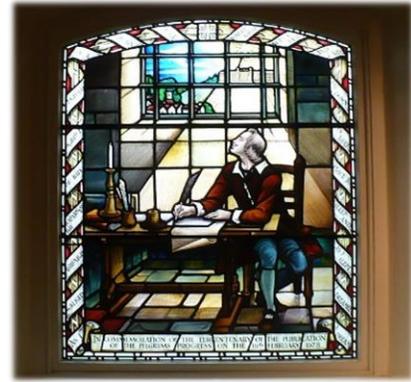


April 15, 2020

Good afternoon, Everybody.

The elders held their monthly meeting last night. Usually we sit around the conference table in my study at church, but now for the second month we met virtually. One unforeseen advantage of that has been that men who are out of town or confined to the house (like Pastor Tipton) have been able to join. We had a good meeting, though a little long; over 4 hours! And no dessert! (If this kind of unhappy deprivation continues for long, the entire elder board will show back up at church in baggy suits.)



Much of our discussion last night concerned the challenge of holding a quarterly business meeting. We're grateful to have arrived at an approach that we'll be talking with you about if it turns out that we're still not able to meet on site by the end of April.

The other matter we discussed at length was Dr. Davis's departure for Arizona this summer and our church's need for knowing the Lord's mind about his successor. Dr. Davis joined us last night so that we'd have the benefit of his perspective. Someone asked (at least half seriously) after he signed out, whether there's any possibility that this virus might alter things to the point that he wouldn't be *able* to leave us. We're all in agreement about that: it would be wonderful!

But he doesn't seem to be changing his mind. So we're seeing that, if possible, it would be a significant advantage to the church to have someone alongside him and learning the role's responsibilities from him before he leaves. That may not be what the Lord intends, but we're at least hopeful along that line. I know that all of you will be joining us in prayer for the Lord's leading about this. You recall Dr. Davis's relating to us how the Lord led him so clearly in his decision. Surely the Lord will not leave the rest of us without the same clear direction. He knows and will provide for us as well.

Prayer Meeting Tonight

What we'll do tonight is to have an abbreviated time in the Word and then a church-wide prayer meeting. Six men are going to be leading us in praying about needs specific to six groups of people. But what we need to really do is *join* with these men as they lead us. We can't just listen to them. We must work hard to keep our minds from wandering, and to *pray with* them.

The scriptural example for us is what the early church did when it was threatened.

And when they heard this [the Sanhedrin's threat], they lifted up their voices to God with one accord. . . (Acts 4:24).

A scriptural direction for us is. . .

. . . being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose (Phil. 2:2).

Please prepare your heart this afternoon so that you're in a sanctified frame of mind and ready to join in prayer when the meeting begins tonight.

Praying for You Today,

Pastor Minnick