

WILSONVILLE CHURCH OF CHRIST

10665 SW Wilsonville Rd. ♦ P. O. Box 1022 ♦ Wilsonville, OR 97070 ♦ (503) 582-0458

Fairview Park Church of Christ
18820 Fairview Park
Little Rock, AR 72222

November 1, 2020

To the saints of Christ's church that meets at Fairview Park with the elders and deacons. We send you greetings and joy for our common precious faith and hope in the Lord.

We had a bit of a scare last week when one of our members learned that one of her coworkers tested positive for the Covid 19 virus. Everyone in the business was tested but it took about five days for her results to come back, not counting the weekend, for some reason. Anyway, her test came back negative and she was greatly relieved as were we. This is the only "close call" any one in our congregation has experienced and hope God continues to bless us in this way.

As I suppose is the case in most congregations, we have people still absent to due fear over being out in public because of their overall poor health or just afraid. I suppose fear is the biggest factor in this whole business. Fear mongering by the government has been so severe that even when the restrictions are lifted I suspect many will be remain afraid to reengage in life.

I fear this whole business will have a damaging if not devastating impact on the Lord's work in the U.S. Congregations with streaming services (I mean the whole service from start to finish) will likely continue even when the "all clear" is sounded. Inertia will remain with weaker members who will stay home because after all there is still "church" on the computer, tablet or phone. Others, in other circumstances, will just drift off from spiritual starvation. I would not be surprised if there is an overall drop of 20% in active members within two years. I am not trying to sound alarmist. Doom and gloom is not my point, but Satan will use this event to his advantage. This event is tailor made to his using fear and confusion to great advantage in pulling off the weak and inattentive of the flock. The roaring lion analogy by Peter (1 Peter 5:8) is most apt in the current situation. It is incumbent on each of us to stay busy encouraging all members, even the seemingly strong ones, to remain faithful and stay focused on what is ultimately important...the Lord's work, here, and later our heavenly home. This event has been a trial of a level that many today have not experienced. We cannot let it get the better of us. These things have occurred throughout the history of man. We are not immune. More importantly, we are not unable to rise to the challenge and prevail! *"What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He that spared no his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not also with him freely give us all things? Who shall lay anything to the charge of God's elect?" "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or anguish, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or the sword?"* Romans 8:31-33a; 35.

The family that visited with us a few weeks ago, has not returned. I don't know where they landed but it does not appear to be in Wilsonville.

I was about ready to begin making videos when an unexpected obstacle occurred. I went to the doctor to have five minor lesions, on my face, frozen. Several days ago, I looked in a mirror and noticed that my visage was that of one stricken with a form of the pox! I will have to wait until all the scabs and red spots abate. Until then I can place material in a queue for when I am not as scary to look at as normally the case.

I pray all of you continue to be well and to prosper in the Lord's work. The larger the congregation it seems the greater the opportunity for disappointments and concern. Satan is always at work. The "Bible Belt" is certainly no exception. That "belt" has become rather worn in last few decades and vigilance there is ever needed.

As always, I will never cease to thank you for your continued support for me and my work. I never take it for granted and am humbled by your willingness to bless me in helping to support my work here. May God continue His blessings on your members and the work in Little Rock.

In Christ,

Kevin R. Fermenick,
a gospel preacher