



The following document is a rough copy of Pastor Drost's sermon
notes from April 12th, 2020

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+ Good morning church...

In 1347 the world saw the worst pandemic recorded in human history, The Black Plague It killed between 30% to 60% of Europe's population. BUT the Jewish people died in lesser numbers from the black plague than their non-Jewish neighbours! **WHY?** Because they practiced the Jewish halachá hygiene guidelines.

In a moment I want to tell you the connection between the Jewish halachá, COVID-19 and the Bible.

+ **Thank you worship team! WOW!** I was so encouraged by the songs!

We have been doing a sermon series here at Smythe Street Church called the Power of Confession.

The Bible says that...

"Death and life are in the power of the tongue." Proverbs 18:21a (NKJV)

Last Sunday Pastor Wayne preached a great message about the power in confessing praises to God: **The Sacrifice of Praise.**

Confessing & declaring our praise to God is powerful not just when things are good, but also it is powerful during the difficult times. When we are facing difficult times and we open our mouth & sing...

Hallelujah praise the One who set me free

Hallelujah death has lost its grip on me

You have broken every chain

There's salvation in Your name

Jesus Christ my living hope → That lifts the spirit and brings hope!

+ Today I want to speak on **The Power of the Resurrection.**

But FIRST, I want to say a BIG "thank you" to our PREMIER... The Honourable Blaine Higgs.

- And this has nothing to do with politics... but I think he has done a great job leading us in NB through this COVID-19 pandemic.
- I am so proud of our NB political parties that have set aside their differences and united as one against this common enemy.
- **We are at war!** As Canadians we will unite against this enemy and (by God's Grace) we will win!
- We will take on some casualties but together **we will win this war!**

I also, I want to say a BIG "thank you" to our Chief Medical Officer ... DR. JENNIFER RUSSELL

- And her medical team (Doctors, nurses, caretakers, hospital personnel and all those on the front lines of this battle).
- First responders (Police, ambulance personnel, Fire fighters, 911 dispatch teams)

Thank you from all of us!

- To those of us that are Christians, believers in the Bible as God's Word, these **guidelines** that we have been given by our government and medical leaders, we should be aware that they are Biblical guidelines... **They are ALL found in the Bible.** In fact, in the first 5 books of the Bible.
- Before there was a Canada, a World Health Organisation, thousands of years ago, God gave the Children of Israel these same guidelines as they were leaving Egypt.



- In order to avoid been destroyed by infectious diseases (like Leprosy), God prescribed these same guidelines that we have been prescribed today:
 - Social distancing
 - Thorough washing of hands, body and clothes
 - Testing (Today it's 811, then it was a trained Jewish priest)
 - Quarantines for those contaminated

This stuff is in Bible!

The Jewish nation has practiced this for hundreds of years!

And during the Black Plague, the Jewish people died in lesser numbers **from the plague** because they practiced these Biblical guidelines given by God.

So, when we are following the guidelines given to us by our government: Social distancing, washing your hands, staying the blazes home, quarantining, getting checked if your symptomatic... we are just practicing good Biblical principles.

So, not only is Nova Scotia's Premier McNeil telling us to **"stay the blazes home"** but the Bible is telling us that as well.

Even Jesus, in **Luke 17**, when he entered a certain village, ten men who were lepers met Him and stood afar. (They where in quarantine under Jewish **halachá** hygiene guidelines).

And they lifted up their voices and said, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" So when He saw them, He said to them, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." (Today it would be "get tested") And so it was that **as they went, they were healed.** (See Luke 17:12–14)

As they obeyed what was asked of them, they were healed.

What a great principle for us to ponder on today!

✚ It's interesting how history repeats itself. During the Black Plague people started spreading all kinds of **fear mongering.**

- Blaming people and conspiracy theories.
- Remember I said at the start "the Jewish people died in lesser numbers **from the black plague** than their non-Jewish neighbours!"

That is true! BUT some people started a rumour that the Jews had caused the disease by deliberately poisoning wells. That false rumour caused panic and thousands of innocent Jews were massacred and killed (some burnt alive) because of it. Not from the black plague but from ignorant theories.

And today, all across the internet, Facebook, WhatsApp, Twitter there are these "theories" about conspiracies, blaming, some saying that COVID-19 is a punishment from God! REALLY!

God, sending COVID-19 and killing innocent people... really! *It might make a bit more sense if only "evil" people died!* But babies, Godly grammies in seniors homes, kids left without a dad... a mom!

- That would be like a judge sending a whole town to jail because one person robbed the bank!

There are those that are "pontificating" about it being a sign of the end times, bizarre theories about the 666 and the antichrist, causing confusion and fear to the innocent.



