

## COVID-19 & Christians: Video Sharing

By Yirmeyah Tan, Shabbat, 21 February 2020

### Text

**1Pe 4:17** For the time is come that **judgment must begin at the house of God:** and if it first begins at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?

1Pe 4:18 And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?

1Pe 4:19 Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator.

### I. **Last Week's Video Sharing**

Last week I shared with you from home that, in times of crisis like COVID-19, Christians are led to the comforting verses of:

**Psa 91:9** Because thou hast made the LORD, which is my refuge, even the Most High, thy habitation;

**Psa 91:10** There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling.

**Psa 91:1** For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.

I said that **Joseph Prince** quoted these verses to his New Creation church as assurance that no virus can come near them. Paradoxically, he began his sermon by telling those who flu-like symptoms to stay away from service! Apparently, the verses are not applicable to the poor victims.

**The truth is that**, we are only protected if we dwell in the secret place of the Almighty and abide under His Shadow [Ps 91:1]. How do we do that?

- a. Trust in Him [Ps 91:2,4]
- b. Walk in His Truth [Ps91:4]

**Psa 15:1** A Psalm of David. LORD, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill?

**Psa 15:2** **He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart.**

- c. Walking uprightly, having righteous works and speaking truth

**Psa 24:3** Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? or who shall stand in his holy place?

**Psa 24:4** **He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart;** who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully.

- d. Having clean hands and a pure heart

**Note: How many Christians can truly claim all of these? Let us not be presumptuous:**

**Psa 19:12** Who can understand his errors? cleanse thou me from secret faults.

**Psa 19:13** Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression.

**Psa 19:14** Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.

## II. Pastors Were First Casualties

- a. SARS crisis: a pastor from Kim Keat Road died after laying his hands on a sick brother
- b. COVID-19: the Senior Pastor and 22 of Grace Assembly of God form the largest cluster of infections

## III. Meaning of Church

**Mat 16:18** And I say also unto thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

G1577: *ekklēsia*

*ek-klay-see'-ah*

From a compound of G1537 and a derivative of G2564; a *calling out*, that is, (concretely) a popular *meeting*, especially a religious *congregation* (Jewish *synagogue*, or Christian community of members on earth or saints in heaven or both): - assembly, church.

- a. The word “church” was first used by Yashua and occurs 115 times in NT
- b. The Greek word has 2 components:

‘ek’ means ‘from’, ‘out of’ and  
‘kaleo’ means ‘call forth’

- c. It is a group or assembly of people who have been called out of the world to Elohim

## IV. Judgment Begins with the Household of Elohim

Why did Peter say that ‘judgment must begin at the house of Elohim’?

**Reason:** so many Christians are still so worldly and do not take their calling seriously

## V. A Building is not a Church

The building at Tanglin Road being used by Grace Assembly of God is being sanitized because of the virus.

What about the members? Are they being sanitized from the contamination of the world?

***Rom 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.***

***Rom 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.***

Spiritual sanitizing involves both our bodies and our minds.

## VI. People of Elohim

***1Pe 2:9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:***

*1Pe 2:10 Which in time past were not a people but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.*

*1Pe 2:11 Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;*

*1Pe 2:12 Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.*

- a. Chosen generation
- b. Royal priesthood
- c. A holy nation
- d. A peculiar people
- e. Abstain from lusts which war against the soul
- f. Enmity with Elohim:

***Jas 4:4 Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.***

## VII. Come out

***2Co 6:17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,***

***2Co 6:18 And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.***

**Note:** eating the unclean pangolin [anteater] appears to be the source of COVID-19 while eating the civet cat was the source of SARS