

Wednesday 4.1.20 (Live-stream Bible Study)

Romans 8:28 “And we **know** that **all things** work together **for good** to those who **love God**, to those who **are the called** according to His purpose.”

- **KNOW:** [used only in certain past tenses] to know:--be aware, behold, consider, (have) know(-ledge), look (on), perceive, see, be sure, tell, understand (**2 Peter 1:1-4**)
- **ALL THINGS:** revelation – ALL
- **GOOD:** **Romans 12:1-2** “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, **that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.**”
- **LOVE GOD:** **John 14:15** “If you love Me, keep My commandments.”
 - **John 15:10** “If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love.”
- **CALLED:** **2 Timothy 1:8-9** “Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God, who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began,” (**ROMANS 8:28-30**)
 - **Gal. 5:13** “For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.”

1 PETER 1:3-9 (The result of trials)

(verse 8) “Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:” (KJV)

1 Peter 5:8-11 (You are not alone – others have traveled down the path of affliction)

- (verse 9) “Whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.”
- **Affliction/Sufferings:** something undergone, i.e. hardship or pain; subjectively, an emotion or influence

IS IT A VIOLATION OF THE FIRST AMENDMENT TO DIRECT CHURCHES NOT TO MEET DURING A PANDEMIC?

James Edwin Cossey

Many have suggested that the President and certain state governors have ignored the First Amendment by directing that churches not meet in large groups during the Coronavirus pandemic. But are they?

There is nothing in the Constitution that prohibits the Executive Branch from making a decree that is deemed in the best interest of the citizenry. Unless we can prove that they are doing otherwise, Scripture compels us to obey (Romans 13:2-7; Titus 3:1-3; 1 Peter 2:17-18).

The First Amendment specifically addresses Congress making restrictive laws regarding an establishment of religion not the Executive Branch exercising its authority to protect the citizenry. Specifically, it states that "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

No Law has been passed by Congress regarding the church, or prohibiting free exercise of religion, or freedom of speech, or of the press, or of the right of the people to peaceably assemble. No Law. Congress has not acted. There is no Executive Order prohibiting churches gathering. Rather, we have been given a directive deemed by those in authority (whom we are biblically commanded to obey) that TEMPORARILY suspends some normally-exercised privileges...for the common good. This is the appropriate function of good governance. And, because of modern technology, we are probably reaching more people for Christ than at any point in Christian history! Unhindered!

Under the current situation, it is my view we have no civic or biblical grounds for disobedience.

Diary A.J. Tomlinson 1918, page 236.

November 13, 1918

"We were deprived of having the assembly on account of the influenza epidemic that has been raging for more than two months. Thousands and thousands have died of this plague. Some of our succumbed, but not many. We held the Council Oct. 22 to 29. The church work is going right on as if we had the Assembly. Overseers appointed, pastors appointed, and no block in the way. The Bible school opened, Nov. 11 with five scholars, many having been kept away on account of the influenza and will be in later. We have had cases in our own home for about six weeks. Only Iris and Milton been down of our family, but six or more friends who came in took down with it. I have prayed for at their homes as high as 30 a day. Many handkerchiefs have been prayed over and anointed and sent to the sick. Telegrams, telephone messages, letters have come in by the score calling for prayer. We have never known such an awful time before. The government closed all churches and public gatherings of every kind. We missed four Sundays, but commenced again last Sunday. The announcement came the World War had closed and preparations are being made for terms of peace. We don't know what will be next. I will not be pastor here the coming year. "

December 27, 1918