

Sunday 3-29-2020 Message Video Service  
"THE MOST PROFITABLE THING YOU CAN DO UNDER THE CURRENT CRISIS"

This is March 29th 2020 11:00 A.M. Video 11 A.M. Service  
This is Pastor Frank Bissol from the Elkdale Baptist Church of West Clifford:

Because of the present Crisis regarding the current pandemic of the coronavirus, and the request of the authorities to not have large groups of people meeting together, we have decided to put our morning message on the internet.

We are going to share a song and a message. We will be doing this until we can meet in our church. I will be broadcasting the Sunday School hour at 10 AM with a conference calling service. I will be using the same service for our 7 PM Evening Service and Wednesday Night Prayer meeting. If you would like to participate in our Bible Study Prayer times, you can dial in at the number on the screen. Dial the number and then it will prompt you to enter an access code.

Dial-in number: is (712) 770-5375  
Access Code is: 365526 (#)

To play back one of our Bible study prayer services you should dial in on a different number and use the same access code..

The play back number is 712-770-5055 then use the same access code  
Access Code is: 365526 (#)

While we are having these remote services I am hoping if time permits to share some of the Scripture Songs I wrote.

The Bible gives three activities that should be involved in worshiping the Lord:

1. The Ministry should involve preaching and teaching the word of God.
2. The Ministry should involve the ministry of prayer, We will be doing this during our conference call services.
3. The Ministry should involve the ministry of singing psalms hymns and spiritual songs.

In our local church we pray for one another, admonish one another, and should love and care for one another. We know each other by name. This is why we have the dial in number where we will be conducting a conference call service over the phone. We will take prayer requests at that time and can interact with one another. Don't miss out on that.

Then, for parents especially, I believe family devotions and singing with your children are very important. This past Sunday was supposed to be children's Sunday. We had to cancel that. Let me suggest that you have your own ministry with your children by conducting family devotions and singing Scripture songs. The Bible says,

Colossians 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

We are going to put on our website some You tube videos of some of the songs we use in our church for kids to learn the Word of God. Use these in your personal devotions for your children, Some of the Scripture songs we have written that I would recommend are:

1. THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE
2. THE TEN COMMANDMENTS
3. THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT
4. THE CHARITY SONG

Now these are the first music videos in maybe a series that we are going to share on our website. I hope you will avail yourself of these resources. Hopefully we will be able to get back to assembling ourselves together in person soon and these video services will not be necessary.

Think about this: The Apostle Paul had many things to say to his churches but he was not able to be there in person because of being in prison or under house arrest. So what did he do? He used the resources of his day to get the message out to the churches. What he did back in his day was write the epistles. To this day we are blessed by reading those epistles.

So, what I would like to do during these difficult times is provide resources for our church people to help you spiritually through this Crisis.

At this time I am going to have my wife sing a song that I wrote many years ago in 1977. I was only saved a few years when I wrote this song. Back then we lived in a little 10x40 New Moon trailer in Montdale, PA. For some of you that are old enough you may remember the I Love Lucy show where they lived in a New Moon trailer. Our trailer looked just like that trailer on the show. That's what we lived in, and it was in that little trailer many years ago I wrote this song that my wife is going to sing for you. We recorded it here in my studio workshop. Forgive the pianos in the background and all the wires in my studio and man cave. I'm going to pull out my keyboard and my wife will sing it for you.

ELAINE SINGS SONG "WITHOUT JESUS"

Matthew 16:24 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

Matthew 16:25 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.

Matthew 16:26 For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

Mark 8:36 For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?

The title of my message is this morning is:

### ***THE MOST PROFITABLE THING YOU CAN DO UNDER THE CURRENT CRISIS?***

The text is taken from Matt 16:24-26

Right now there are many businesses that are shut down because of the coronavirus outbreak. There is much concern about the loss of money in the stock markets. And why all this drama and panic? It is all simply because there is a 1% chance that we may die if exposed to this virus. Now there is talk about getting things up and running again because of the damage this is doing economically to our country. When and if that happens, the idea is that we should let this pandemic take its course. Do our best but accept our chances that some people are going to get sick and die. This is pretty much the way it worked years ago during plagues and outbreaks. A lot of people died.

It has been determined that there is about a 1% chance that you will die if you get the coronavirus. The older you are the greater your chances of dying.

