

DEAR GRACE BIBLE FAMILY,

Amidst the questions and concerns related to COVID-19 (Coronavirus), and as our world reels with uncertainty, I want to encourage you to persevere in faith without fear. There is a growing panic in our culture and many are wondering where this is all headed; wondering if we will be ok. When there is so much that is unknown where should we turn? We must turn to what we do know, that Jesus is LORD and we place our faith in HIM.

On behalf of our leadership team and our staff I want to give you some insight into our thinking about our immediate plans for how we continue as a *movement of people learning to live and love like Jesus*.

A FEARLESS FAITH

First, we are to be fearless. The Apostle Paul tells us in 2 Timothy 1:7, for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control. This truth gives believers in Jesus Christ the power to stand triumphant in Christ and face whatever may be before us. Christians for centuries have led the way into dark times with bold faith and conviction, often at the risk of their own lives because they lived fearlessly. May that be true of us at this moment in history.

A NEW WAY TO GATHER

Second, we are to be wise. This morning, because of COVID-19, the State of California Department of Public Health issued guidelines that impact non-essential gatherings of people throughout California. They are encouraging the postponing or canceling of these gatherings in hopes of slowing down potential exposure, especially among the most vulnerable.

Our leadership team, after much prayer and discussion has decided to follow this recommendation and change our gathering strategy. We will not meet this Sunday on our campus but will worship online with music, prayer and the preaching of the Word. The service will be available to you on Sunday morning on our website. In fact, for the next seven days, beginning Friday March 13th there will be no gatherings of any kind on our campus.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Lastly, in this time of uncertainty and change let's practice the virtue of love, patience and mission. There are three specific things I am going to ask you to do:

First, **PRAY** don't Panic. Pray that God's will is done, that we are wise and this change in the rhythm of our world might result in many coming to Faith in Christ. As I know you are aware, this is an excellent moment to live and love like Jesus in our broader community. God has people's attention and this is a gospel opportunity, let's seize it with mission and boldness. Second, **Serve**. Consider how you might help others from our church navigate this season of change helping them stay informed and encouraged through notes, phone calls or a visit. Serve your neighbors by checking in on them and offering help or a kind word. Third, continue to **Give**. We are asking those committed to the movement of Grace Bible Church to remain faithful in your giving that our movement, though looking and sounding a bit different for a short season, might continue forward for the Lord. Please mail your giving in or set up online giving at www.gracebibleag.com/give.

Thank you for your faithfulness and flexibility. God is doing an exciting work and together, we will see him work mightily in word and deed. Please contact us at hello@gracebibleag.com anytime if you have questions or need assistance.

Learning to Live and Love Like Jesus,

Pastor Jason