

## Lessons from Current Events

Don Ruhl • Savage Street, Grants Pass, Oregon • August 30, In the year of our Lord Christ, 2020  
Scripture Reader and Reading: Paul Hannan – First Peter 2.11–12  
Song Leader and Song Suggestions: Larry Amberg – No Suggestions

### Prelude:

#### I. The wise listen and observe, and become wiser:

**5 A wise man will hear and increase learning,  
And a man of understanding will attain wise counsel...**

– Proverbs 1.5

**6 For at the window of my house  
I looked through my lattice,  
7 And saw among the simple,  
I perceived among the youths,  
A young man devoid of understanding...**

– Proverbs 7.6–7

**29 Do you see a man who excels in his work?  
He will stand before kings;  
He will not stand before unknown men.**

– Proverbs 22.29

**3 A prudent man foresees evil and hides himself,  
But the simple pass on and are punished.**

– Proverbs 22.3

**26 My son, give me your heart,  
And let your eyes observe my ways.**

– Proverbs 23.26

#### II. I debated with myself on how many passages to show you, so I settled for five.

- A. Listen! Read the whole Bible on a scheduled basis.
- B. As you can see, I recommend reading the Book of Proverbs regularly also.
  - 1. Doing both
    - a) will increase your knowledge,
    - b) sharpen your wisdom,
    - c) keep you from evil,
    - d) prevent false beliefs from entering your mind, and
    - e) therefore, will make you successful.
  - 2. You will also see the world
    - a) through the eyes of the Spirit
    - b) rather than through the eyes of man, especially unbelieving man.
  - 3. Learn from the sins and mistakes of others, and
    - a) learn from the things they do right,
    - b) always using the Scriptures as your guide.

### **III. There are three current events from which I think we can learn somethings.**

#### **Persuasion:**

#### **I. Corona Virus Disease – 2019, Better Known as COVID-19**

- A. That is the name of the disease, but
  - 1. the virus that causes it is:
    - 2. Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2,
      - a) abbreviated as SARS-CoV-2.
        - (1) Kind of like Human Immunodeficiency Virus causes Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, or
        - (2) HIV causes AIDS.
      - b) Aren't you glad that you showed up today!
- B. What does the Lord wants us to learn from this pandemic?

1. Open your Bible to Romans 8.
2. This is the way that I look at every situation in life,
  - a) including the events of 2020.
  - b) God may or may not be causing these things, but
    - (1) I do believe he wants us to learn something from them.
    - (2) Think now on what God wants of you:

**28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. 29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.**

**– Romans 8.28–29**

3. Our goals are not God's goals and God's goals are not our goals.
    - a) What is your goal for your life?
    - b) Now, think, based on that passage, what is God's goal for your life?
      - (1) God's goal is that we be conformed to the image of his Son and
      - (2) the Father works all things together in our lives
        - (a) toward that good, that good goal.
        - (b) How is he using this pandemic to make me more like Christ?
- C. There are good things that have come out of this pandemic.
1. Has the God of heaven used the governments of the world
    - a) to shut down most of the operations of the world
    - b) to give the land, the earth, some rest from man's activities?
  2. Air pollution has dropped or disappeared in some places.
    - a) I grew up in Southern California in the 50s, 60s, and 70s, and
    - b) air pollution was huge.

- (1) I remember my Mother having us kids
- (2) lie down for a while during the summer because of the smog.
  - (a) Yet, I have heard from people and
  - (b) I have seen photos of how the air has cleaned up and
  - (c) people are seeing how beautiful it is there.
3. Venice's canals have cleared up.
4. Animals are coming back to some lands.
5. People are rediscovering nature because they have the time to.
6. Seashells on North Carolina beaches are appearing again.
7. Many other signs show the earth recuperating.
  - a) To me, this shows that the earth needed a break.
  - b) Did God orchestrate this world wide shut down?
    - (1) No one can say for sure, but
    - (2) it is at least something to keep in mind.
    - (3) It something from which we can learn.

D. This pandemic shows

1. that we can become more like the image of God's Son
2. by learning that this world is not our home,
  - a) we are just passing through and
  - b) our treasures are laid up beyond the blue.
    - (1) Is that not how Jesus lived?
    - (2) Is that not how we should live?
3. In many ways, our bodies are vulnerable on the earth.
  - a) Therefore, let us not put our trust in anything on the earth.
  - b) Put our eyes on God, just as Jesus did throughout his life.

