

SAVED BY THE VIRUS

Every time I open Fox News online, on the first screen I see an update on the number of coronavirus deaths both here at home and worldwide. The rising counts are sobering, even if we pause to take into account how much lower the U.S. fatality rate per capita has been than in most other places around the world. The virus has killed thousands.

But, for others, it has been a lifesaver.

Take, for example, the Texas inmates who were scheduled to be executed for murders they committed. Already they had survived their victims by as many as twenty years, which hardly seems just. But now the social distancing virus rules would keep these criminals' own families or the relatives of their victims from being present when their punishment was finally doled out to them, so the state felt compelled to delay their executions. The killer saved killers.

But that's not all. Early in April 2020 a federal court ruled that it is legal for virus regulations in the state of Texas to block most abortion services during the coronavirus pandemic. This reversed a lower court's earlier decision that the state could not deny a prospective mother her constitutional right to kill her unborn baby. The latest court reasoned that constitutional rights can be limited or denied during a time of extreme emergency, so the Texas lid on abortions can stay shut for now.

In their protest of this latest ruling, Planned Parenthood wailed that hundreds of abortions have already been prevented by this Texas virus measure. In other words, the deadly virus has saved hundreds of lives. Do you suppose that this inventory of saved lives should be deducted from death stats in today's new reports?

While we're balancing the life/death books, maybe we should take a close look to see if the virus stay-at-home mandates have reduced the usual number of on-the-job or vehicle accidents where we live. It makes sense that fewer people will die on Los Angeles freeways if the freeways are so empty that their usual layer of smog has vanished. Before we finish counting, we just might discover that the dreaded virus actually has saved more lives than it snuffed out.

All of this does indeed have an ironic twist to it—that fact that a deadly disease has actually kept some of us alive. But the entire subject is dead serious when we recall that God himself made the rules that protect human life. And why did he set such a high value on our survival? Because, the Scriptures tell us, “God made man in his image.”