The truth is there is almost a 1% chance that you will die if you are in a car accident.

According to the American Cancer Society:

The risk that a man will develop cancer of the pancreas during his lifetime is 1.66%

If you are a man there is a 21.34% chance you will die from one form of cancer or another in your life.

If you are a woman there is 18.33% chance you will die from one form of cancer or another.

The truth is that every year you live there is a 1% chance you are going to die, the older you get.

With all the percentages, this one thing we know for sure, you can be 100% sure that someday you are going to die.

To this the Bible agrees, because it says,

***Hebrews 9:27 And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:***

Suddenly there is a panic in the world because people are dying of an invisible enemy we call the coronavirus and man can do nothing to stop it.

Jesus, however, said this,

Matthew 10:28 And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

According to Jesus, you need not panic about physical death, what you need to fear is the possibility of spiritual death and hell. The truth is, more time will pass after you die than the time you spend in this earthly body. So you would be wise to make investments in heavenly stock and treasures in heaven. The Bible says in Mark 8:36, "what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?"

The question we need to ask ourselves is this:

What is the most profitable thing I can do in this life?

CONSIDER WHAT YOUR CHOICES ARE:

Jesus said, what does it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his soul?

Now there are really only two choices. Either you live for the world, or gain in the world, or you live for Christ. There are a lot of people that think they can do both, but Jesus said,

Matthew 6:24 No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

Let us consider the first choice that most people sadly make:

***I. MOST PEOPLE LIVE FOR GAIN IN THIS WORLD.  
THEY BELIEVE IT IS THE MOST PROFITABLE THING THEY CAN DO.***

What does the world include?

The Bible says, that all that is in the world is this:

***1 John 2:16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.***

Look, there are really only two choices, you can live for the world, or you can live for Christ. I want to talk, first of all, about the vanity of living for the world.

***1. LET US SERIOUSLY CONSIDER WHETHER LIVING FOR GAIN IN THIS WORLD IS THE MOST PROFITABLE THING YOU CAN DO.***

The truth of the matter is most people live to gain profit in this world. I think most people don't even think there is any other option.

What is it to live for the world?

***1 John 2:16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.***

NOTE THE THREE AREAS THAT ENCOMPASS LIVING FOR THE WORLD.

***1. YOU CAN LIVE TO GET GAIN, PLEASURE IN THIS WORLD.***

***These pleasures are what the Bible calls the lust of flesh. Which include illicit sex, eating, drinking, be merry, feel good, etc.***

***2. YOU CAN LIVE TO GAIN MATERIAL THINGS THAT YOU CAN SEE.***

***This is the lust of the eyes. These are tangible physical things that you look to gain in the world.***

***3. YOU CAN LIVE TO GET FAME AND GLORY IN THE WORLD.***

***This is the pride of life.***

When I was just 21 years old I was trying to live to get gain in this world. I was trying to use all my energy and talents to do something in this world.

I started out when I was just 12 years old playing music at parties and weddings, doing what I enjoyed in this world, When I was 16 I started playing little night clubs. The older I got the more money I would make, and the more fun and pleasure I seemed to get being involved in that lifestyle. There was money, there were worldly pleasures, there was a certain amount of glory and popularity.

Then the lead singer in a rock band I was involved in was gloriously converted and challenged me to consider that someday I was going to die and asked me to consider where I would spend eternity after I died. He and a deacon in his church, Carl Shanosk, shared the gospel message with me. At first I rejected that message. The reason I rejected it was because I had goals and dreams and ambitions in this world.

When I was just 12 years old I took a pencil and paper and outlined what I thought would be the most profitable things for me to accomplish in my life. Every thing on that list involved things that I desired to gain in this world: Money, notoriety, glory,

achievements, material things. Little by little, everything on my little piece of paper I started to achieve.

All was going well in my life and then that friend of mine threw a monkey wrench in my plans and shared with me how God changed his life and he challenged me to give my life to Christ. I rejected that challenge because I wanted to live my life and achieve something in this world. For over a year I thought about whether it was possible that the Bible was right and I was wrong.

Jesus said, there is only one reason men will not come to Him:

John 3:19 And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

John 3:20 For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved.

