

COVID19 Vaccines and Variants

3.13.2021

Chun Lin had recently received her COVID19 vaccine and she was so excited. She had waited a long time for this vaccine and finally had received it and she was glad as now the chance of dying from this virus was very low. She was so excited and told as many people as she could that she had received the vaccine. So many people around her had been sick with the COVID19 virus and some had died even one of her aunts.

As she was telling her neighbors that she had received the vaccine one of her friends told her that the vaccine may not be as helpful as it was made out to be. Chun Lin asked how that could be as the government had told them the vaccine was very good. Her friend told her that possibly there were some new strains or variants of the virus, for which the vaccine did not protect people. Chun Lin wondered how that could be and how was this missed. She asked her friend where she heard this information from. The friend said from another friend, but she also heard something on the TV about this.

Chun Lin decided to go to the hospital to see if she could talk to one of the doctors or nurses as she was afraid of dying since her aunt had died. She asked her friend if she would go to the hospital with her and she said yes and so they went to the closest hospital to their homes. When they arrived, they asked some people at the entrance desk their questions and they were referred to a special COVID19 clinic. There they met one of the nurses who asked them to sit down. The nurse asked Chun Lin what her question was. Chun Lin asked her about the possible variants, which made the vaccine not as helpful to prevent COVID19.

The nurse said many people are asking this question. First, the nurse said that a virus is a simple organism compared to for example bacteria or a fungus. This simplicity becomes important in vaccine research and development. Why would this be Chun Lin's friend asked? The nurse said that the simpler an organism the more quickly it can change and change that can be meaningful, which is the question many are asking today. So, it is important that organisms change to protect themselves and virus' in particular because they are so simple and can quickly change to adapt to a new situation. In fact, virus' change all the time so that would or should not be a surprise.

The nurse then asked Chun Lin had she thought about the creation of the earth. Chun Lin said not really. Her friend responded the same to the nurse. They asked the nurse why she was asking that question and she said that she believes God exists and that 'in the beginning he created the heavens and the earth.' Further, God went on to create all of the animals and lastly man and woman. God said that the creation of the world was good but that the creation of the man and the woman was very good. Chun Lin and her friend asked the nurse where that information came from?

The nurse replied from the Bible. She said not only did the Bible talk about the goodness of the creation by God but that the man and the woman first created by God sinned. The nurse explained to Chun Lin and her friend that sin is essentially doing what God wants us not to do or disobeying him. The result of that sin the nurse was separation from God, she said that the Bible says, 'For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.' She explained that this means that the whole created order, including man and woman and literally the whole world groans under the weight and punishment of sin.

Chun Lin and her friend both nodded that this was true that it seemed the whole creation seemed always stressed, whether lack of food, deforestation, pollution and death. The nurse went onto say that this speaks directly into the COVID19 situation. The virus is one of those groanings. It is now targeting humans as a result. Further the nurse said is that some of the early vaccines do target or are able to kill or hold back some of these variants. Chun Lin and her friend nodded that this was very good news. They asked though about the future, that is will there be other variants. The nurse said that as she mentioned earlier there will continue to be other variants. The key is to tame the virus we have first. Chun Lin asked what that meant.

The nurse said that taming the virus meant to get this down to a very low number of people having the virus or another way to say this is that at least 70% of the population have either acquired the virus and/or have had a vaccine. Another way to say this is that the higher number of vaccines given the lower the variants will

become so that is very key. Thus, the importance of getting vaccinated. This sounded very good to Chun Lin and her friend. Chun Lin asked though what was the solution to the sin of the world if it was and is so destructive.

Her nurse friend answered by saying that we need to understand that God is not just the creator but He is the one who sustains the whole universe and further he is also the one who judges as he is the creator and sustainer of the universe, but this judgement is a good and helpful justice not random but consistent. Also, we need to understand it is all of the whole world, that is all humans in the world, which has sinned against God. The nurse said that the Bible says that 'all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.' That means, the nurse told Chun Lin and her friend that everyone since the creation of the world and all people have sinned against God. Further, the nurse said, the Bible also says, 'for the wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.' This means there is a consequence of sin, which is eternal death verses eternal life, which is given by God to us through Jesus Christ.

Chun Lin asked the nurse how you can get eternal life through Jesus Christ. The nurse said that she would answer the question but wanted to say one more thing about the variants. The point was that some of the vaccine manufacturers have already made new vaccines for these new variants. She said in one sense we do that yearly for the flu shot, which is similar year to year but different strains, so a different vaccine has to be made yearly for the new variants of flu.

The nurse went on to talk about first we must understand God's love and how much he does love us. The Bible says that, 'God demonstrates his love for us in that while we were still sinners Jesus Christ died for us.' How could God do this the nurse asked Chun Lin and her friend if our sin pushed us away from God? Chun Lin and her friend did not know but they wondered outloud how could someone love someone who had deliberately disobeyed them. The nurse told Chun Lin and her friend that this was a very important question they asked.

The nurse said that God himself is holy or separated totally from sin and does not sin. Further, God hates sin and needs to turn his hatred onto either that person or someone that can take the wrath of God. That person is Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ came to earth to save us from our sins. He did that by dying on the Cross and there on the Cross Jesus Christ took all of the sins of mankind so that they would

not have to face eternal death away from God in hell. How do we get that eternal life as Chun Lin and her friend had already asked? The answer is to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. Specifically, the nurse said, 'if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead you will be saved.' Believing Jesus is Lord is to believe he is the creator and sustainer and judge of the world. Further, we believe that Jesus not only died on the Cross for our sins, but we believe that he was buried and three days he rose from the dead or was resurrected from the dead and is alive forevermore.

The nurse asked Chun Lin and her friend if they wanted to believe in this Jesus. Both of them said yes. The nurse told Chun Lin and her friend that they each separately would need to ask Jesus into their heart. The nurse asked Chun Lin and her friend to prayer after her. 'Dear Lord Jesus Christ. I confess to you that you are the Creator and Sustainer and judge of the world. I believe that you died on the Cross for my sins. I believe that you were buried and three days later rose again and now live in heaven. I ask you to be my Savior and my Lord. Amen.' Both Chun Lin and her friend believed in Jesus Christ and both we were so excited. They said this is a new day for them and the nurse said not only for today but they will live forever from this day forward with Jesus Christ.