

Brain Massage: Show No. 771 Reconciling the Governor's Powers And Our Inalienable RIGHTS

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1 Segment.01 Hello. I'm Dr. Jerry Scheidbach, pastor of the
2 Lighthouse Baptist Church in Santa Maria, CA—and your brain
3 masseur—get ready for your brain massage.

4 Northern CA Counties and LA County has issued a "shelter in
5 place" order — making it a misdemeanor offense to violate the
6 order and threatening incarceration and a fine on violators. CA
7 Governor Newsome follows with order for all Californians to "stay
8 home."

9 What does all this mean? Did CA declare Martial Law? Has the US
10 Constitution been suspended, upended, or? Can the Governor
11 simply order people to stay at home? Can County representatives
12 make a law that contradicts the constitutionally protected rights of
13 the people by fiat, you know, by "DECREE"? How can they enforce
14 such decrees? Will they enforce them? Is it a public trust thing, or
15 will the Governor send out the National Guard to patrol our
16 streets?

17 Will there be stops and check points, and guys in uniforms saying,
18 "papers please" —? And, then, the realllly important questions,
19 like, is saying China virus, or Chinese virus racist. Yeah, now that's
20 a conversation we really need to have right now because I think we
21 might be hurting the feelings of Chinese people by saying that!

22 Well, okay, let's all take off our tin-foil hats and look at all of this
23 honestly, and responsibly. Are you ready?

24 It's time for your brain massage.

25 [TRUTH]

26 Obviously, I can't cover all this in my 29-minute broadcast— really,
27 there is just way too much here that needs to be explored.

28 I think you will find my messages preached Sunday night and
29 Wednesday night at the Lighthouse to be very helpful and
30 enlightening. You can find them on our Facebook page and on our
31 YouTube channel. These messages provide important insight into
32 what's going on but in the Brain Massage today, I'm going to limit
33 my comments to responding to the Governor's executive order.

34 Let's begin by offering some clarity on what exactly the Governor
35 has said. I've read the "executive order" issued from the Governor's
36 office. The essential elements of the order are as follows:

37 The Governor issued an executive order mandating compliance
38 with the current State public health directives. Specifically, the
39 language is "all residents are directed to immediately heed the
40 current State public health directives," These directives are
41 organized in a list of do's and don'ts —

42 Do: 1. Stay home; 2. Wash hands with soap and water for at least
43 20 seconds; 3. Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue; 4. Clean
44 and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces. (If soap and
45 water aren't available, use alcohol-based hand sanitizer.)

46 Don't: 1. Shake hands; 2. Touch your face; 3. Go to the doctor if
47 you aren't sick; 4. Stockpile masks or gloves.

48 The specific "sectors" unaffected, or that are authorized to continue
49 operations, are those formerly identified by the Department of
50 Homeland Security as critical infrastructure and include Chemical
51 (gotta keep them working on a vaccine), Commercial Facilities
52 (places of general public access with no or limited barriers to public
53 access—people need to have access to stores for food),
54 Communications sector (need to keep people informed), Critical
55 Manufacturing Sector (gotta make masks, and medicine, for
56 example), and obviously, Dams, Defense Industrial Base,
57 Emergency Services, Energy, Financial Services, Food and
58 Agriculture, Government Facilities, Healthcare and Public Health,

59 Information Technology, Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste,
60 Transportation Systems; and Water and Wastewater.

61 Governor Newsome's executive order clearly stipulates: "The
62 Federal government has identified 16 critical infrastructure sectors
63 whose assets, systems, and networks, whether physical or virtual,
64 are considered so vital to the United States that their incapacitation
65 or destruction would have a debilitating effect on security,
66 economic security, public health or safety, or any combination
67 thereof. I ORDER THAT CALIFORNIANS WORKING IN
68 THESE 16 CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE SECTORS MAY
69 CONTINUE THEIR WORK BECAUSE OF THE IMPORTANCE
70 OF THESE SECTORS TO CALIFORNIAN'S HEALTH AND
71 WEL-BEING."

