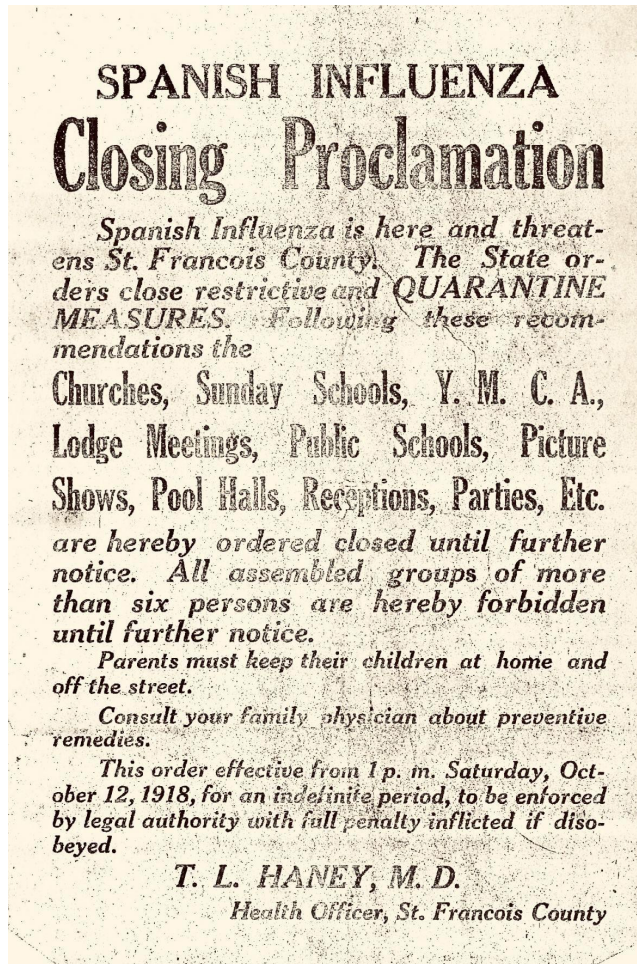


by David McWilliams

I get back to my hometown of Farmington, Missouri about twice a year. In the meantime, I like to keep up with what's going on by looking at the weekly local newspaper online. Back in April, I read this article:

But that is only part of the article. Here is how it originally appeared in 1918:



We can view this an example of what **Ecclesiastes 1:9** is talking about: *"That which has been is what will be, that which is done is what will be done, and there is nothing new under the sun."*

We frequently hear the statement "we are living in unprecedented times." That may be true for **our** lifetimes, but the current pandemic is certainly not without precedent in human history. History is repeating itself. It's all happened before. That which has been is what will be.

The same applies to our own personal lives. No matter what circumstance we find ourselves in, no matter what trial we are undergoing, it's all been done before. It may be **unprecedented** in our own lives, but others have endured the same difficulties in times past.

Consider **1 Corinthians 10:13**: *"No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it."* The trials, hardships, and temptations in your life are no different from what others have experienced — they are common to man. But the solution to the problems of life is the same as it has always been —

trust in God to see you through. He will give you strength to endure and will provide you with the means by which to handle your problems.

Consequently, as **1 Peter 5** states: *"Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you" (vv. 6-7).* Turn your worries and anxieties over to God. He wants to bear them for you. He is certainly capable of handling them. He will see you through.

However, the plan will not work unless you humble yourself and place yourself under God's authority. *"Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for 'God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble'" (1 Peter 5:5).*

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