

The Bible says that when Jesus was on the cross all of our sins were placed upon Him. **2 Corinthians 5:21** says that "He [God] made Him [Jesus] who knew no sin [never committed sin] *to be sin on our behalf*, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him." Did you catch that? God took your sins and mine and placed them on Jesus when He was on the cross. Then God did something amazing—He punished Jesus instead of us. When Jesus was on the cross He was our substitute. God, instead of pouring out His anger upon us for our sin, poured it out on Jesus. It's as if God gave us a **vaccine** to kill sin and that vaccine was **Jesus**. He died on the cross so that God would be free to forgive us from our sins.

But in order for a vaccine to help us, you have to take it. If the WHO is able to come up with a vaccine to combat the Coronavirus, it will be a welcomed relief for the world and it will defeat a real threat. But God has done far better. He's come up with a vaccine that cures the greatest disease known to man. But you have to take the remedy.

The Bible tells us **how** to take this vaccine. There's a story of a man in Acts 16 who thought he was going to die. He asked, "...Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" The Apostle Paul answered, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved..."—**Acts 16:30, 31**. That's the vaccine. Believe on the Lord Jesus. This means that we must repent of our sins and trust the death and resurrection of Jesus as the payment for our sins.

If you'd like more information about the **sin virus**, contact **Pastor Doug DeMar of Salem Bible Church at 330-509-5814**
Written by Mike Brunk of Johannesburg, South Africa

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The Coronavirus

According to the World Health Organization*:

1. **Coronaviruses** are a large family of viruses which may cause illness in animals or humans. The most recently discovered coronavirus, COVID-19, is the virus receiving international attention. It was first discovered in Wuhan, China, in December 2019.
2. The most common **symptoms** of COVID-19 are fever, tiredness, and dry cough. Some patients may have aches and pains, nasal congestion, runny nose, sore throat or diarrhea. These symptoms are usually mild and begin gradually. Some people become infected but don't develop any symptoms and don't feel unwell. Most people (about 80%) recover from the disease without needing special treatment. Around 1 out of every 6 people who gets COVID-19 becomes seriously ill and develops difficulty breathing. Older people, and those with underlying medical problems like high blood pressure, heart problems or diabetes, are more likely to develop serious illness. People with fever, cough and difficulty breathing should seek medical attention.
3. People **can catch COVID-19 from others** who have the virus. The disease can spread from person to person through small droplets from the nose or mouth which are spread when a person with COVID-19 coughs or exhales. These droplets land on objects and surfaces around the person. Other people then catch COVID-19 by touching these objects or surfaces,

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3. People **can catch COVID-19 from others** who have the virus. The disease can spread from person to person through small droplets from the nose or mouth which are spread when a person with COVID-19 coughs or exhales. These droplets land on objects and surfaces around the person. Other people then catch COVID-19 by touching these objects or surfaces,

then touching their eyes, nose or mouth. People can also catch COVID-19 by touching these objects or surfaces, then touching their eyes, nose or mouth. People can also catch COVID-19 if they breathe in droplets from a person with COVID-19 who coughs out or exhales droplets.

4. Reduce your chances of being infected or spreading COVID-19 by taking some **simple precautions**:
- Regularly and thoroughly clean your hands with an alcohol-based hand rub or wash them with soap and water which kills viruses that may be on your hands.
 - Maintain at least 1 metre distance between yourself and anyone who is coughing or sneezing.
 - Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth. Once contaminated, hands can transfer the virus to your eyes, nose or mouth. From there, the virus can enter your body and can make you sick.
 - Cover your mouth and nose with your bent elbow or tissue when you cough or sneeze. Then dispose of the used tissue immediately.
 - Stay home if you feel unwell. If you have a fever, cough and difficulty breathing, seek medical attention and call in advance. Follow the directions of your local health authority.
 - Stay informed on the latest developments about COVID-19. Follow advice given by your healthcare provider, your national and local public health authority or your employer on how to protect yourself and others from COVID-19.

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The Sin Virus

We live in a scary world. It seems that every few years there's a new virus like Ebola or SARS. If it's not some sort of killer disease, it's an organization such as Al-QAEDA that terrorizes the world. We'd like for life to be safe and predictable but it's often not. Even if we are not subject to these terrorist diseases and terrorist organizations, we still face the traffic in the street and the risk of cancer or HIV. The World Health Organization gives us ways to prevent and deal with the Coronavirus outbreak. The Bible gives us ways to deal with a much more serious outbreak—one that has infected the entire human race. It's the killer called **SIN**.

First, the Bible tells us that this outbreak of sin is **universal**.

Romans 3:23 says, "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." That's a serious issue, but it gets worse because **Romans 6:23** says, "For the wages of sin is **death**..." Every single human being that has been born (with the exception of Jesus) has been infected by sin—all have sinned. And every single human being (with the exception of Enoch and Elijah) has died as a result. There are 7 billion of us and in 100 years we're all going to be dead—including you and me. That's a very serious problem.

Thankfully, the Bible has a **cure**. You might have noticed that I said that every human being except one has sinned—Jesus. But when I said that every single human being has died as a result except for two, I didn't include Jesus. That's strange. We said that the wages of sin is death and if Jesus didn't sin, why did He die?

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