



Elmira
Seventh-day Adventist Church
Newsletter
Special Weekly Edition
April 19, 2020



PASTOR'S CORNER

“God Is In Control!”

Just so no one misses it, let me proclaim right now that “God is in control.” I don’t need to defend Him. I don’t need to preach a sermon of polemics. God is more than a Big Boy. He can handle Himself. My goal today is to remind you that God is in control. Place your hands in God’s hands. Put your trust and confidence in God. You will be encouraged to recognize that God is in control!

God is merciful! God cares. Count it a privilege that you and I are still alive. Countless others have perished, if by no other means, certainly by the icy-handed, merciless COVID-19.

But here we are. We are still above ground. We are still standing on top of our graves. I am thankful for life. So should you be. I urge you to, right now, take a fresh look at God’s offer of salvation to you. Are you being saved by grace? Jesus said, in John 10:10, “The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.”

Do you want that abundant life today? Do you want great peace of mind today? Do you want God’s comfort today? Do you want God’s security today? Don’t you want rest for your souls today? There is sweet rest in Jesus. Give your heart to Him now. Now is the time. It will never be easier to say yes to Jesus than right now. And virus or no virus, let the work of the gospel march on.

Jesus says, in Matthew 11:28-30, “Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My

burden is light.”

Mark 16:16 “He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.”

COVID-19 related Federal & State mandated lockdowns hand conspiracy theorists an arsenal. Their executive declarations are churning out an innumerable host of fanatics. What is sad is that some of those doomsday proponents are among God’s people of the Book. Some are in God’s remnant church of Bible prophecy. Revelation 16 introduces the Seven Last Plagues. While COVID-19 is wreaking havoc like a plague, it is NOT one of the Seven Last Plagues. Let me give a reminder to those who are mindful of Bible Prophecy. As long as Christ is officiating in the heavenly sanctuary as our High Priest the Seven last plagues cannot fall.

“The wrath of God in the Seven Last Plagues will constitute the ‘time of trouble such as never was’ [Jeremiah 30:7] after Michael stands up [Daniel 12:1].

The mediation of Jesus in the Heavenly Sanctuary, prevents the wrath of God from coming on a guilty world. The four angels [of Revelation] hold the four winds until the servants of God are sealed by the last warning message.

When that work is done, Christ will lay aside His priestly attire, put on the ‘garments of vengeance,’ [Isaiah 59:17] and take His position on the ‘white cloud,’ [Revelation 14:14] with “a sharp sickle” to reap the harvest of the earth.

Then the four angels will cease to hold the four winds

[Revelation 7:1-3] and the wrath of God, in the Seven Last Plagues, will be poured out.” Advent Review & Sabbath Herald, (ARSH) 12/23/1851. God is in control.

Now, even while preparing this sermon on an electronic device, there was predictive typing. Yet conniving humans and organizations are determined to rob God of His predictive abilities and such predictive revelations in the Bible. They go as far as to say that there is no God. They also say that we cannot be certain about Bible prophecy as the Bible lacks divine credentials.

But let the Bible speak for itself. II Peter 1:19-21. “And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.”

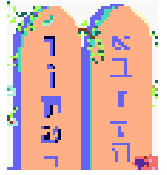
I wish each of you who are tuned in will be moved by the Holy Spirit. May He move you from where you are to where you need to be. May the Holy Spirit move you to a complete surrender of your life to Him. May the Holy Spirit move you to love Him and to hate sin and Satan. May the Holy Spirit forgive you, convert you and transform you into a totally godly person. May the Holy Spirit baptize you with His own power. May He lead those who need water baptism to get baptized now.

It seems like the very air we breathe is thick with fear. If you turn on the news, there’s nothing but fear. Fear there, fear here, fear everywhere. Everywhere fear, fear. Fear everywhere. But I say to you today, fear not. Do not get in bed with those fear-mongers. Unplug from their overdose on hysteria. They want to get you addicted to their fear-mongering, perhaps in a bid to up their news ratings. But be bold and unplug. Get in just enough news to be properly informed. But don’t imbibe.