You see, I was part of the hippie generation, and my music, my lifestyle, my activities all revolved around the world and the love of the world. The Bible says,

I John 2:15 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

You can't love the world system, which involves the lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh and the pride of life, and love Jesus at the same time.

God worked in my heart and here is how He worked.

I reasoned everything through very carefully in my mind.

In my mind I believed that I was going to achieve everything on my little list and then I realized inevitably I was going to lose everything I gained.

You see it is inevitable that someday I would get old and die and lose it all, but worse than death was the possibility that I would lose everything before I died. Maybe I would get sick, maybe in the course of events there would be something to disrupt my career and ambitions. We all accept the fact that we are going to die and lose everything, but what happens when people lose everything before they die?

You know, during the great depression, people who lost everything were committing suicide, jumping off buildings, etc. Many famous musicians have committed suicide when they lost their ability to perform or play their instrument. When I was a young musician there was a long list of musicians who were dying young and committing suicide. I just accepted the fact that the lifestyle that I was living would probably lead to an early death. So I found my life in this world but it was inevitable that someday I would lose it.

Here is what Jesus said,

Matthew 10:39 He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it.

What is it that you live for in this life? If it is any of the three things that are mentioned in I John 2:16, then someday you will lose those things.

If you live for pleasure, someday you will lose your life of pleasure. The drug addict lives for the euphoria and rush of that drug, only to find it will destroy him in the end. The drunkard tries to drown his sorrows in the pleasure of drinking only to find in the end it will destroy his life.

The sexual promiscuity of our day has led to broken homes, fatherless children, HIV and other diseases, and nation given to perversion and wickedness.

Will you live for material things, for money, for riches, we have just seen people lose fortunes in the stock market overnight. Even if you prevailed, wealthy til the day of your death, you can't take your wealth with you and ultimately you will leave it to others.

Will you live for fame and popularity? And why does this all matter? The applause of the world is vain and cruel. One day you're on the top of the world the next day you're nothing. The music and musicians and entertainers of our nation have become our idols. Isn't ironic that the number one TV show in the country was the TV show "The American Idol"

If you read the book of Ecclesiastes, you will read about Solomon who was the wealthiest man in the world, the wisest, the most famous man, after musing concerning his life he concluded, that everything in this world that you can achieve is VANITY, VANITY, VEXATION OF SPIRIT.

**THE TITLE OF MY MESSAGE IS**  
**WHAT IS THE MOST PROFITABLE THING YOU CAN DO IN THIS LIFE?**

Solomon asked himself this same question in the book of Ecclesiastes: He writes:

Ecclesiastes 3:**9 What profit** hath he that worketh in that wherein he laboureth?  
Ecclesiastes 2:11 Then I looked on all the works that my hands had wrought, and on the labour that I had laboured to do: and, behold, all was vanity and vexation of spirit, and there was **no profit** under the sun.

Ecclesiastes 5:13 There is a sore evil which I have seen under the sun, namely, riches kept for the owners thereof to their hurt.  
Ecclesiastes 5:14 But those riches perish by evil travail: and he begetteth a son, and there is nothing in his hand.

Ecclesiastes 5:15 As he came forth of his mother's womb, naked shall he return to go as he came, and shall take nothing of his labour, which he may carry away in his hand.

Ecclesiastes 5:16 And this also is a sore evil, that in all points as he came, so shall he go: and **what profit hath he** that hath laboured for the wind?

Ecclesiastes 6:1 There is an evil which I have seen under the sun, and it is common among men:

Ecclesiastes 6:2 A man to whom God hath given riches, wealth, and honour, so that he wanteth nothing for his soul of all that he desireth, yet God giveth him not power to eat thereof, but a stranger eateth it: this is vanity, and it is an evil disease.

Ecclesiastes 1:3 **What profit** hath a man of all his labour which he taketh under the sun?

Look in your life, you might desire to achieve greatness in the world in one area of your life. Maybe wealth maybe fame, maybe knowledge, but how many people could excel in every area. Solomon did and he concluded everything in the world to be vanity and vexation of spirit in the end! He concluded that living for gain and profit in this world is vain, and unprofitable in the end!

Which brings us to this next question.

## ***II. IS LIVING FOR JESUS THE MOST PROFITABLE THING YOU CAN DO?***

Look if all there is to our existence is what there is in this life, then we are of all men most miserable. We have shown that there is 100% certainty that some day you will die. All the fuss before us is because there is a 1% chance you will die sooner if you get this virus. Last week I did a funeral for a family and their loved one did not die from coronavirus, she died from cancer.

