

Good morning, everyone!

Beginning today, I'll be sending a series of considerations and suggestions for your spiritual stewardship of the present crisis. The logo to the right is a stained-glass portrayal of John Bunyan writing *Pilgrim's Progress* from prison. Our homeschoolers' program on this theme just one week ago reminded us that, happily, we are *strangers and pilgrims* on our way to a better time and a better place (smile).



But along our pilgrim path today, we have opportunities for growing in grace, serving one another, evangelizing the world, proving God's faithfulness, and giving Him glory. Those will be the issues I (or occasionally, others) will take up in this series of e-mails. So here we go!

First Thing:

Consider your household. There are three kinds of these in our church: singles, marrieds, or a parent/parents with children. Especially if you're a parent(s) with children, seize the hour!

You know that if the Lord tarries His coming, it's almost a given that your children will live in a world convulsed by even greater crises. Think in terms of Matthew 24:6-14. But this crisis hands you a providential "dress rehearsal" for discipling your children in how to think and act thirty, forty, and even fifty or more years from now. Give them memories of spiritual conviction, counsel, and courage that they'll never forget; that they'll recount gratefully to their own children and grandchildren. What you'll want for them someday is that *One generation shall praise Your works to another, and shall declare Your mighty acts* (Ps. 145:4).

In light of this, here are three initial suggestion for us.

- 1 For everyone: Begin to memorize Psalm 91. I'll be using it as the "platform" for a new series of Wednesday night messages.
- 2 For singles: Consider beginning a nightly time of scripture reading and prayer with another single person. You can do it by phone or some other electronic means.
- 3 For couples and parents of children. If you haven't yet begun regular family worship, you really need to do so (please let me be prescriptive (smile)). Parents, especially, provide your children with the daily spiritual security of a regular time of talking about what the Lord is doing in the world, reading His Word to get His thoughts about it, and then committing everyone's cares to Him in prayer.

Praying for You,

Pastor Minnick