



I wonder what my father, Eugene Digby, would say about the Coronavirus. He loved to study and preach on the signs of the times. He would find a nugget in Ezekiel and go into the kitchen and share his idea with Faye Ellen, my mother, as she cooked. He would preach on the Second Coming at the drop of a hat — he would even throw his own hat down. Most of what I know and teach on the “end times” in a sermon, revival, Bible conference, or Bible study, I learned from him. I love teaching the reasons we are pre-trib, that he and I compiled. I love laying out the battles, the judgments, and the chronological events that happen during the 1007 years after the rapture. Thanks, Daddy, for Revelation 1:3, KJV, says “Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.”

Daddy started preaching in the summer of 1951. I remember when our combined years of preaching hit 100 years in 2011. I celebrate 50 years of preaching May 13 (1970-2020). Early on, he had a sermon called “Christ for the Crisis.” “This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of

Christ for the Crisis

those that are good, traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth,” II Timothy 3:1-7, KJV. In the early years, he had to explain the word, “crisis.” During the past 70 years, “crisis” has become a big part of our vocabulary. Daddy would already have come up with a sermon — “The Corona Crisis.”

When he started the television ministry, the fourth Sunday in March, 1957, he needed a name, a theme. His sermon from II Timothy 3 became the “Christ for the Crisis Radio and Television Ministry.” I think of all the crises that have occurred during these three score and ten years — Middle East Crisis, Energy Crisis, Y2K Crisis, Ebola Crisis, H1N1 Crisis (swine flu) — the list goes on and on. HE is the Christ for every crisis — even the Corona Crisis. God is on the Throne and in control. Nothing can happen to a child of God — a saved person

— without His permission (check out Job who experienced multiple crises). And yet he said, “For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: and though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God,” Job 19:25, KJV.

Romans 8:28 has seen me, my wife, Becky, and our boys through many crises, “And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose,” KJV. The loss of a seventeen-year-old son, Austin, continues to put things in PERSPECTIVE (a later Concepts, after the dust has settled). The birth of a grandson, Andy Austin, also puts things in perspective. To quote Job again, “And said, Naked came I out of my mother’s womb, and naked shall I return thither: the Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord,” Job 1:21, KJV.

Daddy called Christ for the Crisis a “work of faith, a labor of love, and patience of hope,” I Thessalonians 1:3, KJV. We need all three — faith, hope, and love — as we deal with the

Corona Crisis. But with God’s help, “This too shall pass.”

When I started this new chapter (Christian Action Commission) in my life, we paid all the bills due on Christ for the Crisis and gave the balance of the money to Blue Mountain College. Christ for the Crisis continues in the lives of all of us who were saved, encouraged, blessed. But Christ for the Crisis continues as an endowed scholarship (nearly \$50,000) at Blue Mountain College that awards an annual gift to some young Eugene or Ellen or Austin Digby.

The Chinese symbol for “crisis” is a combination of two ideas — danger and opportunity. The Coronavirus presents us as Christians with danger and opportunity.

Every time I walk out of my office in the southeast corner of the third floor of the Baptist Building, I am reminded that He is the Christ of every Crisis. The original “graphite” that was the opening for Christ for the Crisis for nearly 60 years, hangs on the right side of the door. What a reminder!

As Daddy would say, “Until we see you in the air, we hope to see you on the air — presenting Christ for the Crisis. Goodbye, and God bless you.”

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BRIEFS

GUIDESTONE WAIVES TELEDOK CO-PAYS

DALLAS (BP) — GuideStone participants in a U.S.-based Highmark BCBS health plan — including Comprehensive, SecureHealth, and HSA-qualified High Deductible Health Plans — can access Teladoc at no co-pay through June 14.

SecureHealth and all other comprehensive health plan participants are always able to access Teladoc with no co-pay. This waiver for other health plans is only available to participants located within the United States and on a Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield plan. GuideStone is encouraging all of its par-

ticipants to register right away. For more information on COVID-19 and Teladoc resources, visit Teladoc.com/Coronavirus.

CHAPLAINS AVAILABLE FOR VIRUS COUNSELING

GRAPEVINE, Texas (BP) — As the COVID-19 crisis sparks

concern and uncertainty across the nation, the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention (SBTC) Disaster Relief ministry has responded by making chaplains available to the public through a simple phone call. The toll-free number — (800) 921-3287, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. each day — will allow people to visit with

a chaplain to receive prayer and encouragement. “Trained chaplains are standing by to pray and provide spiritual comfort for those in need,” said SBTC disaster relief director Scottie Stice. “We believe this is the best way we can be of service to the community at this moment in time.”