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File name: Reviewing_the_theological_meanin...
File size: 237.24K
Page count: 14
Word count: 6,213
Character count: 31,496
Submission date: 11-Feb-2021 12:35PM (UTC+0700)
Submission ID: 1506919698

**Covid-19 as *Paidéia*:
Reviewing the Theological Meaning of Covid-19
Based on Hebrews 12:4-13**

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Abstract

*Discussions regarding the COVID-19 pandemic have been carried out by experts in the field of theology. They understood the pandemic as only a punishment from God. The question that arises is, is the COVID-19 pandemic, solely a punishment from God? This question arises because, if God is only understood as an angry God, then that view will lead people to understand that God is evil. This article aims to examine the theological meaning of the COVID-19 pandemic based on the idea of *paidéia* in Hebrews 12: 4-13. My thesis is, COVID-19 is not only a form of punishment, but also as a manifestation of God's love as well. The research method I use is qualitative research. Through that method, I offer a new perspective on the meaning of COVID-19 and demonstrate the theological meaning of COVID-19 as a form of education from God to shape human character for a better future.*

Keywords: COVID-19; holiness; love; *paidéia*; pandemic; punishment

Introduction

As the outbreak of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic in December 2019 in Wuhan, China, COVID-19 has spread throughout the world, experts have begun to do research on COVID-19 and its effects. Experts in the United States are trying to find a correlation between climate indicators and COVID-19¹ Meanwhile, in Indonesia, research has been carried out on the impact of the national COVID-19 disaster on the economic recession,² including the efforts of the Indonesian government to try to prevent the COVID-19 disaster.³ To explore the possible mutation of COVID-19, research was also conducted using the application of the Needleman-

¹ Muhammad Farhan Bashir, Benjiang Ma, Bilal, Bushra Koral, Muhammad Adnan Bashir, Doojiao Tan, and Mubita Bashir, 'Correlation between climate indicators and COVID-19 pandemic in New York, USA', *Science of the Total Environment* (2020), 1-4.

² Endang Naryono, 'Impact of National Disaster COVID-19, Indonesia Towards Economic Recession', *COVID-19 Indonesian Research Repository* (2020), <http://ojs.umsida.ac.id/ejournal/index.php/doi/10.24127/2020030101>.

³ Mayusef Sukmanal, Muhammad Aminuddin and Dwi Nopriyanto, 'Indonesian Government Response in COVID-19 Disaster Prevention', *East African Scholars Journal of Medical Sciences* 3.3 (Mar 2020): 81-86.