

4-12-20
IT'S ALL IN GOD'S PLAN TAKEN FROM I COR. 15

This is the third week that we have had to broadcast our Sunday morning message by way of a video broadcast. Our regular Bible study and prayer times are being broadcast using a conference call service. The number is on the screen that you can call to hear and participate or to hear the last conference call recorded by dialing in the second number on the screen. This is called the playback number the other number is called the participation number. With the participation number you can call in with prayer requests or testimonies.

Today is Easter Sunday or Resurrection Sunday. It is also the week of the Passover in the Jewish calendar. Last Sunday I asked for you to call in with a prayer request or testimony for the Sunday Night Service. It was great hearing from you and we had some great testimonies last week. It was a great encouragement to hear your voices on the conference call. Tonight we will be doing the same at 7:00 P.M. Call in with a testimony or prayer request. Now since it is Easter Sunday I decided to record my video message right from the church. It is much easier doing it in my office. The men of the Church call it Pastor's man cave. However this morning I decided to make this message special by recording it in the church even though it is empty. Maybe I could now and then dub in some pictures of the folks in the church just for nostalgic purposes.

Now, I prayed about what to share this morning, the Lord led my thoughts to I Cor. Chapter 15. In this chapter we read about God's plan for us. God has a plan and we need to understand that plan. Blessed is the person who submits to His plan. Ultimately that plan is going to end in Victory. Sometimes when we are in the midst of the struggle on this planet we wonder if evil is prevailing.

Years ago when I was very young and before Madelyn Murray O'Hare succeeded in getting the Bible out of our Schools, I remember for a short time we used to pray the Lord's prayer in public school. Now I believe the Lord's prayer is a good outline of prayer not necessarily something the Lord wanted us just to vainly repeat as a repetitious ritual. But nevertheless think about what the Lord taught us we should pray.

He said, pray:

Matthew 6:9 After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

Matthew 6:10 Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

Notice He said pray, **THEY KINGDOM COME THY WILL BE DONE ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN!** You don't pray for something you have but something you want. The truth is, God's will is not being done on earth. Jesus came to earth to give a foretaste of his Kingdom.

Right now we are suffering a terrible pandemic in this world. If Jesus' Kingdom were come down to earth, I don't think He would allow such a thing in His Kingdom. We need to pray the Lord would heal our land. But we see more and more people shying away from prayer. When President Trump declared a day of prayer over the pandemic one of his critics blasphemed and cursed the day of prayer.

I saw on TV that when they interviewed people about their concern for Boris Johnson, the prime minister of England who contracted the Coronavirus, on the interview I saw not one of them said they were praying for him, instead they said our thoughts are with you. What good is that? Others organized a time where they just clapped. Let me suggest what we need to do is unite in prayer, not clapping.

For the most part people are living their lives alienated from Jesus and have not submitted to His Lordship. God's program today is to try and recruit citizens for His Kingdom. The Kingdom involves a King (who is Jesus) citizens (who are those who submit to Christ in their heart) and then someday He will come back to planet earth and set up dominion over the nations, (this is the land). That is what it means when our Lord said pray "Thy Kingdom Come.."

The Bible says, it is God who holds all things together by the Word of His power:

Colossians 1:16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

Colossians 1:17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

According to the Bible, Jesus is the creator of all thing and by Him all things consist. Heb 1:3 goes even further and says, He upholds all things by the word of His power.

Hebrews 1:3 Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

What happens when people reject Him as their creator?

What happens when they try and disrupt His word and reject His word?

It is that same Word the upholds all things.

It is that same World that makes all things consist.

When we rebel against His word this brings chaos and destruction. Why are we surprised that this results in sickness disease and natural disasters? We go through all this because we have ousted God out of our lives as the one who is life and holds all things together. When Christ comes back to earth and sets up His Kingdom we read that God will make this planet a paradise once again.

Isaiah 11:6 The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them.

Isaiah 11:7 And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

Isaiah 11:8 And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den.

