

*Thoughts from Pastor Rodney  
March 29, 2020*

*Help a Friend Out*

*It's Sunday afternoon. I sit and think about my morning. I have spent hours watching videos of my pastor friends share the word of God. I have watched TV evangelists proclaim God's power and protection. I have heard the word "Hope" used over and over. I have heard the word "Repent" used over and over. I have heard about judgment and mercy and the need for our world to get "right with God". And I have heard each proclamation. Each one has touched my heart. People are being shaken to take a hard look at their relationship with God. A sickness is in the world that we can't see coming. A sickness is in the world that can have a huge negative impact on our lives. A sickness is in our world that we can see hurting others and we can feel threatening us. And we are trying to do whatever we can to disable that sickness.*

*The media is filled with stories of people who are affected by this sickness. We hear numbers that rise everyday of those who are infected or, even worse, die. We are told to wash our hands and disinfect any surfaces that may put us in contact with the virus. We are told to stay away from any place that we think might put us in direct contact with this sickness. Not only does TV media tell us these things, social media is filled with "friends" warning and encouraging each other to live a life that is safely separated from COVID-19.*

*All of these are good rules to follow. I pray that no one else will become sick and lose their life to this virus. But I find myself thinking about things that other pastors and I try to do everyday. Since the serpent deceived Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, sin has been a sickness in the world. It preys upon us, often finding ways to sneak into our lives. We can see sin hurting others and even find ourselves feeling threatened by the curse of sin. However, as much as people talk about, preach about, dedicate their lives to getting people to turn away from sin; the world is not doing whatever it can to disable the infection of sin. We see media stories that remind us that sin is present in the world everyday. The news is so disturbing, so depressing, that I become conditioned to the evil that is around me.*

*But every once in a while, a positive story gets reported. A story of good comes our way to lift our spirits and assure us that there are decent God-*

*fearing people in this world. Wouldn't it be great if we could report the number of souls being saved everyday? Wouldn't it be great if we could have a nightly report of all those people who were infected with sin and the blood of Jesus healed them? Wouldn't it be great if we were encouraged to be cleansed through Jesus Christ? Wouldn't it be great if we would trust Him to clean up all the surfaces we might encounter that might bring us in contact with sin? Wouldn't it be great if we would stay away from any places that might put us in direct contact with sin? Wouldn't it be great if we would be those friends who encourage others to live clean, healthy lives that are separated from any appearance of sin? Wouldn't it be great if there were some media resource or someone to share that information so we might be made aware of the sickness of sin and healing through Jesus Christ?*

*The Bible is a media resource. Men, women, boys and girls have been proclaiming for over two thousand years that Jesus is the way, the truth and the life. From that first drop until today, Jesus' blood has been cleaning lives from the infection of sin. Let us be vigilant in asking Him to continually deliver us from evil. Let us commit ourselves to living a holy life by separating ourselves from any appearance of sin. Let us be that friend who encourages others to do the same. Then let us rejoice with those whose lives are being saved from the sickness of sin through the blood of Jesus Christ.*

*Blessings to all  
Pastor Rodney*