

Sisters and Brothers, may we be united in Him.

Living our Covenant - As the virus drags on and continues to disrupt our lives, we must remain true to our calling. I encourage us to read our covenant and/or to review our "A People Set Apart" booklets that detail our covenant life. Just as Paul pressed on running the race, we must press on, even if we are unable to meet. Let us continue to be there for one another, encouraging and supporting one another as best we can amidst this virus. Your covenant brothers and sisters are here for you, please reach out if you have any needs or just need someone to talk to. Please continue sharing the Spiritual Gifts with one another and with the Coordinators. Please reach out to your Area coordinator or me if you have unmet needs that your covenant sisters and brothers can help with. And please donate online at www.GodsDelight.org or mail your donations to P.O. Box 225008 Dallas, Tx 75222 as we are dependent on your generosity for our ongoing financial needs.

Pray Dallas Day - As I explained last week an ecumenical prayer group came together as we supported Matteo and the Kairos conference to pray for unity and for the protection for our city. This group is responding to a call to have a day of prayer and fasting on August 19th for the eradication of coronavirus and for unity and revival. The mayor of Dallas has proclaimed that August 19th be recognized as Pray Dallas Day. Please join in on Wednesday and pray and fast to eradicate covid-19 and to bring all Christians together under our Father. More details can be found at <https://www.praydallas.com/>

Reflection - The reading from Isaiah speaks to *'foreigners who join themselves to the LORD'*. The responsorial psalm proclaims a call to unity *"O God, let all the nations praise you! May God have pity on us and bless us; may he let his face shine upon us. So may your way be known upon earth; among all nations, your salvation."* In the second reading Paul declares himself *'the apostle to the Gentiles'*. In the Gospel, Jesus explains that He was sent to the house of Israel but when He sees the faith of the Canaanite woman, He grants her request and heals her daughter. Maybe it is a coincidence that when our ecumenical prayer partners call for a day to pray and fast together the Sunday readings are on the topic of Unity. Maybe

it is not a coincidence but rather the Holy Spirit showing us the way forward, the way out of this virus. Maybe He is calling us to humble ourselves, to seek Him, to pray, to fast, to reach across all divisions and join together in claiming an end to this virus and an outpouring of His Spirit on the world.

Jesus' prayer in John 17 (v20-21) was *"I pray not only for them, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, so that they may all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I in you, that they also may be in us, that the world may believe that you sent me"*. In my opinion this call to be one is more urgent than ever. The world, the flesh, and the devil have successfully divided God's people in so many ways it is impossible to list them all. The problems that we face as a culture are also too numerous to count. The answer to it all is God. He alone is the Unifier; He alone is the answer to this virus and all that ails our troubled world.

Let us join together on Wednesday in a special way to pray and fast for the end of the virus and that God will reveal His plan. Let us pray that not only will the virus be overcome but it will happen in a way that God's people will turn from what divides us and surrender to Him fulfilling the words of the responsorial psalm *"May the peoples praise you, O God; may all the peoples praise you! May God bless us and may all the ends of the earth fear him!"*

God bless,
David