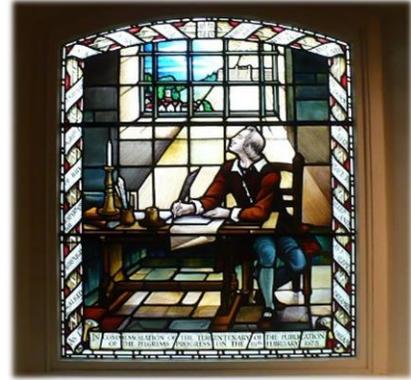


March 30, 2020

Good afternoon, Everyone.

Many thanks to our folks who prepared and ministered to us yesterday. I trust that all of us were enabled to gather from the services the sufficiency that we need for the coming week. *When they measured it with an omer, he who had gathered much had no excess, and he who gathered little had no lack; every man gathered as much as he should eat (Ex. 16:18).*



When I returned from church last night and we were meeting with some of our children over ZOOM, the ladies in the family informed me with some humor that my calling on the children six and under to find the two kinds of persons in Psalm 1:6 was a bit optimistic. *Dad, six year olds are just learning how to read. They're reading words like, "cat" and "hat." They can't read "righteous" and "wicked."*

Ohhhh. Well. . . I'll try to be more realistic next time. Sorry kids!

Guarding our Minds

Yesterday I encouraged our looking through our libraries and finding the really spiritually-minded authors to read during this time. I've begun reading back through a forty-year correspondence between John Newton and a much younger pastor, published under the title, *Wise Counsel* (Banner of Truth, 2009).

At the point that I was reading this morning, the younger man (John Ryland, Jr.) is barely twenty, and though thoroughly in earnest, still somewhat naïve about the very real dangers of spiritual warfare. He's suggested to Newton that perhaps it would be conducive to his spiritual growth to be more frequently exercised by Satan's temptations. Newton, more than twenty-five years Ryland's senior and thoroughly experienced in the ways of the world and the Devil, cautions wisely,

Have you ever considered what the enemy can do, if he is permitted to come in like a flood? In one hour he could raise such a storm as would put you at your wit's end. He could bring such a dark cloud over your mind, as would blot out all remembrance of your past comforts, or at

least prevent you from deriving the least support from them. He could not only fight against your peace, but shake the very foundations of your hope and bring you to question not only your interest in the promises, but even to doubt the most important and fundamental truths upon which your hopes have been built. Be thankful, therefore, if the Lord restrains his malice. A young sailor is often impatient of a short calm, but the experienced mariner, who has often been tossed with tempests, and upon the point of perishing, will seldom wish for a storm. In a word, let us patiently wait upon the Lord, and be content to follow as he leads, and he will surely do us good.

Earlier this morning I'd prayed that the Lord would protect your minds today, lest you be dismayed and troubled unduly by the world's alarms and fears. *The man who fears the LORD, who greatly delights in His commandments . . . will not fear evil tidings* (Ps. 112:1a, 7a).

Do give special attention during this time of increasing temptation, to *be renewed in the spirit of your mind* (Eph. 4:23). The scripture memorizing and the reading of the kinds of books that I've been urging on you is our necessary part in fortifying the *spirit* (what does that refer to?) of our minds against Satan's fiery darts.

Then we can anticipate that the Lord will guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus (Phil. 4:7).

Thank you for your many prayers and encouragements during this time.

Praying for You Today,

Pastor Minnick