

# The Christian's Response To

## COVID-19

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The Coronavirus has become a global outbreak of disease. It has become a global health emergency as well. Pandemics happen when a new virus emerges to infect people and can spread very quickly (similar to sin). Since January 7<sup>th</sup>, this new virus has spread to almost every nation on the earth. There is no doubt about it we are living in unprecedented times. In regards to this pandemic many people are facing the crisis with a variety of feelings. What should be the response of those who bear the name Christian? First, it's always best to seek ultimate guidance from Scripture alone. Second, it is also good to see how Christians in the past have faced similar cases.

Such men like Martin Luther the reformer. In the year of 1347 to 1350 *The Black Death* came out of China and killed one forth of Europe's population. Later outbreaks occurred in the 15<sup>th</sup> Century as well. This pandemic had devastating effects. The name *Black Death* got its name due to the disease leaving the victims neck glands swollen, armpits swollen, and the victim's inner thigh turned black filled with blood. On top of this, it left the victim with boils, and extreme fever and flu like symptoms. The disease had initially spread through the bite of infected rat fleas. It was within this historical context that Luther peened the Christian's response in time of plagues.

August 2, 1527 in Wittenberg, Germany was when the *Black Death* was at its peak. Wittenberg was a university city, a city that had a military Garrison and also the city where Luther nailed his ninety-five theses on the church castle door launching the dawn of the reformation. During this time Luther was a professor preparing young men to be ministers. The response was similar to what we see today, they sent the students home. At this point I would like to add in the year 1527 they did not have *Germ x*, nor any knowledge on germ theory 101. This plague was killing over half of those infected by it. Folks responded by fleeing the city, Luther responded by staying and serving his neighbor. He said, "Christians who trust God and minister directly to the dying, we should not fear boils and infection, for in the end, caring for the sick is like caring for Christ. Jesus said, "I was sick, and you cared for me." (Matthew 25:36) Luther also stated, John wrote, 'Christ laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for others' (1 John 3:16). On the other hand, Luther warned against the over confident and those who underestimated the seriousness of the plague as well, he encouraged common sense precautions.

In regards to the Coronavirus it may soon fizzle out- it may not? But it is a time for many Christians to display a love for Christ in service to their neighbors, and to live out the fearlessness of death that Christ has won for all His children. Ok, So What? How do we do that? By understanding for the true Christian, **We Have Nowhere To Go But Forward!**

***John 6:66-69, “After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him. So, Jesus said to the Twelve, “Do you want to go away as well?” Simon Peter answered Him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God.”***

The same question can be asked of us as well. Will we go away? Will we be among those who have trusted Christ, but in light of chaos and confusion we turn our backs on Christ and stop doing the work of the Lord? May God grant that we stay and that we say along with Peter, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.” There is no place to go but forward with Christ, even if the ship is sinking. The Christian’s response is to be strong in the Lord. And to say along with Dr. Steven Lawson:

*“Coronavirus can only cause the 1<sup>st</sup> death, which is physical death. But sin produces the 2<sup>nd</sup> death which is eternal death. Fear what is far greater.”*