

Daily View

“But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called ‘today’” Hebrews 3:13

April 11, 2020

Update on Covid-19

Let's hope and pray that by the time fall rolls around, the Coronavirus will be a relatively distant memory.

I've been trying to keep up on all of the coronavirus news each day. I've been listening to the Coronavirus Task Force briefings, watching interviews with doctors and tracking the “projections” that change daily. Let's not forget that on February 5, Forbes published an article with this ominous prediction: **“an AI-powered simulation run by a technology executive says that Coronavirus could infect as many as 2.5 billion people within 45 days and kill as many as 52.9 million of them.”**

The article went on to say that several doctors said the prediction was not credible, but this is indicative of some of the wild speculation that we heard at the beginning of this pandemic. Also, don't forget that our governor, on March 19th, said 56% of the state's population (around 22 million of us) would be infected with the virus. He said that for the purpose of motivating us to stay home, but that still sounds incredible now, 3 weeks later.

It was also common to hear that “70% of all Americans would be infected...” and renowned epidemiologist Neil Ferguson, of the Imperial College in the U.K., predicted that over 500,000 people could die in the U.K., and over **two million could die in the U.S.** By March 26th, Ferguson had reduced his projection of deaths in the U.K. to 20,000. These initial projections were thought to be arrived at assuming no mitigation, but others have said they *did* take mitigation into account. Who knows?

Even assuming the best of intentions on the part of the prognosticators, these projections of infections and death were wildly overstated. But they worked; we have been obeying the instructions to stay home and follow all the guidelines for the last several weeks. But what will happen the next time a pandemic comes along? I would be surprised if people don't take projections by “experts” with a huge grain of salt. “Experts” who make these projections don't seem to take that into account before going on record and making them public.

I'm no expert, but here's my prediction on the matter of most importance to those of us who read this “daily view”: *We'll be back to normal assemblies by the beginning of the next quarter (June 7th).* By normal, I mean all 300-plus of us assembling together. I hope it happens sooner, but I'm lowering my expectations so I'm not disappointed.

On the run up to that, I'm predicting they'll phase in the size of gatherings, with some social distancing rules. Maybe 50-100 of us can meet at a time, sitting 6 ft apart, etc. We can work with that. That would also allow us to continue some of our Bible classes at the building, albeit with some restrictions.

I can't imagine the government going much past June due to the economic and social impact. You can't keep people away from restaurants, movie theaters, sports stadiums and church assemblies forever. And, for the record, I think we'll get back to handshakes and hugs, too. We'll just wash our hands more often.