72 Later he clarifies what he has particularly in mind as critical: "The
73 supply chain must continue, and Californians must have access to
74 such necessities as food, prescriptions, and health care."

75 And then he offers a recognition that people will have the liberty to
76 leave their homes: "When people need to leave their homes or
77 places of residence, whether to obtain or perform the functions
78 above, or to otherwise facilitate authorized necessary activities,
79 they should at all times practice social distancing."

80 He gave the task of ensuring compliance to the Office of
81 Emergency Services, and stated it shall be "enforceable pursuant to
82 California law, including but not limited to, Government Code
83 section 8665."

84 What's that? The California Emergency Services Act provides for
85 government powers during a time of emergency. In the section
86 providing for enforcement, chapter 7, article 19 Penalties and
87 Severability, section 8665 states "Any person who violates any of
88 the provisions of this chapter or who refuses or willfully neglects to
89 obey any lawful order or regulation promulgated or issued as

90 provided in this chapter, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and,
91 upon conviction thereof, shall be punishable by a fine of not to
92 exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or by imprisonment for not
93 to exceed six months or by both such fine and imprisonment."

94 All of this is within the law, but there is one statement in the
95 executive order that I think will fail under Constitutional scrutiny.

96 It's open ended. He did not stipulate a time frame. He said the
97 order stands "until further notice." He should have stipulated a
98 time limitation that would require him to periodically revisit this
99 decision. Two weeks, then look at it again: three weeks, a month,
100 something. Even if he had said until further notice or until the
101 pandemic is declared over. THIS IS DANGEROUS! He does not
102 have the power to indefinitely suspend our Constitutional rights.
103 It's an unprecedented reach of power and anyone who cares about
104 protecting our rights should be alarmed!

105 So, there you have it! The Governor has exercised his powers under
106 the Emergency Services Act to make it illegal for you to leave your
107 home except for reasons he has given, and within criteria he has
108 outlined, which, actually, is not so clearly defined, as, for example,
109 it is in San Luis Obispo county.

110 SLO issued a countywide order that is very specific in its reach, and
111 addresses churches. Churches can continue providing relief,
112 broadcasting services, "but no congregations of people." So, people
113 cannot get together to pray in their churches; however, when it
114 comes to distilleries — workers can "congregate" to continue
115 production and bottling of alcoholic beverages — so, we can see
116 what's really important.

117 Let's get back to the Governor's executive order. Texas' governor
118 issued a very similar executive order for the State of Texas. When
119 churches began asking for clarification regarding how it would be
120 enforced in their case, he clarified that churches were not

121 mentioned in the executive order and are considered exempt on
122 first amendment grounds.

123 Governor Newsome did not mention churches in his executive
124 order. But it seems unlikely he would have the same regard for
125 church assemblies as the governor of Texas has. I think Governor
126 Newsome has about as much regard for the importance of church
127 assemblies as most Americans have today. Maybe I'm wrong! Hope
128 so!

129 But the fact is most Christians have little regard for the importance
130 of church assemblies. Most believe it is a non-essential function.
131 And they very easily set it aside! Not all mind you! But most!

132 In Texas there would be a general outcry of concern about this. In
133 California, you get stuff like, "Jesus did not call us to go to church,
134 He called us to be the church," and all sorts of very wise pastors
135 who are counseling Christians to act in accordance with their
136 neighbor's expectations, because of appearances, and then many
137 who remind us of the biblical injunctions to obey the laws, to obey
138 magistrates, and so forth.

139 One very excellent pastor made a very good point that I thought
140 was probably the very best faith response to this issue
141 accommodating the Governor's order—he observed that Jesus
142 violated the Sabbath in order to address sickness—I thought he had
143 drawn an inference from that story that is very insightful and
144 legitimate. I would consider that a biblical faith response to this.
145 I'm going in a slightly different direction—but that's for the next
146 segment.

