

March 22, 2020

## SOVEREIGN GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH

*Of Princeton, New Jersey*

### Jesus Christ

For by Him were all things created,  
that are in heaven, and that are in earth,  
visible and invisible ...

And He is before all things,  
and by Him all things consist.  
- Colossians 1:16-17

#### **Weekly Schedule of Services**

Sunday: 10:15 AM Bible Class  
11:00 AM Morning Service  
Thursday: 7:30 PM Mid-week  
Service

*Services Broadcast Live @  
[www.FreeGraceMedia.com/live](http://www.FreeGraceMedia.com/live)*

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#### **WEB ADDRESS**

Be sure to bookmark our website for daily articles and audio messages:  
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#### **WEEKLY MEETING LOCATION**

251 Green Lane  
Ewing, NJ, 08638

#### **MAILING ADDRESS**

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Clay Curtis, pastor

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to your email then send a note to the email address above.

**Articles in this bulletin are by the pastor unless otherwise noted.**

## SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

10:15	am.	Bible	Class
11:00	a.m. Service:	Hymns * Scripture Reading * Message*	Hymn.
<b>Scripture Today:</b> Ravi D <b>Scripture Thurs:</b> Rob K			
<b>Nursery Sun:</b> Cheryl D; Lauren C <b>Nursery Thurs:</b> Kelsie K			
<b>March BDays:</b> Debra Lyn—6 <sup>th</sup> ; <b>Anniversary:</b> Greg and Martha C—31 <sup>st</sup>			
<b>March Cleaning:</b> Jeff and Joyce M			

**ANNOUNCEMENT:** Our Friday night class for our young people for March 27 is canceled due to the virus. Next class tba.



**Proverbs 14:23: In all labour there is profit: but the talk of the lips tendeth only to penury.**



## **CORONAVIRUS: WHO, WHAT, WHY?** **Ezekiel 14:1-23**

Does God control the coronavirus? What is it? Why was it sent? What should I do personally? If you have not asked these questions or been asked these questions it is very likely you will. The answers are given in this passage.

### **Who Sent the Coronavirus?**

The sovereign God of heaven and earth sent this virus, controls it and accomplishes his purpose with it. God says he sends “*the sword, the famine, the noisome beast and the pestilence [virus, plague]*” (v21). The sovereign God of heaven and earth controls all things in creation greatest to smallest, good or evil (Am 3:6; Isa 40:21-26). Brethren be comforted that everything in this world, in this land, in his church, in my life and in yours is running right on track. And be comforted that God’s sovereignty in creation is a reminder of his sovereignty in salvation.

### **What is the Coronavirus?**

The Coronavirus is God’s judgment upon sinners, “*Son of man, when the land sinneth against me by trespassing grievously, then will I stretch*

*out mine hand upon it, ...and will send my four judgments.” (vv13, 19)* Coronavirus is one of God’s judgments poured out due to man grievously trespassing against God. This does not mean that everyone who gets the virus are without Christ. Daniel is mentioned here as a righteous man. He suffered from the effects of these four judgments. But Christ bore the judgment of his people. Therefore, God only chastens his child while God judges the reprobate.

Before the coronavirus there was already a pandemic of grievous sin against God. Sinners all over the world have “changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.” (Rom 1: 25) For this cause God turned sinners over to a reprobate mind (Rom 1:21-26) Proof of reprobation is women with women, men with men “burning in their lusts one toward another...being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful; who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them” (Rom 1: 27-32). The coronavirus is “the wrath of God revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness” (Rom 1: 18) God says it is sinners “receiving in themselves that recompense of their error which was meet.” (Rom 1: 27). This small judgment called the coronavirus is but a reminder of the great final judgment coming in the last day.

## **Why Did God Send the Coronavirus?**

Judgment begins at the house of God. God sends judgments to cut off, first, the false prophets and their followers, as well other wicked sinners (Eze 13: 19-23). Outwardly, they appeared to be true worshippers of God; the elders even came to hear Ezekiel (vv1-5). But in heart they worshipped idols. Therefore, God declares he sent these judgments “*to cut off man and beast.*”(vv13, 15, 17, 19, 21; Is 29: 13-21).

But there was another reason God sent his judgments, “*Yet, behold, therein shall be left a remnant that shall be brought forth, both sons and daughters: behold, they shall come forth unto you...*” (v22). As surely as God is cutting off the wicked, God is using this virus to bring his elect remnant under the gospel that they might be brought to faith in Christ.

We may not see it in our day. But God says, *“they shall be brought”* (v22). *“The remnant shall return, even the remnant of Jacob, unto the mighty God”* (Is 10:20-21) Who shall gather this remnant and assemble them with God’s saints? God says, *“I will even gather you from the people, and assemble you out of the countries where ye have been scattered...”* (Eze 11: 17). How do we get a new heart, repentance and faith? God says, *“I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you; and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them an heart of flesh* (Eze 11: 19). Where do we find this righteousness? God said *“Noah, Daniel and Job”* could not even save a son or daughter. Yet, God said they were saved for *“their righteousness.”* But God says, *“There is none righteous, no not one”* (Rom 3: 10). Noah was like all others in his day, whose thoughts were *“only evil continually...But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD”* (Gen 6: 5,8). Only helpless sinners such as Noah, Daniel and Job are saved by God’s grace and only God’s grace can save helpless sinners.

Christ alone is the righteousness who was Noah, Daniel and Job’s righteousness. Christ alone is the Righteousness of every sinner saved by grace (Rom 5:21). Shall God lose one of his remnant? God says, *“the house of Israel may go no more astray from me, neither be polluted any more with all their transgressions; but that they may be my people, and I may be their God, saith the Lord GOD”* (v11).

But when brought to unite with God’s church how does God say these new converts comfort us?—*“ye shall see their way and their doings: and ye shall be comforted concerning the evil that I have brought upon Jerusalem, even concerning all that I have brought upon it. And they shall comfort you, when ye see their ways and their doings: and ye shall know that I have not done without cause all that I have done in it, saith the Lord GOD”* (vv22, 23). New converts confess *“their way”* to be Christ the Way and *“their doings”* to all be done by Christ alone (Jn 3:21). Also, the new convert justifies God that in their flesh *“their ways and their doings”* are all sin (Eze 36:31). This comforts the church by reminding us that there was a cause for which God sent the coronavirus.

## **What Should I Do Personally?**

*“Therefore say unto the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Repent, and turn yourselves from your idols; and turn away your faces from all your abominations”* (v6).