



THINK ON THESE THINGS. (our contributor this morning is Tony Wilson)

Reading: Romans 8:38 - 39

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Reflection:

Ever since corona virus variants became a problem, I've been rather uncomfortable with them being named after the country where they were first detected. It's almost as if the world wanted to blame that country for the variant. That can't possibly be fair. I noticed, with a wry smile, that abroad the variant first found in this country was called 'The UK variant'. However, in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland it was called "The English variant". Then in England we called it "The Kent variant". Everyone wanted to blame someone else for it it's much better now that the letters of the Greek alphabet are used to describe variants. It stops us unfairly blaming other nations for them. For the reality is that no one is to blame. It's one of those things that just happens.

All sorts of bad things in life do just happen. It's too easy to try to look for someone to blame for them. Insurance Policies even call some of such bad things 'Acts of God'. I'm sure that as Christians we're not happy with such a description, for it wrongly portrays God as a monster who enjoys inflicting nasty things on people, rather than as the loving heavenly being we know God to be.

Indeed, God in the nature of the Son Jesus, chose to live among us and to experience and share with us those bad things in life that do sometimes just happen. Surely that must convince us that God is a God of love who wants the very best for us always. God will therefore guide and direct us through the times when bad things just happen. We will be given the strength to get through such times and to support others along the way.

Prayer for today:

Almighty God, have compassion on all those who are passing through illness, stress and pain of any sort. Uphold their faith, that they may trust and not be afraid; and give them the comfort and strength of your presence, for your tender mercy's sake. Amen.