147 Okay. Hold on through the break. Dr. Scheidbach, theologian
148 extraordinaire will weigh in on this.

149 What will the Brain Masseur do?

150 Segment.02 Hello. Welcome back! I'm Dr. Jerry Scheidbach, pastor
151 at the Lighthouse, your brain masseur, and Paul Revere's lantern

152 lighter, lighting the lamps in the church belfry arch, signaling the
153 enemy is on the march, an enemy that would steal from us our
154 liberty.

155 Before I lay out my response to the Governor's executive order I
156 want to say, I intend to comply. What that compliance will look
157 like is something I'll clarify at the conclusion—but I intend to obey
158 the executive order as it is laid out in the text of that order.

159 But, first! I want to declare my STATEMENT OF FAITH related to
160 this issue. In that, I will respond to some faith issues that are raised
161 by some believers with which I disagree. For example, is it true that
162 Jesus did not command us to go to Church but to be the church?
163 Not one Scripture says, *be the church*. That is premised on
164 somebodies doctrine of the church being universal and the "true"
165 church being invisible. One thing is clear, Jesus' church is
166 organized in churches today. Anyway, Jesus nowhere said *be the*
167 *church*. Did He instruct us to assemble? Yes! Hebrews 10:25 gives
168 clear instruction that we are to ASSEMBLE OURSELVES
169 TOGETHER. I Corinthians 16 recognizes the common practice of
170 believers assembling themselves together when it says, "upon the
171 first day of the week, when ye are come together." The word *church*
172 includes the idea of assembling, or congregating in its meaning.

173 Another favorite is to point out the many instances in Scripture
174 where churches congregated in homes. They did! They also
175 gathered in the synagogue, which became the model for the
176 Churches as the churches grew and expanded. The synagogue was
177 a public assembly house. Churches have since the very beginning
178 of the church gathered in public assembly houses dedicated to that
179 function.

180 There is a spirit that wants to make the church invisible to the
181 public—it's not the Spirit of Christ. In principle, Jesus everywhere
182 encourages us to make our confession public, and our presence
183 known.

184 As to the question of whether Church is essential! I say it is the
185 MOST ESSENTIAL ORGANIZATION on the EARTH TODAY! It
186 is the house of God and it is to be known as the HOUSE OF
187 PRAYER. In every disaster, our best SHELTER is the ROCK that is
188 Christ, Who is the chief cornerstone of the Church, and
189 FOUNDER of the churches, and its head. It is the PILLAR and
190 GROUND of the TRUTH in every community, and healing,
191 physically, and spiritually, is part of its commission.

192 As to the question of its importance — everyone recognizes the
193 need to ensure access to food — and yet, we do not live by bread
194 alone, but by every word of GOD — repeatedly, the Bible talks
195 about our responsibility to FEED the FLOCK OF GOD. They need
196 spiritual food too. (By the way, I'm not saying the Governor's order
197 prohibits feeding the flock—it's an impediment, but not a
198 prohibition since we do have other avenues to provide for this—
199 please stay on point. Right now I'm speaking to the
200 IMPORTANCE of the CHURCHES in every community.

201 Further on the point of its importance—Jesus does not walk in the
202 midst of the California assembly, at least not as an official presence;
203 He does not walk up and down the halls of Congress, again, yes,
204 but not as His focused, or particularly presence—but the Bible
205 depicts Jesus as walking in the MIDST OF HIS CHURCHES.

206 That's HIS HEADQUARTERS — that's His PLACE — it's where
207 He centers His attention and ACTIVITY.

208 The CHURCH is ESSENTIAL to every community, and to every
209 believer. I regard the CHURCH as vital, and certainly critical to
210 this crisis.

211 So, I argue that the Church assembling for PRAYER at this time is
212 certainly CRITICAL to getting through this threat. WE need to
213 SHELTER under the WINGS of the ALMIGHTY.