Jesus says in Matthew 10:28 “And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.”

That’s the only fear we need, wholesome reverence for God. The wise man also said Ecclesiastes 12:13, “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep His commandments: for this is the whole duty of man”

Some are not even doing their godly duty part time, much more doing the whole duty of man. God’s Ten Commandments are the terms of both the Old and the New Testaments, the terms of the Old and New Covenants. The Ten Commandments make up God’s code of moral commandments.



Now the worldwide lockdown is traceable to someone’s or some people’s failure to carry out the whole duty of man which is to fear God and keep His commandments.

COVID-19 came as the direct result of violating God’s law of health & dieting. In Leviticus 11 & 17, as well as in Deuteronomy 14, God clearly groups animals into clean & unclean categories. He specifies what creatures may or may not be eaten. If unclean animals were eaten or touched, God ordered that they were to be quarantined and isolated. Leviticus 11:18 “Their flesh you shall not eat, and their carcasses you shall not touch. They are unclean to you.... 27b Whoever touches any such carcass shall be unclean until evening. 28 Whoever carries any such carcass shall wash his clothes & be unclean until evening. It is unclean to you.’ Someone in Wuhan, China touched the unclean snakes, bats, civet cats, and pangolins. They touched them for eating or experimental purposes. So whether it was in a wet market, or a virology lab, someone touched the unclean thing. And the world is now paying a high mortality and economic price. The clamor for a vaccine is a cop-out. I suggest fixing the problem at its causal root.

Vaccines only fix symptoms. What do you think will happen in the future if we continue to renege on humanity’s whole duty to keep God’s commandments, including God’s health and dietary laws?

More deadly diseases and viruses will arise. We must get back to reasoning from cause to effect in a hurry. Let us choose to not be gullible or willfully blinded any longer. Let us be independent thinkers. Let us be more than mere reflectors of other men’s thoughts.

Think. Think. Think. Diseases, viruses, and their resulting deaths arise from a violation of God's eight laws of health. Choose to follow God and His 8 laws of health. Attest to the truth. God is in control. Now, let us look at a Bible passage that demonstrates that God is in control.

See Job 38:8-11. Takeaways

1. Remember who is in charge of this world and the universe.

2. Like with the Job, Satan must get a permit from God before he can even get close to you. (See Job 1:10) God surrounds you with His protective hedge.

3. Jesus Christ is the Captain of our salvation and the LORD of hosts (Sabaoth James 5:4). He heads up Heaven's Angels: the angel armies. Invite Him to fight your battles for you: financial, health, emotional, social and spiritual battles.

4. In human flesh, Jesus flawlessly defeated Satan in every wave of attack. Christ is handing you His flawless victory. He wore out all the weapons of hell. So if you ask Him, He will walk with you and wear out Satan for you.

Now, this is what Jesus says in Luke 21:25-28. "And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring; men's hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near."

We biblical Christians should not be the ones to fear. We should lift up our heads and look up to Christ. He is our High Priest, King and God. And, God is in control.

Lift up your heads & look up. God the Father is sitting on His throne in heaven. Lift up your heads and look up. God, the Holy Spirit is moving around. He rides upon the high places of this earth and supervises the gospel work.

Besides, we know what the prophecies say. For example "As America, the land of religious liberty,

shall unite with the papacy in forcing the conscience and compelling men to honor the false sabbath, the people of every country on the globe will be led to follow her example." 6T 18, LDE 135.

COVID-19 lockdowns surely look like a dry-run as to what is to be but it is not the Sunday law. Moreover, I perceive that after this, a time of extraordinary peace, tranquility, merrymaking and prosperity will follow. What will you do then? Both now, and then, are to be used as windows of opportunity to give the final message. The everlasting gospel in the context of Revelation 14 must be proclaimed now. Do not become distracted.

