





Very same shoot. Very same context. But much more of it now visible.

All of you going through the evening “Use of the Psalter” series will understand my feeling that it illustrates a different concept than “the stump and the shoot.”

You look at a picture like this, and the little shoot looks hopeful, but ohhhhh(!), sooooo fragile and vulnerable!

It’s much more like the reality of a family or a church in the world; not at all dominant or secure. Like the concept of the “psalm 1 man in a psalm 2 world.”

The Lord called us, *little flock* (Luke 12:32). That would be a good scriptural expression for dads to explain and to remind their families about. And for pastors to remember; this church is a *little flock* in a world of cares, carnality, and open-jawed hostility. Were it not that we are *kept* (John 17:15), we most surely would be swallowed whole.

The Puritan, John Owen, who had for a season been one of the most influential religious voices in all of England, ended his days pastoring a small church of disenfranchised non-conformists in the heart of London. On the day before his death, he wrote to a dear Christian friend: *I am leaving the ship of the church in a storm, but whilst the great Pilot is in it, the loss of a poor under-rower will be inconsiderable.*

*Live, and pray, and hope, Owen continued, and wait patiently, and do not despond; the promise stands invincible, that He will never leave us nor forsake us.*

Lord willing, we’ll gather “virtually” tomorrow night. And we’ll pray together. The family that prays together has the most possibility of staying together despite the world. As does the church that prays together.

I Prayed for You This Morning,

Pastor Minnick