

Ten Perspectives on Coronavirus

March 19, 2020 | Mike Evans

As the restrictions cascade down and the stifling effects of confinement begin to be felt, it would be tempting to be overwhelmed by fear and forget the pillars of our faith.

This morning I received a letter from a friend who shared several reflections on this virus with supporting verses. I took some of his ideas and modified others to get to these Ten Perspectives regarding this coronavirus. May these texts, divinely inspired, bring us comfort and renew our motivation for service in these last days.

1. The coronavirus does not mean that God has ceased to be our Father. Our Father has not lost control of His world, but He is absolutely master of everything in our lives and in His world.

*But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel:
"Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.
Isaiah 43:1*

*Why, even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not; you are of more value than
many sparrows.
Luke 12:7*

*Our God is in the heavens; he does all that he pleases.
Psalm 115:3*

2. Our coronavirus infection will ultimately depend, not on statistics, risk factors or age, but on the Lord's decision and explicit permission to allow it.

*I form light and create darkness; I make well-being and create calamity; I am the LORD, who
does all these things.
Isaiah 45:7*

3. Let us fear the Lord more than coronavirus, and love the Lord more than health.

*I tell you, my friends, do not fear those who kill the body, and after that have nothing more
that they can do. But I will warn you whom to fear: fear him who, after he has killed, has
authority to cast into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him!
Luke 12:4–5*

4. Sin is much more deadly than coronavirus, so it's more important to worry about it than the infection.

*For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Romans 6:23*

5. Beware of fear that can drive us into self-centeredness, so let us continue to serve and care for others while they face the virus. Let us share our resources and be generous.

*There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.
Acts 4:34–35*

6. Let us read Scripture and think about the Word of God rather than being obsessed with the latest news and images on television.

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

7. Thank God for sound medical advice and intentional government care.

*Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.
James 1:17*

*For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God...Pay to all what is owed to them: respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed,
Romans 13:1,7*

8. In God's mysterious plan, the appearance of this virus will be one of God's ways of making us more dependent on him.

*Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.
2 Corinthians 12:8–9*

9. The reality of the coronavirus can wean us from worldliness, for it reminds us of the decay of this world, the reality of death and the transience of everything here.

For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.

Romans 8:22–23

10. My last hope is not to be safe from infection, but to be found in Christ and to glorify Him.

as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better.

Philippians 1:20–23

Of British origin, Mike Evans spent more than 50 years in France. He was director of Opération Mobilisation France (1967 to 1987), general secretary of the evangelistic campaign, Mission France with Billy Graham in 1986, professor at the Nogent Bible Institute (Paris) and until his retirement in 2009, director of the Geneva Bible Institute. Married to Sylvia from Switzerland, they have 5 children, all married, and they are the happy grandparents of 18 grandchildren! Mike holds a doctorate (Ph.D.) on the literary structure of Judges. He first studied computer science and management before beginning his studies in theology. Since his retirement, he has devoted himself to teaching both near and far, and has presided over the establishment of the French branch of The Gospel Coalition, ([Évangile 21](#)).