Amos 9:13 Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that the plowman shall overtake the reaper, and the treader of grapes him that soweth seed; and the mountains shall drop sweet wine, and all the hills shall melt.

Now these are promises that God has for His people. However before this happens the Bible predicts that perilous times shall come and there shall be a time of great tribulation:

Matthew 24:21 For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.

Matthew 24:24 For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.

Right now God is seeking to recruit citizens for his Kingdom. Will you become one of those citizens by trusting Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior. Look God's victory is sure. He is coming back and he will win. However, the Bible predicts that before He comes there will be tribulation, difficult times, and tremendous confusion. He said,

Luke 17:26 And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man.

Luke 17:27 They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all.

Luke 17:28 Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded;

Luke 17:29 But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all.

Luke 17:30 Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed.

Now we are in these days and they are only going to escalate. This is Easter Sunday and I have good news for you. God has a plan and He is working out that plan before our very eyes. This morning I am going to be sharing a message about God's plan for you and this world. Do listen carefully to this message. It will tell you what you need to know to be in Harmony with God's plan. Also, I will be sharing how God will be victorious over all the enemies of mankind, sickness, death, evil, heartache, and every kind of sorrow.

The Title of my message is

**"GOD'S PLAN FOR YOU
IN LIGHT OF OUR PRESENT CRISIS"**

Before I get into the message I am going to have my wife come and sing a song I wrote 2 years ago for our 2018 Easter Musical. This year we had to cancel the musical but some of our church people will remember this song from a few years back. It is entitled "THIS GREAT VICTORY" Listen carefully to the message of this song because it reinforces what I will be sharing in my morning message.

THIS GREAT VICTORY SONG.

One of the Bible texts that this song was taken from is:

I Corinthians 15:57 But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

As I was praying this week about what I should share for this Easter Sunday video message, the Lord directed my thoughts to I Cor. Chapter 15. In this chapter we read this:

I Corinthians 15:1 Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand;

I Corinthians 15:2 By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.

I Corinthians 15:3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;

I Corinthians 15:4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

I Corinthians 15:5 And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve:

I Corinthians 15:6 After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep.

I Corinthians 15:7 After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles.

I Corinthians 15:8 And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time.

In these verses we read about:

I. GOD'S PLAN TO SAVE US From our Sin.

Now I want to note in this passage that the Apostle Paul says,

I declare unto you the gospel.

I Corinthians 15:1 Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel

I Corinthians 15:2 By which also ye are saved,

Now many preachers are getting away from using biblical terms and are re-defining Biblical terms. They no longer use biblical phrases or words in trying to get people to come to Jesus or church. I think that this is all part of the falling away the Paul predicted would happen in the end times. The Bible clearly says that we must be saved. The word is used about 100 times in the Bible and in fact many many times this is the word that our lord used when talking to people about becoming one of His disciples and followers. In fact being what the Bible calls "SAVED" was a pre-requisite for a person to enter the Kingdom of heaven. Again in many churches you will never hear that word used.

So God has a plan to save us. It is a very simple plan. Not complicated at all. That plan includes how you can be saved.

Someone would ask, save us from what? We know we need to be saved and spared from this pandemic Covid 19, but when the Lord talks about salvation He is not talking about earthly salvation but eternal salvation. You see, there is another Pandemic and it is called sin. Sin leads to death and eternal death and God has a plan to deliver us from the eternal consequences of what we deserve because of our sin. God has a plan to give us victory over sin. This is what it means, when we say you need to be "saved".

The Bible uses this word saved many many times:
When the disciples heard Jesus teaching they said,

Matthew 19:25 ... " Who then can be saved?"

Our Lord's enemies through this word in His teeth because He used the word often,
They said,

Matthew 27:42 He saved others; himself he cannot save...

Mark 16:16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

Luke 7:50 Thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace.

Luke 8:12 .. the devil, and taketh away the word (of God) out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved.

John 3:17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be (saved).

Acts 2:21 ... whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

Acts 2:47 ... the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

Acts 4:12 Neither is there **salvation** in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be **saved**.

