

March 25, 2020

Good morning, Everyone.

The rain falling lightly on the roof and against the sides of the house was pleasant the last few days. But it'll be nice to see the sun again.



The elders' meeting last night via ZOOM was a remarkable experience. Huddling up with a dozen widely scattered people simultaneously on a single screen is a marvel. Each of us was able to attend in our own most comfortable chair, break for a favorite snack, mute our microphone or blind our screen whenever we wished, and just generally enjoy the best of both worlds: a gathering with some of our closest Christian brothers, but each from within his own *home, sweet home*. We probably better not get too used to this (smile).

We took some time for each man to share updates from his SS class and from recent contacts with some of you. And prayed for you! And worked together at trying to prudently prepare for the foreseeable needs of the church during this time. We'll be sending out occasional information. Be sure to check your e-mail regularly.

Tonight

This evening we'll have our second live-streamed prayer meeting. I trust that you and your family can join together for it in a single room of your home, just like you would worship all together if you were coming to the church building tonight. There's something warm and reassuring about meeting with others when you meet with the Lord. We pile coals together to help them heat one another.

Those of you who are single might be able to find ways to somehow share the time with friends without exposing yourselves to unnecessary risks. But let's all of us be sure to include our regular time of prayer when the Bible study concludes. We're not going to do well during this time if we don't pray! *If my people, who are called by my name, shall humble themselves and pray. . .*

Gratefulness

We all recognize that the internet is a tool employed by the Devil to infect people everywhere with contagions infinitely more cruel than COVID-19. But it is God's tool also.

When Matthew Henry left home in 1685 to begin studies in a small, Puritan academy in London, he marveled on how speedily he and his parents could communicate by mail. *A letter can come from your hands to mine in the space of sixty hours.*

Sixty hours of continuous mail coach travel. Two and a half days.

Today, the distance from London to Matthew's home in northern England can be driven in an afternoon.

Tonight, missionaries thousands of miles away from us will receive our live-streamed service in seconds.

We have much for which to praise the Lord!

Praying for You Today,

Pastor Minnick