

Pastor Rich Wilkerson / April 19, 2020

## Did God Send the COVID-19 Coronavirus?

**2 Corinthians 12:2-4a** – I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven. Whether it was in the body or out of the body I do not know—God knows. <sup>3</sup> And I know that this man—whether in the body or apart from the body I DO NOT KNOW, but God knows— <sup>4</sup> was caught up to paradise.

### “How can God use this Pandemic to point people towards HOPE?”

#### 1<sup>st</sup> – It reminds us of our DEPENDANCE on Him

**Luke 21:11-15, 19** – There will be great earthquakes, famines and pestilences in various places, and fearful events and great signs from heaven.

<sup>12</sup> “But before all this, they will seize you and persecute you. They will hand you over to synagogues and put you in prison, and you will be brought before kings and governors, and all on account of my name. <sup>13</sup> And so you will bear testimony to me. <sup>14</sup> But make up your mind not to worry beforehand how you will defend yourselves. <sup>15</sup> For I will give you words and wisdom that none of your adversaries will be able to resist or contradict.

<sup>19</sup> Stand firm, and you will win life.

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> – It gives us the opportunity to REPENT

**Luke 13:1-3** – Now there were some present at that time who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices.<sup>2</sup> Jesus answered, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered this way? <sup>3</sup> I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish.

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> – It gives us the opportunity to LOVE

**Acts 11:27-30** – During this time some prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. <sup>28</sup> One of them, named Agabus, stood up and through the Spirit predicted that a severe famine would spread over the entire Roman world. (This happened during the reign of Claudius.) <sup>29</sup> The disciples, as each one was able, decided to provide help for the brothers and sisters living in Judea. <sup>30</sup> This they did, sending their gift to the elders by Barnabas and Saul.

#### 4<sup>th</sup> – It reveals God's GLORY in us

**2 Corinthians 4:7-9** – But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. <sup>8</sup> We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; <sup>9</sup> persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.