



From the Desk of Pastor Aaron Peternel
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I have a simple thought to share with you, yet it is one of extreme importance. Covid 19 has allowed for an unprecedented season of priority shifts. Much information has gone out from the academic and noteworthy of how we should act or not act in this time. We're told their information and orders are to preserve our lives and those we love and care for.

I would encourage you to note how Satan often finds greatest success. He understands that we are on a journey, and that so long as we keep our eyes forward, we will get where we are going unhindered. God has a reason for where we are going and how we are getting there. Satan hates it and works to get you to believe that either A) the destination is no good or B) the route is flawed and there is a better way to get what you want apart from God.

Thus he strategically and deliberately encourages small deviations from your path. He knows that successful small deviations soon becomes large course changes and those in the lives of a believer can have very painful results. As your pastor this is a great concern for me. The last 'lock down' saw a sizable portion of our church disconnect. Life patterns were broken and many continue to struggle apart from fellowship.

It is for that reason that I write to encourage you to examine a few questions should you decide to distance yourself from church attendance these next weeks.

1. If it is part of your journey to get Covid 19 - can you stop it? Can you, of your own power, preserve your life or the lives of anyone else around you? I offer you (Ecc 3, Job 14:5) as you search for a solution.
2. The writer of Hebrews encourages us "...not to forsake assembling together, all the more as we see the day approaching" Heb 10:25. Do you believe what we are seeing are signs of the times? Do you believe that the writer was encouraging our fellowship even though it

- contrasted worldly wisdom? Do you believe that the writer foresaw 'virtual meetings' as the equivalent of meeting in proximity? If not, what was he trying to communicate was important?
3. What would you say to those who would encourage us to obey government as a pretext to obeying God? How does your church attendance jive with what Romans 13 teaches? Is there a time for not obeying government? What is that time? How do you reconcile your position against Acts 5:29?
 4. What has the churches historic position been when the mission of the church and government clash? How do you reconcile the practice of Christian patriots against the King of England with Biblical teaching? How do you reconcile places where people are 'Dying to go to church' like North Korea, China and others with your views on a Christians responsibility to obey government?
 5. Are you basing your decisions on fear (2 Tim 1:7) or love (1 John 4:18)?
 6. Will I make the commitment to leading my household in faith? Will i discipline myself to not let the season deviate my course?

I have chosen to address you this way because I want to encourage the spirit of being a student of God's Word and for you to think and reason out what your position might be in the coming weeks.

Know this, I will love you if you decide to come or decide to stay home. I will support you as best I can and shepherd you; God being my helper. Even if the doors are closed on Sundays, my connection points remain open.

Respectfully offered:

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