What we fail to do in the time of peace we will be forced to do in the time of trouble. The future Sunday Law enforcement must take place. That will be the Mark of the Beast. The beast is the combination of the Papacy and the two-horned beast which is the Evangelical Alliance of the United States and its allies. Modern spiritualism will join forces with them in a counterfeit trinity of powers. When this God-forbidden marriage of church and state powers takes place, unprecedented trials and persecution will follow.

But we have an Elder Brother on the throne of heaven. All power is in His hands. And He is also our High Priest, King, and God. So let us not fear. But let us exercise faith instead. God did not tell us to resign to a "God understands" modality. No, no. God calls us to trust Him completely.

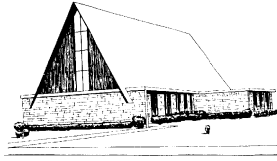
Now, this COVID-19 virus and subsequent government responses answer two objections people have raised as rebuttals to Adventist preached Bible prophecy. They said that the United States cannot repudiate its constitution which guarantees certain freedoms/rights.

Well, look at what we are experiencing now! Are they able to exercise those same guaranteed freedoms/rights now? They were suspended overnight. The global nature of COVID-19 reminds us of the global reach of the Seven Last Plagues.

But remember: God is in Control

Elder Warren Muir

CHURCH NEWS



CHURCH SERVICES

All services and luncheons at the church are currently suspended until further notice due to the Covid-19 Coronavirus.

Join us on Facebook at 11:30 AM Sabbath mornings for livestreaming of the church service.

<https://www.facebook.com/vhsda>



TITHES AND OFFERINGS

You may donate via www.adventistgiving.org.

APRIL AND MAY OFFERING SCHEDULE



April 25	New York Excel	May 16	Local Church Budget
May 2	Local Church Budget	May 23	New York Excel
May 9	Disaster & Famine Relief	May 30	New York Conference Evangelism

Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter is for the Trans-European Division.



SUNSET SCHEDULE

Friday, April 24 – 7:59
Sabbath, April 25 – 8:00

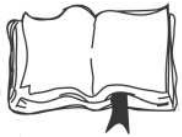
RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE



24 units were collected at our drive on April 14: 14 whole blood and 5 Double Red Cells =10 units. Future dates for our drives this year are: May 12, June 9, August 4, October 13, and December 15.

VISION 2020: EACH ONE REACH ONE FOR CHRIST

Let us, each one, make it our goal to be used of God to lead at least one person to surrender their lives to Jesus Christ in the coming year.



TEN-FIFTEEN

Remember to spend at least ten minutes praying and fifteen minutes studying God's word each day.

The Bible is God's voice speaking to us just as surely as though we could hear Him with our ears.

The word of the living God is not merely written, but spoken.

Do we receive the Bible as the oracle of God?

*If we realized the importance of this Word, with what awe would we open it,
and with what earnestness would we search its precepts.*

*The reading and contemplating of the Scriptures
would be regarded as an audience with the Most High.*

In Heavenly Places, p. 134

SABBATH SCHOOL

During the second quarter, our Sabbath School lessons are "How to Study Scripture." Be sure to continue your study at home while we are not able to meet together. This week's study (Lesson 4) is entitled "The Bible – the Authoritative Source of Our Theology."



Memory text: *To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them. Isaiah 8:20*

Texts for this week's study: Mark 7:1-13; Romans 2:4; 1 John 2:15-17; 2 Corinthians 10:5, 6; John 5:46, 47; John 7:38

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE – During our time of "sheltering in place" because of the Coronavirus, we will be planning to send out a weekly newsletter, including Elder Muir's sermon notes. Any other news of interest or articles should be submitted by Sunday evening.

CONTACT Sharon and Jim Reynolds at 734-1560 with newsletter information. You may also send your articles to: 813 Maple Avenue, Elmira, NY 14904, or e-mail us at newsletter@elmirasda.com. Please limit your articles to approximately one half to one full page. Please take note of the season, if your article is seasonal. All articles should properly acknowledge the author and include permission to print.





*Be strong and of a good courage,
fear not, nor be afraid of them:
for the Lord thy God, He it is that doth go with thee;
He will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.*

Deuteronomy 31:6



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED