



THE QUESTION OF REOPENING

- Doesn't the scriptures say we should honour authority?
- The scriptures don't say we have to meet together every Sunday.
- Aren't we meeting as a church "online"?
- This isn't persecution, the government is just trying to save lives.
- Won't people think we don't care about health rules?

THE GOVERNMENT IS TRYING TO SAVE LIVES

- In the beginning, no one knew anything about virus. The Spanish flu of 1918, infecting 500 mill. (1/3 the earth's population) and killing 50 mil. (10%), was referred to.
- As of Feb.27, 2021, **1368** people have died with covid in 13 mths. - **1.67%** of people infected died. **Median age is 85**
- It is estimated that deaths from covid shut downs will out number covid deaths by 10:1. Opioid overdoses - **1881**
- Yes, the virus is real, but it is not as deadly as first predicted

AREN'T WE TO OBEY THE GOVERNMENT

- We must move on from Rom.13:1a to 13:1b
- There is a difference between honour and obey.
- Render to Cesare, Render to God
- Must we always "obey" the government? Bills C-6, C-7
- God is the boss, the ultimate authority. Acts 4:19
- Are we acting in submission to God or rebellion to Govt.?
- The first commandment is that God alone is God Ex.20:3
- The third is that we are to keep a day holy to the Lord

THE CHURCH MUST GATHER

- Temple/Synagogue worship was a gathering
- There are 23 references in NT to the church "gathering"
- Acts 1:14, 2:1,44, 4:31, 5:12,42; 6:5; 8:1,3; 10:27; 12:12; 13:44; 14:27; 15:30; 20:7*,8; 1Cor.14:23,26; 11:17-33
"When you come together" repeated 5x's
- It is the assumption that the church gathers regularly
- How is the church to function as a body if it is not together? 1 Cor.12:7
- Heb.10:23-25 - speaks of gathering in difficult times

LOOKING AHEAD

- How do we move forward as a church?
- Hopefully they will relent on the church shutdowns
- Long-term, I believe we will need to focus on the development of multiple house churches within the church.
- No matter what happens, we will need to have bubbles that are larger than our household.
- Personally, we need to keep our eyes fixed on the prize. Rom.8:16-18,29-31,35-39