Acts 15:11 But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved, even as they.

Acts 16:30 ... what must I do to be saved?

Acts 16:31 And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.

Romans 5:9 Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.

Romans 10:1 Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved.

Romans 10:9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

Romans 10:13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

I Corinthians 1:18 For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.

Ephesians 2:5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)

Ephesians 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

I Timothy 2:4 Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

II Timothy 1:9 Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,

Titus 3:5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

I Peter 4:18 And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?

Revelation 21:24 And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honor into it.

Now there are many many other verses but these are just a few and will suffice to show you that this word is very important and should be used by preachers. Also, it is important that you know that you are SAVED.

What is that plan for salvation or what is God's plan so you can be saved?

It is very simple, Paul gave it ever so clearly here in I Cor. 15:

He said, you get saved by hearing and believing the gospel.

And what is the gospel? I Cor. 15 gives us the Gospel message or plan.

1. WE ARE SAVED BY HEARING AND BELIEVING THE GOSPEL.

I Corinthians 15:1 Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand;

I Corinthians 15:2 By which also ye are **saved**, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.

Now we must believe the Gospel, but Paul warns that some people believe in vain. I would like to refer you back to my last message. "SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES" some people just repeat words, they say they believe but that belief is shallow, it is in vain. Judas Iscariot believed in vain. There were many in the Scripture who believed in vain.

We need not believe in vain, but we need to have sincere faith in the message. We need to take it to heart. There needs to be a commitment of the heart.

2. WE ARE SAVED BY THE RIGHT GOSPEL MESSAGE.

Here is the message:

I Corinthians 15:3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;

I Corinthians 15:4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

I Corinthians 15:5 And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve:

I Corinthians 15:6 After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep.

I Corinthians 15:7 After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles.

I Corinthians 15:8 And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time.

The Message is that Christ died for our sins on the cross.

The Message is that Jesus was buried.

The Message is that after three days Jesus arose from the dead.

It was immutable that this happened because it was not that he was seen of one witness, two witnesses, but he was seen of over 500 witnesses at once.

You would expect in a court of law one or two witnesses would suffice but here we have over 500 and these witnesses gave us the New Testament. They put their accounts in written form.

Now let us note, that there is another important ingredient to the gospel.

Paul said,

I Corinthians 15:3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that **Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;**

I Corinthians 15:4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day **according to the scriptures:**

The only way we can know this about Jesus is that the Bible testifies of Him.

If you corrupt the Bible or disbelieve the Bible you corrupt the Gospel and disbelieve the Gospel.

Again I refer you back to my last video Message.

John 5:39 Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.

When it says Jesus died for our sins, according to the Scriptures, in order to be saved you need to believe what the Scriptures teach about sin, what we deserve for our sin, and that Jesus had to be without sin to be the perfect substitute for our sin.

According to the Scripture is saying a lot.

It does not mean you have to know all the Scripture to be saved, if that be the case than who could be saved? I have been studying this book for over 45 years and am still learning. What it means is that you have to have faith that the Scripture is the only authoritative book explaining who Christ is and what He did. When you get saved you start on a pilgrimage a journey of learning of Him. Jesus gave a three fold commission to his disciples. He said go into the whole world and preach the Gospel, Baptize those who believe and get saved, and then teach them the Scripture. You go to church to learn the Scriptures!

Any salvation that you receive apart from the the gospel message that includes preaching or teaching the Christ of the Scripture is a false gospel message or experience.

For instance, when I first came to the church 37 years ago I had a lady I was interviewing for a job as a teacher in our Christian School. I asked her when she was saved. She said she was saved at a special service at such and such a cathedral. I asked was it during the "Homily"? She said oh no I was just sitting there and I got a great chill that came over me. I said to her I used to get that same chill because back then they never heated the churches.

