

Hello Friends, it's some 12 hours since we were asked to stay in our homes, because of the Corvid 19 Virus. This is as you know, to keep us as free of this virus, as is possible, slowing down the infection rate, so as to not overwhelm our hard working NHS. And so my advice to you, is to stay at home, and only leave for food and essentials and for some exercise once a day.

And so with that advice of staying home, I'd like to share with you a few thoughts, on what it is to be a Christian, a follower of Jesus, and compare our life, to our homes.

Now in a house there is a living-room. So what kind of life, do you live at home, at work, at school, wherever ? Is it lived for self ? Is it lived in a way, that is not pleasing to God ? You see, when we come to Christ, and ask Him to be our Saviour, our Lord and friend, He wants to take over, the "living-room" of our life, so that we live, to please Him, and so that, He will be first, in our daily living, Not Last. And so as you walk into your living room, is Christ first, in all that you think, say and do.

Let's move now, to the kitchen. I wonder, what kind of things, do you feed on ? No, I am not talking about fish and chips or cream cakes. What is filling your life ? is it healthy, wholesome, or not ?

You see as Christians, when we come to Christ, we must choose to feed on God's word, for as Matthew in chapter 4 and verse 4 say "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God". And so in these days I'd encourage you, to perhaps take time to read the bible, perhaps use a bible app, or start at Matthew and read a chapter a day. Or engage with the Warrington Methodist Worship on facebook. But whatever you do, take this as an opportunity to draw closer to our God and to feed on Him and his word.

Let us now, move in to your bedroom. Now the bedroom is often the place, where you make your plans, and dream your dreams. I wonder if like me, when you sometimes don't sleep, it's because you are working through, what things you need to do, or plans you need to make.

Again I must admit, that our present situation still seems like a dream, and I wonder when I will wake up. At times I have other dreams of happy times with family and friends or of things I want to do – often involving cars and motor racing circuits.

But seriously, as Christian, Who comes first in your plans ? Is it what you want, that counts ? Your hopes, your dreams ?

Now, there is nothing wrong, with having ambitions, and wants, and wishes; but, as the followers of Jesus, we must be willing, to put Him first, in all of our plans.

My Friends, I did that that nearly 30 years ago, when I said yes, to Gods plans for my life, and left a career as a senior engineer and became a Methodist minister. OK, so there have been, twists and turns, and ups and downs along the way, But, BUT, it has been, and still is, the most amazing journey, one I could never, NEVER, have dreamed of.

So perhaps, this is a time, for us, to spend time with God, and consider, are our plans, His plans ?

Another room, of the house is the attic or the loft. Often, the attic is where we keep, well, well lots of things really, and in the coming days, we may venture into the loft and do some tidying.

Now but along with suitcases, and Christmas decorations, we perhaps also have there, things that are precious to us, treasured possessions that important to us.

Friends, I wonder, what is it, that you treasure most ? The house you are in, the car outside it, the latest gadget, or gizmo ? or is it the money, you have saved ?

Now, there is nothing wrong, with these in the right place. But is there anything, in your life, holding you back, from letting Christ, have first place, in your life, even before, that which you, treasure most. You see, again God does not, want to take away, your treasures, and your joys, but they must not take the place, which belongs to Him,

So To Conclude: Who has control, of the rooms of your life ? For as you walk around, your home in these coming days, consider your journey with God, and what place, He takes, in your life. You see for me, I am glad, He has filled, all the rooms of my life, and given me a life of purpose and meaning, a life in all its fullness.

Finally : Jeremiah says in Chapter 29 and Verses 11 - 13

¹¹ For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. ¹² Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. ¹³ You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.

And so a Prayer

Lord, thank you that you love us, and that you have a plan, for us, to live our lives, for you. Lord, forgive us, for the wrong way, we at times live our lives, filling them, simply, with things, or selfish ambitions, or just wanting to have, our own way, and for letting, these things, and not you, take your place, in our lives. Lord, help us to accept you Son, fully, completely, in to every room, every area, of our lives, and to put our trust, in you, and you alone. Spirit of God, comes cleanse us, renews us we pray, as we live our lives, as the followers of Jesus.

For we as this prayer in Jesus' name. Amen.

Thank You for listening. Hope to see again soon,

And so now may the blessing and peace of God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
be with you and those you love,
this day and always Amen.