A Winter of Death?

The White House COVID-19 coordinator, Jeff Zients, recently warned the U.S. that, “For the unvaccinated, you’re looking at a winter of severe illness and death….” (<https://www.theepochtimes.com/omicron-forces-wave-of-closures-nationwide-as-white-house-warns-winter-of-death-coming_4165989.html?utm_source=ai&utm_medium=search>). These words echo our President’s thinking as well: “’But it's here now and it's spreading and it's gonna increase. ... We are looking at a winter of severe illness and death for the unvaccinated -- for themselves, their families and the hospitals they'll soon overwhelm. But there's good news: If you're vaccinated and you have your booster shot, you're protected from severe illness and death,’ the President added.” <https://www.cnn.com/2021/12/16/politics/joe-biden-warning-winter/index.html> This news comes on the same day as a report regarding suicide in the U.S.: “…the US is suffering from a nationwide mental health crisis, with suicide being the [second-leading cause of death](https://news.join1440.com/t/j-l-zjuluky-ihjihiedh-x/) in young adults and 10th in the nation overall. More than 10.7 million adults reported serious suicidal thoughts in 2021, increasing more than 460,000 from last year (1440 Daily Digest: 988 Readies for Launch).

Predicting the death of those who do not get vaccinated seems a bit arrogant; especially when many of the unvaccinated already have natural immunity, but my concern here is the conflict of culture.

Consider our Apostle Paul, who said, ”God is faithful, our word to you was not Yes and No. For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by us—by me, Silvanus, and Timothy—was not Yes and No, but in Him was Yes. For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us” (2 Cor. 1:18-20). Notice the clear statement of our God’s ability and promise in contrast to the long winter of death!

The world continues to stumble in darkness, but we have a newness of life and light: “…giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has delivered us from the power of darkness and translated us unto the kingdom of the Son of His love in whom we are having redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins” Colossians 1:12-14. The focus of this passage is on the coming kingdom of light where we will receive our inheritance. We are not yet in the kingdom, but we pray that it will come soon! The preposition “unto” is used in the sense of, “He road us horse unto the castle gate.” We arrive in the kingdom through the redemption of Christ’s blood. Our sins are forgiven and we are now qualified to have a share in the coming inheritance.

In this land where darkness dwells in the highest places, we have seen a great Light (Isaiah 9:2); that Light is Jesus. “He is the true Light which gives light to every man who comes into the world” John 1:9. This Christmas allow the light of Jesus to shine in the darkness and don’t allow the darkness to apprehend it (John 1:5).

My love to you all,

*Dr. Marvin J. Effa*