

April 9, 2020

## Good morning, Everybody.

Since Sunday our family has received two sets of masks. The first, of cloth, was made by Joy Collins' mom, Sandy. I've not needed to try it out yet, but I'm certainly anticipating a good experience (smile).

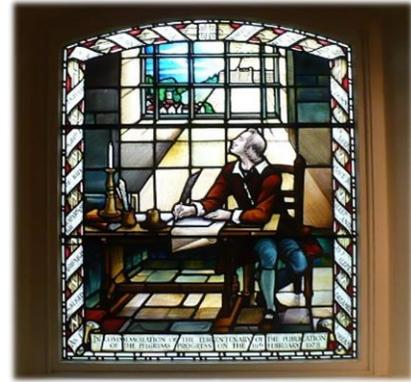
I'm including a picture of the second set.



The Moffitt girls made these cookies for those who came to church last night to do the live-streaming. They were so nice! Until I somehow smeared the icing on the way home. Many apologies to the girls! I hope that when I wear my real mask out in public that I'll look a little more like the cookie on the left, and *not* like the one in the middle (the guy on the right seems to have lost one of his eyes; so he doesn't count).

## Prayer

Two years ago Sam Arnold's cousin, Matthew Hancock, self-published a 42 page booklet of quotations on prayer. Sam gave a copy to me, and I've found it to be an unusually good source of inspiration. Definitely one of the more inspirational



helps to prayer that I've used; drawing on over 50 authors, most of them previous to the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

When I picked it up this morning, two quotations on the back cover caught my attention because of their advocating the use of spiritually stimulating books during your devotional times.

*[Before you pray] it is advisable to use the Bible especially and afterwards some spirit-stirring book, be it a memoir or spiritual treatise, to stir up the black hot coals and compel them to break into a Heaven-ascending flame (F. B. Meyer).*

*Read the Holy Scriptures, and such lively writings as help you to understand and practice them. As going to the fire is our way when we are cold . . . so reading over some part of a warm and quickening book, will do much to warm and quicken a benumbed soul. . . . I have found it myself a great help (Richard Baxter).*

Even though your devotional times may be brief, don't be afraid to squeeze in a few minutes for devotional reading. You'll find that the time that you do have for praying and reading Scripture will be richer (*almost* always).

### Today

Just want to mention again the possibility of your thinking of one specific blessing for which to thank the Lord today. Think of it, write it down, and then recall it several times throughout the day. Maybe once in the morning, then around noon, and finally before you go to bed tonight. *Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forgot not all His benefits (Psalm 103:2).*

Well. . . time to begin preparation for the Lord's Day. May the Lord give all of us a grateful, trusting, entirely safe and productive day.

Praying for You,

Pastor Minnick