

Our Answer to the Corona Debacle!

Separating the 'Strands...'

- ***The Corona Virus*, Covid-19 is a real thing that makes people sick!**
 - Not as “deadly” as Ebola, Swine flu, H1N1, SARS, MERS, Avian... 1:20 WHO
 - Plenty of good information on how to stay as safe as possible...
 - Vaccines/trial drugs in the works!
- ***But we have prayer for the sick and intervention against the sickness!***

Separating the 'Strands...'

- ***The panic strand!***

- The networks have fanned this into a worldwide fire!

- Panic and anxiety is evident everywhere; stress influencing bad decisions!

- The hoarding of non-essentials is good proof of the mindlessness of the crowd!

- While the *pandemic* is real the *pandemonium* doesn't have to follow!

- ***For this we have the peace of God!***

Separating the 'Strands...'

- ***The financial strand!***

- The effects of quarantines, shutdowns, lockdowns, will be with us a long while!
- Insiders have banked the market drop; regular people have lost trillions!
- Large corporations are making money on both ends: products/payrolls!
- Many people will lose jobs/houses, etc.
 - Anxiety/depression - byproducts!

- ***For this we have benevolence!***

Always be aware that the way you handle this crisis is being watched by young eyes and will be shaping their future responses to real crisis times!

**Pass on strong faith, trust
in God, and acts of love,
that will get them through
anything they have to face!**

Separating the 'Strands...'

- *The spiritual strand!*

- In every crisis-coil there is a dark strand!

- “one seeking to steal, kill and destroy; an accuser/slanderer/deceiver...

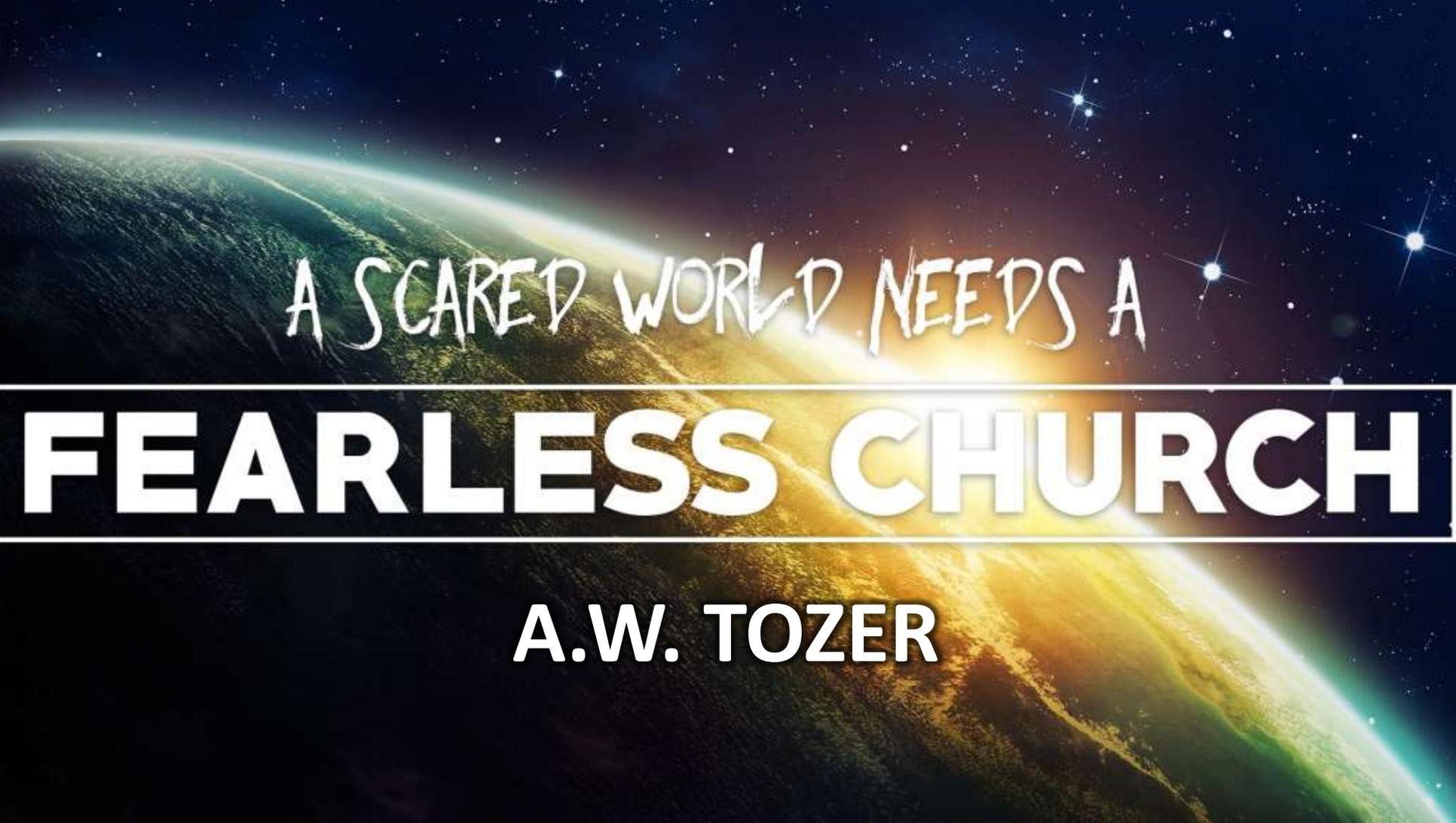
- “the devil... a murderer from the beginning, who wouldn't live in the truth... a liar, and the father of it.” **John 8.44**

- Hates everything God loves!

