

# Religion in a time of pestilence

## *21 short prescriptions during the Covid-19 pandemic*



### Part 4

A very bitter, resentful and angry acquaintance of mine (X), hates God with a seething hatred. Nevertheless, at the same time, he doesn't believe there is a god. Over time, his anger has become an indissoluble part of his character and personality.

I don't know the reason for this, as he has not yet taken me into his confidence about the root cause(s). His anger includes Jesus – and the Holy Spirit, presumably.

Each time I have attempted to try and reason with him, he spurns my attempts. So I am forced to conclude my attempts are not in line with what God would have him contemplate.

Recently, the Lord showed me two important things to consider:

1. In reality, X hasn't the foggiest idea who God really is. The object of his hatred is his own construct. If he knew who God is, he wouldn't be opposed to him.
2. God hasn't given up on X.

When the pandemic has run its course, I want to run those two thoughts past X. But I suspect his prejudices will overwhelm even my kindest words. But who knows, God's love finds ways we can only marvel at.

A friend of mine would unkindly describe his mind as being like concrete: thoroughly mixed up and permanently set. I hope none of us fall into that category.

The lockdown gives us all a wonderful opportunity not to eat too much, watch too much TV and exercise too little, but rather make use of the spare time to develop some good thinking habits. In

Christian language, this is called contemplation and meditation. Most of the time we are too busy to budget much time for the things of God.

So let's ask God to show us where we need to change our attitudes and use the time profitably to emerge from our enforced cocoon both older and wiser in Christian living.