E. Another thing, kids out of school avoid the evils of peer pressure.

1. I know that if you are not used to teaching your children and
  2. if they are not used to you teaching them,
    - a) this is probably a very trying time.
    - b) However, you can exert more influence over your children.
- F. Furthermore, this is a great time while you teach your kids at home,
1. to put into the curriculum
  2. what you have always wanted to put in it:
    - a) Creation
    - b) The true history of our nation, and the Christian influence
    - c) And other things, such as money management
    - d) Bible
    - e) You fill in the blank!
  3. I have recommendations on sources.
- G. What about wearing a mask?
1. I don't get our rebellion, even among Christians.
    - a) If a white police officer stops a black male driver, and
    - b) he becomes angry with the officer and
      - (1) so that makes the officer suspect, and
      - (2) asks the driver to step out, and then
        - (a) things start to escalate and
        - (b) finally the officer has to shoot the man.
          - i) We all say that the driver should be calm and respectful and comply with the officer.
          - ii) Then the same people who say that get in a tizzy when the government asks us to wear a mask. I don't get it.
  2. Listen to the apostle Peter in First Peter 2.
    - a) Before I give you the quote,

b) consider what preceded it:

**11 Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, 12 having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.**

**– 1 Peter 2.11–12**

- (1) We have to remember that the Gentiles, those outside of Christ,
- (2) are watching us.

- (a) The mask wearing is not about us.
- (b) It is about looking out for others, doing something good for them.
  - i) It is also about something or someone else.
  - ii) Listen to what Peter continued to say.

3. First Peter 2.13–17:

**13 Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake, whether to the king as supreme, 14 or to governors, as to those who are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do good. 15 For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men— 16 as free, yet not using liberty as a cloak for vice, but as bondservants of God. 17 Honor all people. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king.**

**– 1 Peter 2.13–17**

- a) Verse 12 says that we should be doing good works,
  - (1) knowing that the Gentiles, unbeliever or even our enemies, are watching us.
  - (2) Then Peter stated in verse 14,
    - (a) that the Lord sent national leaders, governors, the government,
    - (b) to praise us for the good that we do.

(3) He added in verse 15

(4) that we put to silence those who speak against us.

4. I am well aware of all the things being said against wearing a mask.

a) And many of those things might be true.

b) However, listen again to First Peter 2.13:

**13 Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man *for the Lord's sake...***

**– 1 Peter 2.13**

(1) Let's assume all your objections are true.

(2) Should you still wear a mask?

(a) Yes, if the government is requiring it.

(b) Here is why.

i) Peter said to do it, now think on this clearly,

ii) FOR THE LORD'S SAKE.

(1) This is not about us.

(2) It is about the Lord.

(a) Will we obey him

(b) even if it is distasteful to us?

5. What about me right now?

a) You are wearing a mask, but I am not.

b) There are exceptions for public speakers,

(1) otherwise, it might be difficult for people to hear, but

(2) I would say that while I am speaking up here,

(a) you should be more than six feet away, and

(b) all of you are.

- c) Before I got up to speak, was wearing a mask and
- d) when the invitation is done, I will put it back on.

## II. Upheaval Surrounding George Floyd's Death

A. On June 7th, I gave a sermon, titled, "The Bible, Rioting, and Looting."

1. I began the sermon by saying:

**"Concerning the death of George Floyd at the hands of police officers: I will not speak on that, because—and I know that many may disagree with me—we still have to get all the facts and have a trial before we can properly render a judgment. America's rush to judgment will harm us later."**

2. Did you think that there was no way that anything else could come up and change what we saw on the first video?

a) Did you think that I did not know what I was talking about?

b) Then someone leaked video from the police officer's body cam.

(1) In my mind, it changed the whole thing.

(2) The Attorney General for Minnesota will stand before God and have to explain why he did not release the second video and why he did not release it immediately.

(3) I believe this makes him partly responsible for the violence that has happened since then.

B. Let me show you why I hesitated

1. to make a judgment based on the first video, and

2. why I do not make judgments until the whole story is heard,

a) including the other side's story.

C. First, in John 7, Nicodemus was present

1. when the officers returned whom the Pharisees had sent to arrest Jesus.