People whose hope is only in this life will do some very strange and selfish things to keep alive. They will horde things, they will stampede stores like a bunch of animals if they think there will be shortages.

The reason we have had mass murders many times is because of the anger and bitterness many people have bottled up in them. They believe that all that there is, is this life only, with no consequences in the afterlife, so in a fit of rage they might commit some atrocity and then think they can escape the consequences of their actions by committing suicide. They conclude their life is painful and futile, they blame everyone else for that, so like a mad animal they strike out not caring about anyone else.

On the other hand, Jesus has made a promise to all that commit their lives to Him and believe on Him.



## **1. FIRST HE PROMISED TO PROVIDE FOR YOU IN THIS LIFE.**

If you obey the Word of God you do not need to live in fear. The Lord tells you how to live and trust in Him. Last week we preached a message about how Jesus comforted His disciples by saying,

Matthew 6:26 Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?

Matthew 10:29 Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father.

Matthew 10:30 But the very hairs of your head are all numbered.

Matthew 10:31 Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows.

Luke 12:7 But even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not therefore: ye are of more value than many sparrows.

We give up nothing to follow Christ, and even if we did, the Lord says, the reward of following Him will far out weight any sacrifice we make to obey Him.

Mark 10:29 And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's,

Mark 10:30 But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life.

He said seek him first and all these things that you need will be given to you. He knows more about what you need than you know yourself.

Many are referring to the Covid-19 virus as an invisible enemy. A lot of people don't want to believe there is a real threat because they cannot see the virus, it is invisible. So they are ignoring warnings and some of them are coming down with the virus, especially in high populated areas like New York City. So the health agencies and government are trying to give some things you can do to protect yourself against this invisible enemy.

But I say to you, that we have an invisible friend, and he is trying to instruct us on how we can protect ourselves. If we trust and obey His Word He can protect and guide us through this life.

He promises to take care of your needs,

Matthew 6:33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Matthew 6:34 Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.

The problem we have is that many people are not content with their needs being provided. They run after their lusts. Remember I John 2:16 God does not want to provide for any provisions of the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life.

The experts are tracing this terrible virus to some markets in Wuhan, China. In that market they sell wild exotic animals and along with eating bats. The Bible gave dietary laws for the health of their people. If they would have read and believed that it could have saved the world a lot of problems.

Leviticus 11:13 And these are they which ye shall have in abomination among the fowls; they shall not be eaten, they are an abomination: the eagle, and the ossifrage, and the osprey,  
Leviticus 11:19 ... and the lapwing, and the bat.

The Lord has given us commandments in His Word for our benefit.

When the Lord said in Genesis not to eat from the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil it was not as Satan suggested that God was holding back something that was good for them. He said,

Genesis 3:5 For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

This is what men still do. Everything the Lord commands or forbids in His world is for our protection or blessing. He had not given us his commandments to make our lives miserable. He has given his word for our blessing!

## ***2. SECONDLY, THE BENEFIT OF LIVING FOR THE LORD IS THAT GOD PROMISES US ETERNAL LIFE AND ETERNAL REWARDS FOR SERVING HIM.***

You cannot lose in giving your life to the Lord. He promises to be with you in this present life and also promises to be with you life everlasting.

I was 21 years old when I gave my heart to the Lord. Like I said earlier, I battled with my decision to follow the Lord for over a year. The reason I did that was because my whole life was wrapped up in pursuits that seemed contrary to the Word of God. I was afraid my friends might reject me, I was afraid that my family might reject me. I was afraid of tearing up my little list of goals that I had from age 12. When my friend told me I needed to trust the Lord I rejected his testimony and witness. But I could not shake the message itself. What if the Bible is true and we need to receive Christ and give our hearts to Him to be saved?