- *For this we have spiritual warfare!*

Separating the 'Strands...'

- ***The spiritual strand!***
 - In every crisis-coil there is a red strand!
 - The Church of Jesus is always part of the problem and the chief answer!
 - Problem: it is often the hidden target!
 - Problem: it doesn't always answer well!
 - Answer: we have power over the chaos, fear and strategies of our enemy!
- ***For this we have the Gospel!***



A SCARED WORLD NEEDS A

FEARLESS CHURCH

A.W. TOZER

Historically...

- The Church has run to the aid of sufferers... like Jesus our model who:
 - “Went about, doing good, healing all that were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him... healing all manner of sickness and disease among the people...” **Acts 10.38 Matt 4.23**
 - And His followers have traditionally followed His example!

Our model and Commission!

- “Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them because they fainted, and were scattered, as sheep having no shepherd.**

Our model and Commission!

- Then He said, ‘The harvest truly *is* plenteous, but the laborers *are* few; Pray the Lord of the harvest will send laborers into His harvest.’” **Mt 9:35-38**
- And then He called and sent His disciples, then seventy more, then sent the Holy Spirit to empower all believers to do the same! **Luke 9.1ff 10.1ff, 24.49**
Acts 1.8, 2.1ff

Historically...

- **Members of the Church throughout times of disease have followed too!**
 - **Martin Luther: “I shall ask God mercifully to protect us. Then I shall fumigate, help purify the air, administer medicine and take it. I shall avoid places and persons where my presence is not needed in order not to become contaminated and thus perchance inflict and pollute others and so cause their death as a result of my**

Historically...

- **Members of the Church throughout times of disease have followed too!**
 - **negligence. If God should wish to take me, he will surely find me and I have done what he has expected of me and so I am not responsible for either my own death or the death of others. If my neighbor needs me however I shall not avoid place or person but will go freely as stated above. See this is such a God-fearing faith**

Historically...

- **Members of the Church throughout times of disease have followed too!**
 - **because it is neither brash nor foolhardy and does not tempt God.”**
 - **We pray... go to work... We work smart...**
 - **We answer the call with pure hearts and humility to serve people in sickness and stress!**

Historically...

- **Members of the Church throughout times of disease have followed too!**
 - **Charles Spurgeon: “Fear to die? Thank God I do not. The cholera may come – pray it may not. But if it does, it matters not to me. I will toil and visit the sick by night and day until I drop. And if it takes me, sudden death is sudden glory!”**
 - **Crisis is where you find out what you believe/what you do in response!**

Historically...

- **Members of the Church throughout times of disease have followed too!**
 - **John G. Lake: was caring for the sick of the bubonic plague and burying the dead. When the doctors asked him how he protected himself from the plague he pointed them to the scripture. When the doctors were unconvinced he insisted they do an experiment on him. Lake showed them that if one took bubonic**

Historically...

- **Members of the Church throughout times of disease have followed too!**
 - **plague foam from the lungs of a dead person and put it under the microscope, the disease cells would still live. If they put the foam in his hands, and looked at it again, they saw that all the disease cells instantly died... proving him to be true.**
 - ***These are the stories of faith that need to be in the mix of the fear! Faith overcomes!***

Ecclesiastes 11.1-6

- “Cast your bread upon the water... give portions to many helpers... who knows what disaster will befall the land...? *If you observe the winds, you will not sow. If you regard the clouds, you will not reap.* In the morning sow your seed and in the evening do it again because you never know which planting will prosper, or, if both will!”

**Don't let things you can't
know or control keep you
from doing the things you
can and should – keep doing
what is good and trust God
with the outcome!**

An Activation Lesson...

- In the 3rd Century there was a pandemic sweeping across Italy, Africa and the western empire. At its height it killed more than 5,000 people a day in Rome. Some cities lost 60% of their population.**

During the pandemic people panicked. Many abandoned the sick in ditches and left the dead unburied. People fled areas where there was sickness and abandoned the elderly, sick and disabled.

An Activation Lesson...

- One class of people refused to panic. Julian, the non-Christian Emperor wrote: “The recent Christian growth was caused by their moral character, even if pretended, and by their benevolence toward strangers and the dead.” In another letter he wrote: “The impious Galileans (Christians) support not only their poor, but ours as well, everyone can see that our people lack aid from us...”**

An Activation Lesson...

- Christians, instead of leaving the city, stayed to care for the poor, sick and elderly.**

Historian Rodney Start says that you can trace the rise of Christianity to three major plagues in the 2nd, 3rd and 6th century. Christianity grew because people could see the incredible witness of Christians during times of crisis. Instead of panic, they demonstrated tremendous faith and compassion.

ACTIVATE!

- **This is not the time to fearfully ‘shrink back,’ to withhold ministry to others!**
- **Now is the time to “go about doing good to all who are oppressed!”**
 - **Find people who are afraid, distressed, depressed... deliver words of hope/faith!**
 - **Shop/local for people who can’t get out!**
 - **Give to people who have nothing in store!**
 - **And pray for them and their peace!**

ACTIVATE!

- **And if you find yourself with extra time...**
 - **Pray; practicing God's presence!**
 - **Read/study the word of God for faith!**
 - **Learn something new; reading, viewing, researching!**
 - **Exercise and be in good health!**
 - **And remain calmly alert to new possibilities, challenges and changes!**

Our First Answer to the Corona Debacle!