Illustration: In Africa right now there's this conspiracy theory going around in the churches that this COVID-19 vaccine is a trick to implant people with a chip ('mark of the beast' technology) to remotely control every single human being on the planet...

These fear mongering theories cause confusion, have no Biblical base and potentially could kill people!

Here is the simple truth... the Bible tells us that we live in an imperfect broken world.

- It rains on the just and the unjust. The sun comes out on the just and on the unjust.
- Bad things happen to bad people, and bad things happen to good people.
- We live in a world where lions kill, porcupines prick, skunks spray a nasty smell, mosquitoes bite! They bite nice people and they bite mean people. And some mosquitos spread malaria!
- Tsunamis flatten coastal cities and people from all walks of life die including entire churches.
- Christians get cancer, babies get cancer and thugs get cancer.

These are difficult questions and we just don't have all the answers!

- I don't know why my dad (who was a very Godly man) died at 63 and my mom (who was also a very Godly woman) died at 93.

There are many things that I DON'T know but here's what I DO know:

Jesus said...

"I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in Me shall live, even though they may die." John 11:25 (NKJV)

Here's what else I know...

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16

I may not know why my dad died at 63 and my mom at 93, but I know that my dad and my mom have eternal life because Jesus rose from the dead! And it doesn't matter if I live to 73, 83, 93 or 103, I have eternal life because Jesus rose from the dead!

I may never not know what really caused this Coronavirus and I can't even guarantee that I won't get it...

"Many things about tomorrow, I don't seem to understand, but I do know who holds tomorrow and I know who holds my hand!

Don't ask me about the Antichrist, the mark of the beast, who the false prophet is, the cashless society, 666... all those complicated visions in the book of Revelations... **I really don't know! Frankly I'm really not worried because I have read Revelations 1**... John saw the resurrected Jesus, and this is what he saw... **Revelations 1:12-18**

"Then I saw seven golden lampstands; and in the middle of the lampstands I saw one like a son of man, clothed in a robe reaching to the feet, and girded across His chest with a golden sash. His head and His hair were white like white wool, like snow; and His eyes were like a flame of fire. His feet were like burnished bronze, when it has been made to glow in a furnace, and His voice was like the sound of many waters. In His right hand He held seven stars, and out of His mouth came a sharp two-edged sword; and His face was like the sun shining in its strength.

I might not know who the Antichrist is, but who cares. This is the one I know.

Who cares about the loser, this is the winner!

When I saw Him, I fell at His feet like a dead man. And He placed His right hand on me, saying, **“Do not be afraid;**

Somebody needs to feel His hand on you and His whisper in your heart saying: **“DO NOT BE AFRAID!”** “Don’t be afraid of this pandemic!” “Don’t be afraid about your job!” “Don’t be afraid about your finances!”

He placed His right hand on me, saying, **“Do not be afraid;** I am the first and the last, and the living One; and I was dead, and behold, **I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and the grave.”** (Rev. 1:12–18)

I (YOU) don’t have to fear (death/sickness). He holds the keys of my future!

As the old Hymn says:

Because He lives I can face tomorrow

Because He lives all fear is gone

Because I know He holds the future

And life is worth the living just because He lives

You see, three days after Jesus died...

- His body was in the grave. A large stone covered the entrance
- The Roman guard had sealed the stone and set a watch outside
- But early in the morning, before the sun was fully up
“Somebody moved inside that tomb”
- The ground began to shake, the stone was rolled away
- The guards fell back as dead, then they fled and ran away
- The women were crying in shock, but Jesus spoke to them!
Do you know what He said?

Jesus said to them, **“Do not be afraid.** Go and tell My brethren.” Matthew 28:10a

- Those women became the first women evangelist. They ran and told His disciples: “The Lord is Risen!”
- But they didn’t say, “The Lord is risen indeed...”
- They ran to see for themselves (Peter/John)
- That evening He appeared to them and showed them His hands and His feet...
- And was with them for 40 days (walking with them, eating with them, teaching them, over 500 of His followers saw him. And He told them to go into all the world and preach this Good News...

The Lord has Risen and in Him we have eternal life!

Will you, this Easter 2020, put your TRUST in the Power of the Risen Christ? The Bible says...

If you **CONFESS** with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that **God raised him from the dead**, you will be saved. Romans 10:9

Will you confess Him as your Lord? Put your faith in Him! Jesus wants to put His hand on you and tell you...

“Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last, and the living One; and I was dead, and behold, **I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and the grave.”**

We would love to pray for you. If you have a prayer need, you can call or text this number: **1-800-601-0981** or email **prayer@ssc.church**

Remember – Do not be afraid, the Lord has Risen!

