

# Thought for the Day

6<sup>th</sup> April 2020

The current state of our country, indeed world, has evoked a number of different responses. There have been many wonderful accounts of people responding by looking out for the needs of others. In hundreds of small community projects, like the one in Bayston Hill, it has brought out the very best in people. Of course the very worst has been on display as well, as for example, people have stockpiled in the most selfish and sometimes aggressive ways or they have abused NHS staff and other key workers.

I would suggest that the response showing the best of people is driven by compassion, that of the worst of people driven by selfishness and fear.

Of course as Christians we recognise the compassion so many people are showing as a flicker of the image of God in us. God is love and when we demonstrate love we are in some small way reflecting Gods love. So these acts of mercy and grace remind us of the immeasurably greater love of God on which we can rely in these difficult times.

But it is not surprising that there is fear in many people. We have entered unknown territory. As John Tiller proposed on Friday in his Thought for the Day, the present pandemic shows us that we are not in charge of our world. We thought we were in control of our lives and now we realise we are not. That can be a frightening prospect. We don't feel safe and the future is suddenly very uncertain. So there is fear. Except for us, because of our faith in God it's different. We know our present and our future is safe in His hands.

The verse which comes to mind is 1 John 4:18 "Perfect love drives out fear." The fear generated by feeling unsafe and uncertain disappears when we know and can rest in the amazing love of God. Knowing God's enduring love for us and His reassuring presence with us brings peace. Added to that of course is the knowledge that, however this current crisis pans out or ends, our future is safe and secure with God through His sure and certain promise of eternal life. "An inheritance which can never spoil or fade .. kept in heaven for you"

Be encouraged by spending a few moments today reading and reflecting on these lovely verses

1 John 4:7-21 and 1 Peter 1:3-9

*John Langridge*

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