

When Covid Passes Away

read

Revelation 21:1-4

think

My town is starting to open up again after the shut-downs caused by Covid. Things are still not normal. Some changes seem for the better: people are outside more. Family dinners are back. Those are good things. On the other hand: churches are still closed. We're having to wear masks. I know people who have become sick.

One of the hardest things for me to see is the reaction of my boys as we pass people on walks. They're eager to interact (that's good), but they're also wary of getting too close to others. My son told me that he's not afraid to get sick himself, but he's afraid to get someone else sick. Fear, sickness, and distance are creating barriers to community which is already difficult enough in our broken world. *But it won't always be like this.*

God's word gives us a picture of where He is directing human history. By giving us a picture of where he is directing all things, God has given us a trajectory to align our lives with, right now. That picture is also a source of profound hope. *It won't always be like this.* One day we will live in a place where death itself has died. There will be no barriers to community. No masks, no fear, no Covid. That place will be characterized by a fullness of life, joy, and fellowship because we will once again be restored to the very presence of God. *It won't always be like this.*

apply

- What has been the worst part of this Covid-19 shutdown for you?
- What is a negative change that Covid-19 has brought about that you are eager to see God redeem/restore/eradicate?
- How can the picture of Revelation 21:1-4 provide momentum for you today?

pray

Father, thank you for the truth that things will not always be like this. Our world, and we ourselves are broken. Yet you have told us in your word that you are directing all things back to a restored relationship with yourself. No more death, no more sickness, no more pain. Instead we are destined for life, joy, and fellowship forever in your presence. Fill us with your Spirit so that we would live now in light of those truths. We ask this in Jesus' name, who has made this redemption possible. Amen.

by Gordy Williams

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