214 Finally, then, what do I recommend? I already said I intend to obey
215 the law. I regard my work as Pastor of Lighthouse Baptist Church
216 to be essential during this time. I have very carefully examined the
217 executive order, and studied all related documents, and believe that
218 I am within compliance by attending church this Sunday,
219 preaching, being available for counseling, and encouraging the
220 FLOCK of GOD.

221 I outlined criteria in my Wednesday night message and will make a
222 few adjustments to bring us into more strict conformity to the
223 language of the executive order.

224 First, I will ask only those to meet me at Church Sunday who are
225 critical to my ability to present our services online, via livestream.
226 The soundboard techs will be needed in order for me to broadcast.
227 These are critical to the operation, and I think I only need one
228 person for that. But it will certainly be no more than two — and
229 these will maintain a six-foot distance between them.

230 I will encourage those who have any concern at all about the
231 executive order, or about coming into contact with the virus, or
232 spreading the virus, to stay home and view the services via
233 livestream. As for what I will do with any who do come to services:

234 No one experiencing symptoms of a cold, or the flu, will be
235 admitted into the auditorium, they will be encouraged to return
236 home. But if any desire to call for the elders of the church to come
237 pray over them, we will respond. We will anoint with oil and pray
238 over any who request this — but we will wear gloves and require
239 the sick person to wear a mask during this service. Also, it will be
240 provided in their homes.

241 Any who have no access to Internet, and who desire to come get
242 FED the WORD of GOD — the necessary bread of life — or to
243 drink of the WATER of HIS WORD will be admitted into the
244 auditorium, although I suspect this will be very few.

245 I encourage a run on this water—it's an eternal supply.
246 But the bottom line is that anyone coming to Church for comfort,
247 and spiritual food, and spiritual water, will not be turned away.
248 This conforms to the same exception provided to those who need
249 access to stores to purchase necessary food. Or necessary
250 counseling, or "spiritual healing" and even "physical healing."
251 Anyone requiring food is allowed to go into public and shop at a
252 local store, or if they need medical attention, they may go to their
253 doctors — likewise, anyone needing spiritual FOOD, or spiritual
254 healing can come to the church and they will be accommodated.
255 However, we will implement the social distancing protocols I laid
256 out for services with a few enhancements. All who enter will
257 receive sanitation for their hands upon entry, after which they will
258 be provided a pair of plastic gloves, and given a tissue to use to
259 cover their mouth if they cough. They will be together as families,
260 but each family or anyone coming alone or with non-family
261 members, will be seated six feet apart. No handshaking.
262 These policies are conformable to the Governor's executive order
263 and reasonably accommodate the State public health directives.
264 Church is a vital, critical social sector service to our community,
265 and I expect our SOCIAL and POLITICAL SERVANTS will
266 honor our FAITH — and our inalienable RIGHT TO EXERCISE
267 IT.
268 I have lit the lamps in the Church belfry arch and now you let me
269 know if you see them. It's LIGHTS ON if you see the LIGHTS ARE
270 ON and you will ride like Revere and spread the warning,
271 (essentially, it means you agree with what I'm saying) or you say
272 LIGHTS OFF -- which means you reject what I'm saying and
273 disagree strongly with me. So, what will it be today, lights on, or
274 lights off?

275 Email me by going to our web site at branmassage.net. That's
276 brainmassage.net. Find the CONTACT button and send me an
277 email.

278 You can leave a message on our Lights On hotline: 805.314.2114.

279 God bless you. God bless America! And, I'll be at church during
280 our regularly scheduled service times and available to feed the
281 FLOCK of GOD the BREAD and WATER of God's Word, to pray
282 for any and all who come or who attend via livestream, and to
283 anoint with oil and pray over any who request it, while practicing
284 appropriate social distancing and taking all appropriate
285 precautions against contacting or spreading COVID-19.