



Moving Forward Together—Parts 1 & 2  
From Sermons 2.14 & 2.21.21

Read *Proverbs 4:20-23*

Reviews from Sunday's sermon: After 11 months of shut down, it is now time for the Church(es) to reopen. Although Covid and its dangers are real, the cost of not meeting has grown greater. The Bible clearly shows a balance wisdom and faith can be reached. Modern day western Christianity has never known risk—so, there is great fear and apprehension in these days. This, however, is great opportunity for corporate and personal growth.

1. Read *Hebrews 10:24-25*. Modern technology and a Covid culture have made at-home church quite convenient and comfortable. Explain and even cite some examples. Various answers, some personal. But, include: for the first time in Church history, online church was/is possible. You don't have to watch some TV preacher, but are able to watch your own church. Didn't have to get up, get dressed, set-up church, or deal with weather. We were done early in the day.

2. New Heights is committed to taking all reasonable precautions in meeting. Yet, there was also brought up this deep and complex doctrine that “no one will die outside the plan and purpose of God”. Is this being contradictory or hypocritical? Various personal opinions

Discuss that phrase and consider the following passages: *Psalms 139:16, Job 2:1-7, & Matthew 10:27-31*

[Note: You can die in a “way, method, circumstance” outside of God's will (namely in sin = *1 John 5:16*). A believer cannot pass away without God's permission and will.]

3. After 11 months, we have the daunting task of moving church from a view of optional/non-essential to the most essential thing in the life of a believer. What is greatest challenge in doing this in your own life and walk? What do you think will be the great challenges in the days ahead and when the congregation is invited back? Various personal answers

4. Discuss “Consumer Christianity” and how many had made church optional long before Covid. Various answers, but include: for many, almost anything more attractive trumped church—beach, theme park, home, rest, mood, the weather. Western Christianity has been based on convenience, aesthetics, entertainment, programs, church hopping, & a “me” vs. “us” mindset.

5. Read *Matthew 24:3-14*. We also contend that the next great world threat just around the corner. List some possibilities or things you've already heard about. New strains of Covid. New, foreign, unknown diseases coming from other parts of the world. Natural disasters, crime, persecution, economic crisis, power/utility shortages, ...

6. Discuss Pastor Charley's concern on just how quickly and easily the Church accepted the extended no-church orders. \_\_\_\_\_