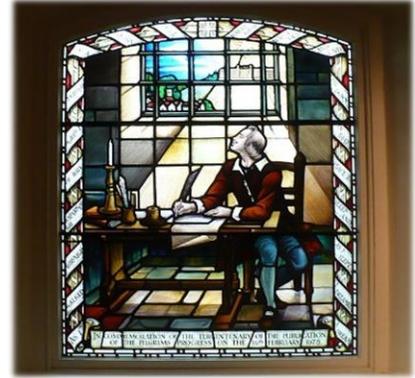


April 25, 2020

## Good morning, Everybody.

We can be so thankful that tomorrow is the Lord's Day. Every first day of the week resets our spirit to its best condition; beyond which we could ask for none better. *I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day* (Rev. 1:10).



John Bunyan admonished,

*Have a special care to sanctify the Lord's Day; for as thou keepest it, so it will be with thee all the week long. Make the Lord's day the market day for thy soul.*

Now that we're prevented from praying and singing and fellowshiping with one another on the Lord's Day—even from partaking together of the Lord's Table (what may **that** signify?)--there are passages in Psalms that are becoming increasingly poignant.

I used to go along with the throng *and* lead them in procession to the house of God, with the voice of joy and thanksgiving, a multitude keeping festival (42:4b-c).

O LORD, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells (26:8).

One thing I have asked from the LORD, that shall I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD and to mediate in His temple (27:4).

My soul longed and even yearned for the courts of the LORD. . . (84:2a).

For a day in Your courts is better than thousand *outside*. . . (84:10a).

In His temple everything says, "Glory!" (29:9c).

I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go to the house of the LORD” (122:1).

The bird also has found a house, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, even Your altars, O LORD of hosts, My King and My God. How blessed are those who dwell in Your house! They are ever praising You! (84:3-4).

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brothers to dwell together in unity (133:1).

*Have we been glad when they said, “Let us go to the house of the LORD?” Have we longed and even yearned for it? Have we felt that “a day in Your courts is better than a thousand outside”? Have we done our utmost to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace?*

*Or have we been easily offended? Impossible to reconcile? Hard to please? Critical in heart? Dull of hearing? My, how tiresome it is! (Malachi 1:13a).*

“And you disdainfully sniff at it,” says the LORD of hosts (Malachi 1:13b).

Each Saturday I’ve been sending a portion of George Swinnock’s “Good Wish about the Lord’s Day.” Last week the portion ended with the wish that on the Lord’s Day I might,

*. . . so open the door of my heart and adorn it with spiritual excellencies, that the King of glory may enter in, and think himself a welcome guest in my soul.*

Swinnock’s very next sentence reads,

*Oh that I might never give my God cause to complain of me, as once of the Jews, “Your Sabbaths and solemn feasts I cannot away with, for your hands are defiled.”*

I wrote this letter, all the way down to quoting from Malachi 1:13, without so much as opening Swinnock. I haven't looked at him all week, and though I'd read his "Good Wish" years ago, I certainly had no remembrance of the line that would follow what I sent last week.

So I'm going to take it as the answer to my prayer for our church early this morning, that the letter and the very next sentence in Swinnock (quoted above) have been providentially associated today.

All over the world tomorrow the church buildings will again lie locked and silent for yet another week. Not just the mosques and the synagogues. Not just the buildings of the apostate and the cathedrals of the Bible-denying, but even those usually filled by evangelicals and fundamentalists. All over the world!

We ought to think about that; soberly and searchingly.

We're told that,

*it is time for judgment to begin with the household of God (I Peter 4:17).*

How badly do we want to be able to return to our services? What will we do with the Lord's Day from now on if He allows us to meet again? Will we be **GLAD!** Will we come with clean hearts and innocent hands? Will we greet one another with joy and love? Will we turn our feet from doing our own pleasure and *call the Sabbath a delight*? Will we *honor it*? Will we desist from our own ways and seeking our own pleasure and speaking our own word? Will we *take delight in the LORD*?

Search me, O God, and know my heart;  
Try me and know my anxious thoughts;  
And see if there be any hurtful way in me,  
And lead me in the everlasting way (Psalm 139:23-24).

Praying for Us Today,

Pastor Minnick