

March 23, 2020

## Good morning, Everyone.

Many thanks to the audio/visual folks who got us up and running yesterday! So grateful for them; we're all indebted.



### A Little Common Sense:

I'd like to begin today by encouraging you to take the health officials' counsels about how to avoid contracting this virus. Please don't be careless about these things. It's *rest in the arms of His care*, not *rest in the arms of His care carelessly*.

We would also do well to prepare for the possibility that in the near future we may be confined to our homes for at least a few weeks.

Here's a verse to reconcile us to the prudence of preparing. The LORD said to Noah, *As for you, take for yourself some of all food which is edible, and gather it to yourself; and it shall be for food for you and for them* (Gen. 6:21).

The *you*, was Noah and his family. The *them*, were all the living creatures that would be with them in the ark for a long time.

God was going to preserve Noah, his family, and all the creatures miraculously. But He also was going to do so by very ordinary means: Noah's laying up food.

Be considerate and sensitive to the needs of everyone, but also prudent about foreseeing that your home may become your "ark" for awhile.

Well, that's probably enough said along that line. But I did show that verse to Linda, and suggested that she make a trip to the grocery store (smile).

## Providence:

We reviewed Catechism cards 27 and 28 yesterday, concerning God's providence. Let's stay alert to reassuring evidences of it, whether through *affliction* or *prosperity* (see card 28).

Regarding *affliction* and our being *patient* under it, consider these words from John Flavel's little book, *Keeping the Heart*.

*It is of marvelous efficacy to keep the heart from sinking under affliction to call to mind that your own Father has the control over it. Not a creature moves hand or tongue against you but by His permission. Suppose the cup is a bitter cup, yet it is the cup which your Father has given you to drink. Can you suspect poison to be in that cup which He delivers to you?*

*Foolish man, bring home the case to your own heart, and consult with your own spirit. Can you find in your heart to give your child that which would hurt or undo him? No. You would as soon hurt yourself as him. "If you then being evil know how to give good gifts to your children," how much more does God (Mtt. 7:11)!*

*Nothing grieves Him more than your groundless and unworthy suspicions of His designs do. Would it not grieve a faithful, tender-hearted physician, when he has studied the case of his patient and prepared the most excellent medicine to save his life, to hear him cry out, "Oh, he has undone me! He has poisoned me," because the operation hurts him?*

There's a wonderful song by William Cowper which we've sung many times, *God Moves in a Mysterious Way*. Here's the line that comes to my mind upon reading Flavel's last paragraph (above).

*Behind a frowning providence, He hides a smiling face.*

So, trust Him! May the Spirit of God work that fruit of faith in us this week.

Praying for You Today,

Pastor Minnick