

BLESSED BY THE VIRUS

At the height of the coronavirus pandemic—right when stay-at-home measures were the harshest, Steve McLean had the wisdom and foresight to look beyond those bleak days.

In an email Steve wrote that “when life gets back to normal (not if, but when) and we ‘pick up where we left off,’ we need to consider what activities we shouldn’t pick up again.” Why? Because, Steve pointed out, some of the things we were doing before the virus struck, “did not really bless us.”

He’s right, of course. All of us get into some habits and routines that are not productive and some that are downright harmful to us. Steve confessed that during these stay-at-home days he has begun watching way too much TV. When life resumes, he plans to change that. What about you? Will this virus interruption of your life help you break some patterns that were siphoning off your time and energy without your even knowing it?

In my early retirement months when, for the first time in six decades I didn’t have to get up to welcome the sun, I found myself wasting far too many hours mindlessly playing computer solitaire. My virus-mandated lifestyle started me spending those same hours writing these columns—an activity which at least feels far more worthwhile. Hopefully, when the virus rules go away, the solitaire won’t return.

If, before the virus came, you were letting work duties crowd your family out of your life, now that you’ve been forced to spend several weeks shut in with them, will you adjust your post-virus priorities to keep including them in your daily world? If church attendance had become optional at best when life was normal, will being legally barred from the house of the Lord for so many weeks revive your commitment to being in your pew on Sunday mornings?

If being out and about every day exposed you to various temptations that you knew were questionable at best, maybe these shelter-at-home weeks have protected you from more than the COVID-19. Maybe they have saved you from mistakes you would have regretted forever. If so, when regular life resumes, hopefully you’ll be wise enough then to stay away from what could ruin you. Steve is right. Some activities of our pre-virus lives we should not pick up again.

“Set your minds on things above, not on worldly things,” the Bible instructs us. How ironic it will be if the virus epidemic helps us do this.