

Dear friends,

We all know Romans 8.28. "We know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them that are the called according to his purpose." "Them that love God" is looking at it from our side. "Them that are the called according to his purpose" is looking at the same people from God's point of view.

All things do not work together for good to everybody. In the context of this pandemic we all share in the common danger. But even in the ultimate scenario of death, it will work for eternal good to those who come to die sooner than they expected, as believers. While for unbelievers it will precipitate them to eternal disaster sooner than looked for. And at all other lesser levels the same division is seen.

It is fitting that we should pray for and ultimately, when a degree of normality returns, work for the preaching of the gospel that many hearts may be awakened before it is too late. If we do not want unbelievers to be blasé, we must not be blasé ourselves. Man's intransigence will be visited in grace with salvation or, alternatively, eternal damnation. "Surely the wrath of man shall praise thee: the remainder of wrath shalt thou restrain" (Psalm 76.10). Salvation will overcome the wrath of man; or eternal loss will. If there be a continuance of the wrath of unbelief, denial of His person, whatever there is; the remainder will He restrain until His ultimate vengeance is unleashed.

These are significant days globally. This virus is a warning. The Lord's return, whenever He comes, will come suddenly at an unexpected time (Matthew 24.27), without warning and instantaneously worldwide.

There may be no time in the suddenness of the Saviour's appearing to turn to faith. This pandemic has been warning us for eight or nine months. We may not have the luxury of that space in which to prepare ourselves again.

Remember Noah, that preacher of righteousness. When the lost, after many warnings and exhortations, when they've left it too late, cry "Open unto us" the word of the Lord is, "I know you not...; depart from me" (Luke 13.24-27). There will be no come back; no appeal.

Yours affectionately,

Pastor