## To Be or Not To Be Vaccinated

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Over the past several weeks there has been a lot of discussion in the media about people who have not been vaccinated against Covid. Most of these articles and broadcasts tend to end with a push for people to get vaccinated.

While the media imposes their call for vaccinations, we need to step back and ask ourselves "Why the push?" For years, the media has played an integral role in the push to close down Christianity's role in public life, or at least label it as an underground cult. Even our president, who claims to be Catholic, cannot even bring himself to say "God" during his National Day of Prayer proclamation.

Among others, many scientist and medical personnel question the role that God plays in their various professions. Yet if you ever witnessed the birth of a child or an unexplainable recovery from a terminal illness, one cannot, and should not, question that God and faith play in these miracles.

Let's keep in mind that scientists developed the Covid virus, and it was scientists who created the "vaccines" to counter the impact of the virus. It was also medical personnel who administered the vaccines and have tracked its progress. Yet, new findings concerning the virus, it origins and mutations, and its counter agents, the vaccines, surface almost daily. While some of these findings are anecdotal, others are based on empirical evidence. Regardless, to the people behind these findings, the findings are real and should be considered.

There is an inherent risk with anything having to do with medicine as it relates to your health, body, and wellbeing. The risks are often downplayed by medical personnel, the government, pharmaceutical companies, and the media, while also touting hope, vaccine effectiveness, and the need for "herd immunity."

As of May 5<sup>th</sup>, the CDC stated that only 32% of the country has received the Covid vaccines. This begs the question "Why has the majority of Americans not gotten vaccinated?" There are multiple answers to this including mistrust of the government.

The FDA and CDC have a long history of approving drugs that were insufficiently tested for both short and long term effects. One example is the drug Thalidomide that was given to pregnant women to treat nausea. Developed in 1957, the drug was widely distributed and used in the US and worldwide but was never approved for nausea, in 1997 Thalidomide was approved by the FDA to treat leprosy, and was banned for other treatments including nausea.

Another example is Red dye #3 and #40. The National Institute of Health states that they contain carcinogens, yet the FDA approves their use in foods we eat daily. In contrast, the UK, Japan and some European countries have banned their use.

The FDA is the primary overseer of drug approval in the US. There are many drugs and food additives that are banned in the EU, yet are approved by the FDA. Given this fact alone, can you trust the FDA? My answer is NO! Thus with regard to the Covid vaccines I believe each person must make their own choice based on research and verification of facts. Remember that the FDA approved the vaccines for Emergency Use Only. Many people believe that we have gone beyond the emergency period, especially since the NIH, FDA, and president have all stated that the initial emergency procedures put in place can now be lifted with conditions.

Short-term data (less than 6 months) indicated the vaccines may be safe. Yet, studies are starting to show contradicting/conflicting data.

The federal government has also indicated that it may require such documentation in such areas as travel. Such a requirement would violate interstate commerce regulations such as the "Dormant Commerce Clause" which prohibits commerce protectionism.

Based on the above, you need to make a choice on whether to be vaccinated or not. Keep in mind that some businesses, and local and state government are starting to require the showing of a "vaccine passport." Other states such as Florida, have legislated that such proof is not required for day-to-day living.

However there is also another, less scientific and anecdotal evidence, that you need to consider. Remember that what the government, Big Pharma, and the media has touted is HOPE. Hope that this pandemic will end, that you will be safe from current and mutated versions of Covid, and that your children and grandchildren will be safe.

The word HOPE has two definitions. The general dictionary definition is a wish, or to "to cherish a desire with anticipation: to want something to happen or be true." (Merriam-Webster). But there is another definition which is "the confident expectation of what God has promised and its strength is in His faithfulness." This definition is based on faith. In essence, hope is always accompanied by faith. Faith however is not always accompanied by hope.

To have hope, we need to determine if we truly believe in God as our creator and that whatever he creates is perfect. God gave us free will and through our choices that have screwed up the world. We have changed his "perfect world." But there is hope that we can survive these changes, but we must have faith in our creator.

Part of what God created in us is our DNA. Our DNA is perfectly created, thus why screw with it using DNA altering drugs? In the agricultural industry grains have been genetically modified (GMO) to produce more "food." The problem is two-fold in that many GMO products lack a full range of the original nutrition, and the products cannot be used as seeds for the next planting season.

So, what is your choice? Do you put your faith in mankind to do what is right? Or do you put your faith in God, our creator, and Christ, our savior?