

History Repeating Itself!

by Cleveland Reddinger

In the year 165 AD the Roman Empire was rocked by **the Plague of Antonius** (also known as “The Plague of Galen,” the pagan physician who described it) which may have killed off 25% of the population of the Empire. Two hundred years later **the Plague of Cyprian** killed 5000 people a day in the city of Rome alone, at the height of the outbreak. The Pagan response was abandonment of the sick and active self-preservation. It was the Christians, however, who stayed and cared for the sick and nursed the survivors back to health.

In both cases the emperors complained that these “Galileans” were putting the pagans to shame by their virtue, even though the emperors themselves hated Christianity. In both cases Christianity grew by massive amounts as the survivors converted to Christ ‘en masse’ as a direct result of the **demonstration** of Christian doctrine in life, *“Love they neighbor as thyself”* and *“All things therefore whatsoever ye would that men should do unto you, even so do ye also unto them: for this is the law and the prophets”* (**Matthew 7:12** and **Mark 12:31**). It is one thing to hear the Parable of the Good Samaritan, it is quite another to be the recipient of the command to *“Go, and do thou likewise”* when the doer puts himself in danger by the deed.

For years believers have privately complained about the looming secularism in American society and the declining fate of Bible-believing churches. Here we have a golden opportunity to do something constructive about it. It may or may not be enough but let it never be said of us that we shrank from our duty or that we abandoned our posts! Let it be said that we were there when our neighbors needed us!

— evangelist for the Church of Christ in El Dorado, Kansas

“We Need Sports”?

I was listening to a TV sports channel and the spokesperson said that we couldn’t get by in America for more than two months without sports. We do need recreation — even the apostle Paul used sports illustrations in his writings (**1 Cor. 9:24; 2 Tim. 4:7; Heb. 12:1**). But sports has become a “religion” to many Americans and that’s carrying it a bit too far. What we **need** in America is *humility, morality, self-examination and repentance!* If a pandemic like the one we’re going through now doesn’t turn one back to God, then he has a greater need than even God can supply!

— Wayne Goff

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