I talked to another fellow about salvation and he said he was saved in WWII when he was in a foxhole. He prayed to God that he would save him and God did. What he meant was he prayed that God would spare his life. I don't doubt God spared his life, but that is not to be confused with Biblical and eternal salvation. If you are alive I am sure you can think of times when God, in His providence, saved your life. Which of us are not asking God to save us from this Covid 19 pandemic?

Now God may use a foxhole experience to draw you to Christ.
He may use a car accident to draw you to the gospel message.
He may even even this Coronavirus crisis to draw you to listen to the message.

But ultimately, you need to believe on Him and ask Him into your heart and life.

There is only one way you are saved, and that is when you hear about what Jesus did for you on the cross and you hear about His resurrection story and ask that Jesus come into your heart and save you.

Now this one thing I can say is that Jesus died for your sins and He is your savior but that does not make you saved. You need to accept Him into your heart and life to be saved. The Bible says He is the savior of all men, but only in a special way to those who believe.

I Timothy 4:10 we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe.

The provision is made for everyone, but everyone does not avail themselves of the provision.

Now that is not all that God has in His plan. God also plans to resurrect everyone.

II. GOD'S PLAN TO RAISE US.. From the dead.

Paul had to straighten out the believers at the church of Corinth about this matter of the resurrection. Note what he says,

I Corinthians 15:12 Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead?

I Corinthians 15:13 But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen:

I Corinthians 15:14 And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain.

I Corinthians 15:15 Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not.

I Corinthians 15:16 For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised:

I Corinthians 15:17 And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins.

I Corinthians 15:18 Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished.

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 after the manner of men I have fought with beasts at Ephesus, what advantageth it me, if the dead rise not? let us eat and drink; for to morrow we die.

Paul heard there were people going around teaching there was no resurrection of the dead. As time progressed and the resurrection of Christ became further from the memories of people they started to think, "well all things are going to continue as they are and there is no resurrection from the dead!"

There are people that advocate this now just as some did back then. Here is what some people say:

II Peter 3:4 Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.

God has a plan to resurrect the dead. Last week we preached that from John 5.

5. Listen to what Jesus said in that Chapter of Scripture.

John 5:28 Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice,

John 5:29 And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.

According to this passage, everyone, I repeat, everyone that has died will someday be resurrected. It is not a matter of whether you will be resurrected or not it is a matter of where you will spend eternity in that resurrected body.

According to John 5:28-29 there is a resurrection of life, and a resurrection of damnation.

We have a lot of people that think that because they do not believe in Christ, they do not believe the Bible, they are exempt from the resurrection. They don't believe it so therefore it will not happen.

Look, you need to know something, whether you believe in Jesus or not does not negate the fact that He died for you and He is your saviour. He didn't ask whether you wanted Him to die for your sins, that was His plan, not yours. Now it is up to you if you will accept Him as your Saviour. If you do not, He is going to go on with His plan. Someday He will resurrect everyone. There will be two resurrections. A resurrection unto life eternal and a resurrection unto damnation eternal. There will be two phases to the resurrection. The Bible talks about the first resurrection which is the resurrection unto life.

Revelation 20:5 But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.

Revelation 20:6 Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

Now there is a second resurrection. This is called the resurrection unto damnation.

Revelation 20:12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

Revelation 20:13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

Revelation 20:14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

Revelation 20:15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

This is God's plan for every human being that ever lived and died and even those who are now alive.

This is God's plan and you will not negate God's plan by conjuring up your own ideas, your own arguments. This is what the Scripture teaches.

Let me just implore you to receive Christ before it is too late.

Now I believe that part of the reason many people do some of the atrocities they do in their lives is because they do not believe that there is an afterlife and that they will be judged for the things they have done in their bodies. This is why we see these mass shootings and then the perpetrators just shoot themselves. The experts of the world don't teach there is an afterlife, they do not even use the word evil to describe what people do in these mass murder scenarios. The world tries to rationalize human behavior and throw out the window any Biblical teaching of eternal punishment for improper behavior, which the Bible calls sin. Here is an expert from an interview with

Diane Sawyer with Sue Klebold the mother of Dylan Klebold one of the shooters at Columbine high school. Listen to what the experts say:

VIDEO EXCERPT

So here you have it, we can't bring in any Biblical terminology to describe human behavior, We can't talk about sin, perdition, eternal judgment.

