should be well aware of the tools God has given us to protect ourselves as well as the great gift of divine healing. They also should know how to cast out demons and in this case should stand firm in Jesus' name in casting out this coronavirus. Unfortunately, though, most human beings on the planet know nothing of all this. Believers must be aware of how frightening this is to most people. Everyone should be encouraged to follow the basic preventive care recommendations.

May you live in the blessings of God always.

John

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