

All your children shall be taught by the LORD,  
and great shall be the peace of your children.

Isaiah 54:13 ESV



**BEREAN BIBLE CHURCH**

# Worship Service

Sunday, 3 May, 2020

**Morning Worship Live Stream - 11:00am**



<https://www.youtube.com/user/bereanbarbados/live>



<https://www.facebook.com/BereanBarbados/live>

**Midweek Bible Study (Wednesday)**

**12:00 pm & 7:30 pm | ZOOM links provided**



**WhatsApp 845 - 5752**

**Tel: 426 - 4707**

**email: [info@bereanbarbados.org](mailto:info@bereanbarbados.org)**

**NO SERVICES AT THE CHURCH LOCATION. PLEASE JOIN US ONLINE AT:**

**[www.bereanbarbados.org](http://www.bereanbarbados.org)**



# Coronavirus and Christ

'BEHOLD THE KINDNESS AND SEVERITY OF GOD'

It matters little what we think about the coronavirus. But it matters forever what God thinks. He is not silent about what he thinks. Scarcely a page in the Bible is irrelevant for this crisis.

Our voice is grass. His is granite. “The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord remains forever” (1 Peter 1:24–25). His words in Scripture “cannot be broken” (John 10:35). What he says is “true, and righteous altogether” (Psalm 19:9). Listening to God, and believing him, is like building your house on a rock, not sand (Matthew 7:24).

His voice is not only true; it is perfectly wise for every situation. “He is wonderful in counsel and excellent in wisdom” (Isaiah 28:29). “His understanding is beyond measure” (Psalm 147:5). When he gives counsel about the coronavirus, it is firm, unshakable, lasting. “The counsel of the Lord stands forever” (Psalm 33:11). “His way is perfect” (2 Samuel 22:31).

God’s words in these times are not only true and wise; they are also precious and sweet. “More to be desired are they than gold . . . sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb” (Psalm 19:10). They are the sweetness of life: “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life” (John 6:68). And with indestructible life come words of unshakable peace and joy: “Your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart” (Jeremiah 15:16).

And the sweetness is not lost in this moment of bitter providence — not if we have learned the secret of “sorrowful, yet always rejoicing” (2 Corinthians 6:10). The secret is this: Knowing that the same sovereignty that could stop the coronavirus and doesn’t, is the very sovereignty that sustains the soul in it. Indeed, more than sustains —

sweetens with hope that, for those who trust him, his purposes are kind, even in death.

“Behold the kindness and severity of God” (Romans 11:22). His providence is sweet and bitter. Naomi did not sin when she said, “The Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me” (Ruth 1:20). That was true. And it was spoken at the very moment when all her fortunes were about to change.

This is not a season for sentimental views of God. It is a bitter season. And God sent it. We know this, because he “works all things according to the counsel of his will” (Ephesians 1:11). All things. Not a sparrow falls to the ground apart from our heavenly Father (Matthew 10:29).

Nature is not sovereign. Satan is not sovereign. Sinful man is not sovereign. God rules them all (Luke 8:25; Job 1:12; 2:6; Acts 4:27-28). So, we say with Job, “I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted” (Job 42:2).

Therefore, God not only comprehends the coronavirus; he has purposes for it. God does nothing, and permits nothing, without wise purposes. Nothing *just happens*. Everything flows from the eternal counsels of God (Ephesians 1:11). All of it is wisdom. All of it is purposeful. For those who trust Jesus Christ, all of it is kindness. For others, it is a merciful wake-up call: “Let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price” (Revelation 22:17).

This I call to mind, and therefore I have hope:

    The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases;  
his mercies never come to an end;  
    they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.  
“The Lord is my portion,” says my soul,  
    “therefore I will hope in him.” (Lamentations 3:21-24)

*John Piper (@JohnPiper) is founder and teacher of [desiringGod.org](http://desiringGod.org) and chancellor of Bethlehem College & Seminary. For 33 years, he served as pastor of Bethlehem Baptist Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota. He is author of more than 50 books, including *Desiring God: Meditations of a Christian Hedonist* and most recently *Coronavirus and Christ*.*

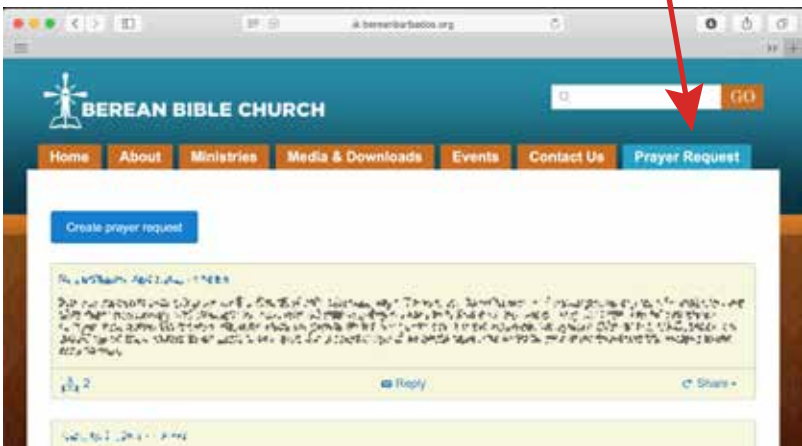


## PLEASE REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR:

- **For the children of our nation and all who parent, mentor, teach, care for and influence our youth.**
- Our youth studying and taking exams virtually from home.
- Give God thanks for His grace and continual goodness
- Continue to pray for our sick members, friends and relatives.
- For continued good health and prevention of the spread of COVID-19
- For our members impacted by loss of income and provision for the needy
- Pray for the ministry of Pastor Paul Garnes, as well as for his family
- Pray for the care of our elderly and shut-ins
- Pray for those who are in grief over the loss of relatives
- Pray for the healing of the Prime Minister and for the guidance of the Acting Prime Minister and the Government as they navigate this crisis.
- For the economic recovery of our country Barbados
- For the peace of Jerusalem

Your can add your **PRAYER REQUEST** by clicking on the link below:

<https://www.bereanbarbados.org/prayer-request/>



## May Birthdays

5th - Joel Ellis  
7th - Michael Aimey  
8th - Julia Licorish  
9th - Julianne Johnson

10th - Angela Ward  
13th - Pamela Kellman  
16th - Rachel Williams  
19th - Harold Codrington

23rd - Jennifer Thompson  
26th - Marcia Mayers  
28th - Heather Payne