

PROTECTION FROM CORONA-VIRUS?

Facebook post of 6th April 2020.

In recent days I was asked by someone what my thoughts were on a suggestion that had been made to them to this effect – that Christians should **‘tie a red ribbon somewhere on their house representing the blood of Jesus for protection’**. Before that, I had also read this post from someone **‘You can anoint your home - maybe doors and windows - with oil.’**

I assume that the **‘red ribbon’** suggestion was based upon Rahab’s protection during the battle of Jericho – see Joshua 2:12-21 and Joshua 6:23-25 and I know from the other post that the **‘anoint your home with oil’** suggestion was based upon the blood of the Passover Lamb in Egypt that we read about in Exodus 12:3-13.

I think the first point to bear in mind is **‘context’**. In both instances these **‘protective measures’** (‘scarlet thread’ and ‘lamb’s blood’) were given to specific people for a specific event in time – they were **not** instituted as ongoing **‘vaccination programmes’** to be followed against future possible catastrophes.

Secondly, in both instances, these were **‘types’** that pointed forward to One who would give His people **‘protection’** from God’s wrath and judgment against sin. **The ‘scarlet thread’** and the **‘lamb’s blood’** pointed to the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ that would **“propitiate”** (divert away) God’s wrath against sin away from those trusting in and sheltering under it by faith – see for instance Romans 3:24-25.

The suggestions to utilise either a **‘red ribbon’** or **‘anointing oil’** to ward off and obtain protection from the CORONA-VIRUS appears to me to be as paganly superstitious as those who probably still wear a ‘St Christopher medal’ to protect them as they journey about – the action of the Vatican back in 1969 confused many Roman Catholics as to whether his ‘protection’ would still keep them safe but this article seems to confirm that wearing a medal of him will still ‘do the trick’ –

<https://occatholic.com/christopher-the-saint-who-aint/>

So, what should God’s people do in these days of CORONA-VIRUS pandemic to try and protect themselves? On a **‘practical level’** I think they should follow all the scientific and government instructions on things like regular hand-washing and social-distancing etc. On a **‘spiritual level’** they should daily commit their loved ones and many others, including themselves, to the Lord in prayer as we read in Philippians 4:6-7. I do **NOT** think they should go down the road of either **‘red ribbons’** or **‘anointing oil’** because it may well happen in their case, as has already happened to other Christians (like the Chinese Christian doctor who discovered this disease and who subsequently died from it – see <https://rmx.news/article/article/heroic-chinese-doctor-who-died-after-discovering-coronavirus-was-a-christian-of-deep-faith>) that they contract this disease and die from it – if that were to happen, what sort of a ‘witness’ would that be to the world?

None of us know the detailed plans God has for our lives and we are not to “tempt God” (Luke 4:12) by using superstitious means for ‘protection’. Rather, we, with David, should say, **“The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in him and I am helped” (Psalm 28:7)**. If we stay safe during this crisis, we give thanks, BUT, if the Lord chooses this virus to be the means to bring us to Himself in glory, then we bring to mind **Romans 8:28** that **“all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose”**.

Paul wrote in **Romans 14:7-8** **“For none of us (Christians) lives to himself, and no man dies to himself. For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, WE ARE the Lord’s”**.

That should give us His promised “peace” (see John 14:27) in the midst of this CORONA-VIRUS storm.

Cecil Andrews – ‘Take Heed’ Ministries – 6th April 2020