

Devotions for a Coronavirus Stay Home

For the next several weeks, to help you and your family stay connected with God and have some good things to talk about over the dinner table, we're going to be posting some devotions. A few words of comfort, some scripture, some encouragement, and some discussion questions. We'd love for some interaction on these as well, so please hit me up on email at theelders@cornerstone-marion.org or posisme@gmail.com.

In my shut in time I've done a little more reading. This week I'm reading "Genesis Unbound: A Provocative New Look at the Creation Account" by Dr. John Sailhamer. He writes:

The description of the land in Genesis 1:2 fits well with the prophetic vision of the future. After God created the universe, the land lay empty, dark, and barren. It awaited God's call to light and life. Just as the light of the sun broke in upon the primeval darkness, heralding the dawn of God's first blessing (1:3), *so also the prophets and the apostles mark the beginning of the new kingdom age of salvation with the light that breaks through the darkness* (Isaiah 8:22-9:2; Matthew 4:13-17; John 1:5, 8-9). In that age, God's people will again enjoy the blessings of living in the promised land (Deuteronomy 30:1-5). (p.110, emphasis mine)

When the natural world around me starts to feel hostile and foreboding, I'm reminded that Jesus, the light of the world, is the creator of the world, and what He created He called good. Marred by sin, yet it was made good for us to partake in. But more than that, the world was made good so that we could have relationship with God. Sailhamer makes the point that every time God calls his work good in the Genesis account, it is good for people and their inhabiting the garden. Isn't that lovely. It is good. And it is for us.

In this time of uncertainty it's easy to be afraid and forget that God is good.

Psalms 77 says

1 I cried out to God for help;

I cried out to God to hear me.

2 When I was in distress, I sought the Lord;

at night I stretched out untiring hands,
and I would not be comforted.

10 Then I thought, "To this I will appeal:

the years when the Most High stretched out his right hand.

11 I will remember the deeds of the Lord;

yes, I will remember your miracles of long ago.

12 I will consider all your works

and meditate on all your mighty deeds."

When the times now are uncertain and there seems to be no hope, remember the works of the Lord from long ago. Remember that he is good and that He created this world for our good.

I don't know what lies ahead for us. But I know from whence I came. I can trust God through all of this.

Some questions to consider:

1. What can you look back on in history and see that God is good? What stories do you tell yourself in dark times of His goodness.
2. Read Genesis 1:1-2:3 (the creation story). What does God call good? What makes them good? In what way are the things He calls good used to draw us to God?
3. Someday, Lord willing, we will look back at the Spring of 2020 and remember this time. We may even draw strength from this time in the midst of another dark time. What is God doing now that is good? How is God even using this to draw you closer to Him?