Listen to what Paul says about the logical way people will live if they believe there is no resurrection, no judgment to come nothing at all. He says,

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 after the manner of men I have fought with beasts at Ephesus, what advantageth it me, if the dead rise not? let us eat and drink; for to morrow we die.

Paul is saying, why sacrifice, why suffer to do right, what purpose is there, if there is no afterlife, then the end justifies the means.

In fact this is why it is very important that we elect leaders that believe in God and have a conscience, and believe there will be a judgment to come in the afterlife. The founding fathers of our nation said this.

How stupid our nation is today to think we can vote in leaders who have no conscience or belief in the afterlife and judgment and then expect them to be honest.

Listen to what the founders of our nation said,

Importance to Elect Christian Rulers

John Adams

Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.

Here is a statement that was made in 1854 at the opening of the Thirty-Third Congress

Had the people, during the Revolution, had a suspicion of any attempt to war against Christianity, that Revolution would have been strangled in its cradle. In this age, there can be no substitute for Christianity. That was the religion of the founders of the republic and they expected it to remain the religion of their descendants....

Furthermore they went on to say,

Providence has given to our people the choice of their rulers, and it is the duty as well as the privilege and interest of our Christian nation, to select and prefer Christians for their rulers.

Now this brings us to a lesson we need to learn about the people we elect to lead us. Their faith and belief in the afterlife makes all the difference in the world. The reason I say this is that when we elect people to be our leaders they often do not have any other human authority to answer to and can do some awful things because they can. When a leader does not think that someday he will have to answer to God he will be capable of all kind of atrocities. We do not even know the half of what our leaders may be doing because of their eat drink and be merry mentality.

When Clinton was asked by Dan Rather in a 60 minutes interview in 2004 as to why he did what he did with Monica Lewinsky he said,

Clinton: "I think I did something for the worst possible reason -- just because I could. I think that's the most , just about the most morally indefensible reason that anybody could have for doing anything. When you do something just because you could. I've thought about it a lot. And there are lots of more sophisticated explanations, more complicated psychological explanations. But none of them are an excuse ..."

Remember this, even someone who does believe in God and shows a lot of restraint at times could do some awful things if put in a corner. Remember King David and Bathsheba. How much more could people do some wicked things who do not have any moral restraint or conscience in their belief system?

Someone once said to me, I think it was my dad, "show me a man that has no fear of God and no fear of man and he is a man capable of anything."

It is for this reason I believe that God makes it clear in His Word that there be judgment after death. And I tell you that any preacher who does not warn people about eternal perdition is not a very loving and caring preacher. You see, maybe someone would get mad at the preacher who proclaims what the Bible says, but if preaching the resurrection of life and death saves one soul it is worth having people get upset at you for warning them.

Paul said this about preaching the gospel:

I Corinthians 9:16 For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!

Romans 9:2 That I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart.

Romans 9:3 For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh:

The Lord spoke to Ezekiel and warned that He would hold those messengers, prophets, and pastors accountable if they did not warn the people they were sent to:

Ezekiel 33:6 But if the watchman see the sword come, and blow not the trumpet, and the people be not warned; if the sword come, and take any person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at the watchman's hand.

And what could be the possible reason that such ministers would not warn people. Maybe that preacher does not believe the Bible himself? If that be the case he ought get out of the ministry. The ministry is not just a job a way to make a living. It is a calling.

The only other reason a preacher would not give out a warning is because he wants to please people. He may know such preaching and teaching would be unpopular. So he tailors his message to what people want to hear rather than what they need to hear.

