

Blessed with Hope – Hope for Today and for Eternity

Hope During a Pandemic

Wednesday 28 April 2021

6:30 PM-8:00 PM

Opening Prayer

Background

Until last year, few of us had experienced a pandemic or we were not aware of it if we had. Few remember the 1968 influenza pandemic. Who is aware of the fact that there was an H1N1 influenza pandemic in 2009? In the one year period from 12 April 2009 to 10 April 2010 there were 61 million American cases, with 274,304 needing hospitalization, and 12,469 deaths. I expect few remember it. We tend not to pay much attention to flu.

But in late 2019 a novel coronavirus, which is unrelated to the influenza virus, emerged in China and spread worldwide. The probability of death from infection with this novel coronavirus is approximately five times that of infection with influenza virus. That caught our attention.

As a result of the potentially deadly outcome of COVID-19 infection, various public health measures were initiated, which are still in effect today, in some form. These measures have changed the way that we come together, and introduced a new fear in our lives, that of contracting a deadly infection from the people around us. In spite of our public health precautions, The United States has experienced 30.4 million cases of novel coronavirus infection and 552,000 deaths, and the numbers continue to climb. Let's examine the nature of hope in such circumstances.

Questions to Consider

1. What has been your greatest fear and greatest hope over the past twelve months?
2. What do you see as the Christian hope during this pandemic?
3. How have you been a witness to hope during the COVID-19 pandemic?
4. The writer of Hebrews says in Chapter 10, *“Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep his promise. Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works.”* How might this apply to the pandemic situation?
5. What is your greatest hope today?
6. As Christians, our hope is in Christ. What does that mean for you during a time of deadly pandemic?

Closing Prayer