2. They questioned the officers why they had not brought Jesus.

a) They said:

**46 “No man ever spoke like this Man!”**

**– John 7.46**

- (1) We cannot arrest this man.
  - (2) He does not speak seditious words, he speaks holy words.
3. The Pharisees showed their contempt for the officers, by saying:

**47 Then the Pharisees answered them, “Are you also deceived? 48 Have any of the rulers or the Pharisees believed in Him? 49 But this crowd that does not know the law is accursed.”**

**– John 7.47–49**

4. Nicodemus heard this conversation, so he spoke up with wisdom:

**51 “Does our law judge a man before it hears him and knows what he is doing?”**

**– John 7.51**

- a) Boom!
  - b) That has always left a deep impression upon me.
    - (1) What about New Testament law?
    - (2) What about American law?
    - (3) What about common sense and decency?
      - (a) Do we rush to judgment and take action
      - (b) before we hear the other side and get all the facts?
- D. Second, Proverbs 18 has equally left a deep impression upon me:

**13 He who answers a matter before he hears it,  
It is folly and shame to him.**

**– Proverbs 18.13**

E. Third, there is this requirement of both Testaments:

**1b “By the mouth of two or three witnesses every word shall be established.”**

**– 2 Corinthians 13.1b**

1. Paul referenced both Deuteronomy 17 and 19

**6 “Whoever is deserving of death shall be put to death on the testimony of two or three witnesses; he shall not be put to death on the testimony of one witness.”**

**– Deuteronomy 17.6**

**15 “One witness shall not rise against a man concerning any iniquity or any sin that he commits; by the mouth of two or three witnesses the matter shall be established. 16 If a false witness rises against any man to testify against him of wrongdoing, 17 then both men in the controversy shall stand before the LORD, before the priests and the judges who serve in those days. 18 And the judges shall make careful inquiry, and indeed, if the witness is a false witness, who has testified falsely against his brother, 19 then you shall do to him as he thought to have done to his brother; so you shall put away the evil from among you. 20 And those who remain shall hear and fear, and hereafter they shall not again commit such evil among you. 21 Your eye shall not pity: life shall be for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot.”**

**– Deuteronomy 19.15–21**

F. Finally, number four, I remember the Golden Rule, stated by Jesus:

**12 “Whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.”**

**– Matthew 7.12**

G. Why bother having a trial and gathering evidence,

1. if we are going to make up our minds based on one video?

2. This has happened numerous times.

### **III. Speaking for Politicians**

#### A. During presidential election years

1. we hear endless accusations of improper behavior, moral failures, etc.
2. Some of them are true.
3. Some are made up, they are entirely false.
  - a) People do lie during presidential elections because
  - b) the thirst for power moves them to tear down the opponent.

#### B. We have had 45 presidents and

1. I do not know how many have run for president.
2. Have any of them been without some kind of personal failure?

**46 "...there is no one who does not sin..."**

**– 1 Kings 8.46**

**9 Who can say, "I have made my heart clean,  
I am pure from my sin"?**

**– Proverbs 20.9**

**20 For there is not a just man on earth who does good  
And does not sin.**

**– Ecclesiastes 7.20**

**9 ...we have previously charged both Jews and Greeks that they are all  
under sin.**

**– Romans 3.9**

**23 ...all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...**

– Romans 3.23

**22 ...the Scripture has confined all under sin...**

– Galatians 3.22

**8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.**

– 1 John 1.8

C. Therefore, what person can we defend who has never done anything wrong?

1. Even the people in this world whom I love the most are not sinless.
2. Well perhaps my grandchildren who have not yet sinned.
  - a) Be careful of the criticisms that you hear about a candidate.
  - b) Also, be careful about going too far in your endorsement.

D. I have heard people criticize God for using Abraham.

1. Who would you have used? You?
2. Who would you use in place of any political leader?

E. Paul said something in Second Corinthians 4

1. that we need to remember.
2. There is only one who lived sinlessly and it is he whom we preach:

**5 For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus' sake.**

– 2 Corinthians 4.5

**Exhortation:**

**I. The church holds up Christ to the world because**

A. Jesus is Lord.

B. He is the only one

1. who can control and stop pestilence,
2. change the hearts of people who disagree, and
3. rule over the nations and hearts of the world.

**II.**