I called a doctor friend to ask him what our church needed to do in light of this pandemic. He said, the only thing I can tell you is what you do not want to hear. In other words, you can't be holding services. So here I am preaching to an empty church making a video message. Am I going to get mad at my friend for telling me the truth? Why get mad at a preacher who tells you there is a pandemic called sin, and the only cure is to come to Christ. If you don't come to Christ it is not your physical death that is at stake but eternal death.

Now let me talk to you about the resurrection of life?
This is God's plan to reward those who believe on Him.

III. GOD'S PLAN TO REWARD US When He returns to set up His kingdom.

God has a plan for salvation.
God has a plan for resurrection.
Now God has a plan for eternal reward.

1. THE RESURRECTION IS NECESSARY TO BE A CITIZEN OF HEAVEN.

1 Corinthians 15:50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.

We need a body that will be able to dwell in this New Jerusalem that the Lord said it will be a terrestrial home. Jesus had a body, that did not need a space suit to ascend into heaven. We will be given such a body.

We need an incorruptible body, this corruptible body will not do the trick.

2. IF YOU ARE SAVED THEN IT IS POSSIBLE THAT IF THE LORD COMES IN YOUR LIFETIME YOU WILL NOT TASTE OF DEATH.

I Corinthians 15:51 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,

I Corinthians 15:52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

I Corinthians 15:53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

This is the promise of the 1st resurrection. Just before Jesus comes and sets up His kingdom on earth He will remove all those who are His children.

This is also taught in I Thess 4:

I Thessalonians 4:13 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.

I Thessalonians 4:14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

I Thessalonians 4:15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

I Thessalonians 4:16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

I Thessalonians 4:17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

I Thessalonians 4:18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

Here we have some verse of comfort. This is the first resurrection. God has a plan to first resurrect everyone that trusts Him and believes on Him. This is the resurrection of the just.

First all those who are in the graves will be resurrected,
Then we who are alive will be caught up with Him in the sky.

After this the Lord will usher in a time on earth He calls a time of Jacobs trouble and tribulation.

Matthew 24:21 For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.

Now listen, you think the Covid 19 pandemic is bad, this is a kindergarten picnic compared to what will be taking place in that period the Bible calls the Great Tribulation. Revelation describes it, and it will be a time like never before. We are seeing world conditions leading up to these events predicted in book of Revelation.

3. THIS IS ULTIMATELY GOD'S PLAN OF VICTORY.
This is what the song I wrote is all about.

I Corinthians 15:54 So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.

I Corinthians 15:55 O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?
I Corinthians 15:56 The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law.
I Corinthians 15:57 But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Through death Jesus destroyed Satan, who is the author of death. You see his days are numbered on this planet. He has received his eviction notice. The Lord is working right now to restore His people Israel to Himself. They still have not received Him, but the Bible says, in that day ALL ISRAEL SHALL BE SAVED:

Romans 11:26 And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob:

Then when they call on Him as their King to come down to earth to help and protect them He is obligated to do so because He is their rightful King and He will come. By the way, we who are resurrected in the 1st resurrection will be behind him in that day watching as He single handedly will defeat the armies of the world that will come up against Jerusalem

Revelation 19:11 And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.

Revelation 19:14 And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.

Revelation 19:15 And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

This is God's plan but it all starts with being what the Bible calls.. SAVED.

Here is the verse that tells you how to be saved:

Romans 10:9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

Romans 10:10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

There it is, believe the gospel message, call on the Lord, and He will save you.

Maybe the Lord is allowing this Crisis in the world and in our country to stir many to listen to this message. Receive Him now, call on Him, and He will come.

Listen to how the Bible ends after it tells us about the 1st and 2nd resurrection and the return of our Lord to set up His kingdom. Here is what we read:

Revelation 22:17 And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

The Bible ends with an invitation for you to come to Him. Will you come? Will you rebel against His plan or will you submit to His plan?

I Corinthians 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

It is not in vain because the Lord will reward those who live for Him and serve Him.

Revelation 22:12 And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.

It all starts when you receive the gospel message. For those of you who have received that message, be stedfast, be unmoveable, faithfully serve and work for the Lord. Your labor is not in vain.