

## Two Sides To Every Coin!

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by Wayne Goff

Faithful brethren have been greatly dismayed over their inability to observe **Hebrews 10:25** ~ “*not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.*” Some have even suggested that we are sinning by **not** assembling in protest to the government edicts! Admittedly, the church (you and me) is being **harmed** by our absence from the assemblies. But we also know that it is being done in common sense to **the highly contagious virus** that has spread throughout the world. Our government is trying to protect its citizens, and that is its job (**Romans 13:2-6**). Various officials may **not** have the right motives in the matter. Some have suggested that this is just preparing us for future domination. But we are following God’s instructions by obeying our government officials, and we are trying our best to resolve to worship God to the best of our ability in the safest possible way now.

To those who promote the idea of “casting off restraint” and “go to church anyway,” let me offer another thought. We are to trust God and do what is right. But when Jesus was tempted to “**trust**”(?) God and throw Himself off the pinnacle of the temple (**Matt. 4:5-6**) because Psalm 91 says, “*For He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways. In their hands they shall bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone*” – Jesus knew the difference between faithfully **trusting God** and **tempting God**! His reply was “*...It is written again, ‘You shall not tempt the LORD your God’*” (**Matt. 4:7**).

God has promised to care for each of us *providentially*, and we should **believe** in that promise and **live** our lives in full assurance (**Matt. 6:25-26**). But, in the wisdom of Jesus, that does not mean that we should run out onto the freeway in the face of oncoming traffic and expect God to save us! God expects us to use good judgment and common sense, and He will take care of the rest. So as we “stay sheltered at home” may we meditate on God’s Word, pray for wisdom, understanding, and strength, and worship Him Whose ways are righteous! Perhaps in His ever loving kindness, mercy, and grace, He will restore us to a healthy world again . . . a better, wiser, and more appreciative people.

*“But let him who glories glory in this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the LORD, exercising lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight,” says the LORD”* **Jeremiah 9:24**.

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