Finally, I met another friend who shared the same story and invited me to a little church where I saw a film that portrayed life as spiritual battle between the kingdom of Satan and the Kingdom of God. The narrator of the film started out by announcing that God was looking to recruit soldiers for His kingdom. He declared, "THE LORD WANTS YOU!" Then the narrator likened life as a spiritual warfare between Satan and the Lord. And for about a half hour the film portrayed the difference between Satan's kingdom and God's kingdom. Everything that was portrayed in Satan's kingdom I could relate to because that was where I lived. Everything in regard to God's kingdom I was not part of. Then I began to think, there is no doubt about it, God's Kingdom was good, and right. They zoomed into a family having thanksgiving dinner praying to the Lord, they zoomed into a family going to church, they zoomed into a choir singing at church. Suddenly I thought to myself, why am I fighting this? Everything in the Kingdom of God is pure, it is good it is right. What do I have to lose by giving my life to Christ? I might have a little less in this world. I might have people that dislike me, I might have the world oppose me, but I only am going to give up what I will eventually lose someday anyway.

So I decided to cash in my little list of worldly goals and lay them at the feet of Jesus in turn to be one of His soldiers. They didn't have someone at a recruitment table at that Church but if they did, I would have gone up and signed up.

All this takes place in a person's heart. Jesus said,

Matthew 16:24 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

Matthew 16:25 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.

Matthew 16:26 For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

I was just 21 years old when I gave my life to the Lord. Many years have now passed. My life was wrapped up in the little piece of paper that I wrote when I was 12 years old. I laid down that list at the feet of Jesus that Sunday many years ago. That was 46 years ago. Now I can say, that just as the Scripture promises, there is really nothing that I surrendered in the long run. God gave me a happy marriage, a wonderful church that I pastor, He has provided all my needs. Right now I am under house quarantine like half the country and am recording this message instead of being in church. One thing is for sure, and I am 100% sure about this, if the Lord tarries, someday I am going to have to cross over that river that David referred to as the shadow of death. But just like David said, I can say,

Psalms 23:4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me;

Jim Elliot a young missionary who gave his life serving the Lord on the missions field once said,

**"He is no fool who gives up what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose."**

We have a lot of people that are fearful of dying of this coronavirus, but Jesus said,

**Matthew 10:28 And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.**

In a situation like we are presently facing I submit to you, the most profitable thing you can do is give your heart and life to the Lord. Trust in Him, believe on Him. Because our Lord promised,

**John 11:25 Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:**

**John 11:26 And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believeest thou this?**

Jesus said, don't fear physical death, but fear the second death. The second death is eternal death. The pain and suffering that we may go through to shed this body is only temporary. Hell involves a separation from God for eternity which we should fear and dread the most.

Now as Christians I am not saying we welcome death. Paul said, it was needful for him to be in the flesh because people needed him. The Bible calls death an enemy. It should not be embraced but fought against. I pray our scientists and medical industry will come up with a cure for coronavirus. But my trust is not in man. If God allows our leaders to come up with a treatment or vaccine, great, but I have a greater hope than this present life and you can too. Ultimately it is Jesus who was victorious over death. On the cross He defeated death and showed Himself victorious by rising again the third day.

Now this is our blessed hope, this is our promise. Paul said this:

**I Corinthians 15:19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.**

**I Corinthians 15:32 ..... if the dead rise not? let us eat and drink; for to morrow we die.**

The reason we have so many selfish people in this world is because their only hope is in this world. People who have no faith in God and only live for this present life will be very miserable people. However, people who trust in God and whose hope is beyond this life can be a light in this time of darkness. Our light should shine the brightest in times of darkness.

We do not know to what extent this virus will continue and spread in our nation. If it does spread there are a lot of people that may die. Maybe even some people who are viewing this video service.

My question to everyone tuning in is this:

Have you trusted in Christ as your Lord and Savior. If you have not let me encourage you to trust Him even now. When I trusted the Lord I did not pray any fancy prayer, I just said Lord yes I will take you if you take me. In my mind it was like responding to the recruiter in that film where I said yes Lord I want to be one of your recruits.

If you are a Christian, take heart, Paul said,

***1 Corinthians 2:9 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.***

***Galatians 6:9 And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.***

The best is yet to come, trust in the Lord!

So I conclude by saying, the most profitable thing you can do in this life is live for the Lord. Solomon, the wisest man that ever lived, also concluded the same thing After musing over all his earthly achievements he said they were all vanity. But then he concluded his book with this statement:

ECC 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.

ECC 12:14 For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.

So I conclude with this thought, in this world and in the next, Without Jesus You're Nothing At All. I hope you will agree with me and live for the Lord while you can.