

## **What does the Bible have to say about Covid-19, if anything?**

The Covid-19 crisis reminds us (and the Bible tells us) that we live in a broken world. A world not how it was created to be. A world of pain, sickness, and death. This crisis reminds us of the frailty of our lives and the need to make our time on this planet count. I think it is forcing a lot of us to consider the big questions of life and what really matters. We are being shown something that we really should have known all along, but to which we are all naturally blind: there is no real security apart from the one who holds the whole world in His hands.

We like to think we are safe building our own empires, but if they are built on sand then they will all eventually crumble. We are all an hourglass and our time is running out. At times, the fear has been palpable around us; the headlines bleak; precious human lives reduced to mere statistics. And yet...

There is something inside all of us that knows deep down that this life isn't all there is. 'God has set eternity in the human heart' (Ecclesiastes 3:11). We long for more, we long for our lives to matter because they do. We long for higher purpose because there is. We were made to enjoy God and live under his loving rule. Far from the stereotypes some have that Christianity is all about rules, God is a God of immense grace. In the richness of His grace He calls each of us to change our minds, to turn back to Him and give up the self-directed life that will always fail to fulfil and protect us. He calls each of us to freedom and eternal security in Jesus.

Our collective appreciation of the NHS and frontline workers shows that as a society one of the values we esteem is sacrifice: others risking their health for our own. We need to look no further than the pages of the Bible, God's inspired word, to read of the greatest ever sacrifice: a sacrifice which is at the heart of the Christian gospel (good news). This was a sacrifice for which our debt of gratitude cannot be measured. The innocent saviour Jesus Christ was nailed to a cruel cross in our place, God's one and only son living the life we could not live and dying the death we deserved. He did this to bring us to God. His resurrection proves that what he came to do has been accomplished, and that for all those who know and trust Jesus there is a way through the other side of this crisis. There is a way that has been opened beyond even death itself. The way, truth and life is our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ (John 14:6).