## **Diseases More Deadly than Covid-19**

## Covid-19 brought dread, fear, and trembling to the planet's population. We do not intend to underestimate its lethal effects. The origin and results of this plague currently among us, however, represent the influences of far-reaching, serious disorders in us and our neighbors. Think of the vigorous bitterness, blame, and finger-pointing taking place in so many quarters. People of all backgrounds strive to attain true justice. No one, not even royally robed court judges, can define, apply, and exact equal justice to everyone's satisfaction. Scientists, politicians, and even noted preachers seem clueless. I do not claim to possess it. God created us and knows our motivations, intentions, and real anxieties. His Word shows us what correcting this real dis-ease requires. What solutions should we seek? First, God's Word teaches us that no human being is righteous. Some folks assume their right to bitterness because of certain offenses against them. They act as if their hate is more justified than another's. We do not know anyone else's heart and therefore remain incapable of condemning others. "God commands all people everywhere to repent for he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to all ... by raising him from the dead" (Acts 17: 30, 31). Widespread terror concerning Covid-19 relates to our fear of death. Jesus came to help us deal with death-panic. He also modelled forgiveness and love. Throughout his life, even on the night folks close to him betrayed him, Jesus resisted bitterness, vindictiveness, and hate. He died forgiving the vicious, spiteful, envious people, who demanded his execution. "Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death" (Hebrews 2:14, 15). All people should be on their knees confessing to God their own sins, doubts, mistakes, and weaknesses, and asking His forgiveness. "We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad" (2 Corinthians 5:10 NIV).

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