

Variant or Permanent

January 2022, the Omicron variant is getting scary! The pressure is on to be vaccinated because the only alternative is to catch it; so say our medical officials. Hospital staff by the hundreds are testing positive and that greatly strains the hospital and long-term care systems. These people have been valiant and dedicated fighters in this battle for over two years now; we need their continued help.

We believe that God is speaking in an ever-louder voice to all; and the vast majority are either ignoring or refusing God's message. He doesn't promise to protect anyone from catching Covid, but does offer a new life that extends beyond the one we were born with; and while we are yet living on this troubled planet, assures us of peace in our souls whatever happens.

And that is the meaning of Permanent. Everything in this world and our lives is variant, subject to change without notice. We know how quickly we can tumble from joy to sorrow, from affluence to poverty, from daily work to soup kitchen line-up. By contrast God offers something Permanent, stable, unchangeable, that is, once received, can never be taken away or altered, either in this life or beyond. And who wouldn't want that? *This is life eternal, that they might know Thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom Thou hast sent* (John 17:3).

The beauty of it is that you don't have to "DO" anything to earn it. God has taken care of all the "doing" that was necessary, and now, our part is to simply accept the gift and say "Thank you" to the Giver. *Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift* (2 Corinthians 9:15).

The major stumbling block is our innate pride. We have been brought up to be self-sufficient, to be masters of our own destiny, and to count on our good health and science to protect us from Covid. But with each new development, God is trying to teach us that He is ultimately in charge of everything, right down to the small details of our lives. He doesn't bring on wars, illness, famine or hurricanes to punish us, but does allow them to show how feeble we are at world management, and how powerful are the forces at His command. *Our God is in the heavens: He has done whatsoever He has pleased* (Psalm 115:3).

Jesus Christ, God's Son, is the door of entry into permanent blessing. At the cross of Calvary, 2000 years ago, He bore the judgment of God, while bearing there all our sins upon Himself. The price of salvation was fully paid then and there. Millions have believed that the blood that flowed there was to wash away all their personal sins; why not you? *Now once in the end of the world has He (Jesus) appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself* (Hebrews 9:26).

Don't wait any longer. No one can name the exact date when this "limited time offer" will end, but we believe it will be very soon. *Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation* (2 Corinthians 6:2). *Repent ye, and believe the gospel* (Mark 1:15).

Lorne for Vision 2020 (in 2022)

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