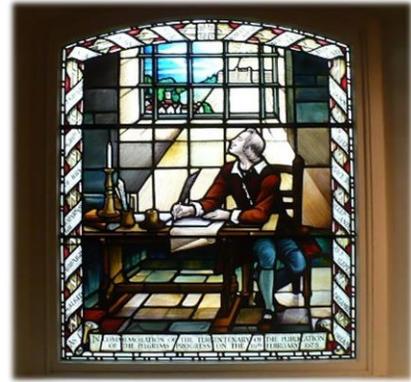


April 3, 2020

Good morning, Everybody.

What a beautiful (!) day outside. I planted a (*a*, as in *one*) tomato plant late yesterday afternoon. Tomato plants don't tend to flourish in our garden, and I'd decided not to fool with them again this year. But when I went to pick up a little garden soil for other things, I discovered that I'm dogged by a strange instinct when it comes to growing tomatoes; *hope springs eternal*. So I'm pretty happy about the bright sunshine this morning.



Memorizing

Are you working on Psalm 91? Yesterday a really encouraging note came from one of our moms at church. She's memorizing Psalm 91 and beginning the day by quoting it. So good to hear.

Mrs. Boyd was a great one for memorizing. She once called my attention to Proverbs 22:18, *For it will be pleasant if you keep them within you, that they may be ready on your lips.*

That's scripture. It's God's word. So it'll prove to be true for you. Don't doubt it! You experience pleasure when reading your Bible. You experience pleasure when hearing it preached. Now here's still another way to experience pleasure. I'd argue that it's not only *another* way, but the *only* way to experience a particular level of pleasure with God's Word.

You **will** find it to be *pleasant* to be able to begin your day with God's words *ready on your lips*. Why keep telling yourself the old lie that you can't memorize? Sure, you may not any longer have the quick recall of a child. Maybe you never did find it easy to memorize. But you probably do remember a lot of things, including some that you wish you didn't. So how about dropping the lame excuse, and just getting a little discipline going? Pick up your Bible, pray for God to quicken your memory, and go to it! *It will be pleasant* ("sweet," or "a pleasure") to capture a soul-warming passage a verse, or if necessary, even just a line at a time.

Our Folks on the Frontline

The staff has been compiling a list of everyone we can think of who is working in health care. They're more exposed to this virus than the rest of us because it's the Lord's calling for them to be around sick people.

I'm going to list their names in a minute, but yesterday one of them sent a note to Dr. Davis and to me that I asked if I could share. It brought home to me the reality of this crisis like nothing I've yet read or heard.

I wanted to take a moment and personally thank you for the great gift you have given us in the hymnal supplement, and especially the emphasis on singing the Psalms. There are really no words to adequately describe the deep and abiding ministry of these Psalms. . . .

Last week . . . I was suiting up for the first time to enter a COVID-19 room. I have had no small amount of apprehension in preparing for this. I have been a nurse for 23 years, but never has the personal risk been so high, and the risk to my family weighs heavily on my mind. Information is changing rapidly, and on that particular day there was a sense that we really didn't know what we should be doing. The procedure I was performing takes about 45 minutes, and that is a long time to be in an infected room. The Lord so graciously brought Psalm 62 to mind. It is not difficult for the music to "run in the background" while working, and while I suppose I often hum to myself while I work, this time God really used that Psalm to cut through the apprehensive thoughts and concerns and bring a perfect peace. I was able to enter the room with a calm and trusting spirit and the joy that comes from knowing that you are secure in Him.

"For the God of My salvation, For my rock, for God my own;
In this hour my soul is waiting Silently for God alone.
While He shields me as a fortress, Shaken I will never be.
Tho' the foe assails the stronghold, Nothing can unsettle me."

"Wait my soul, in perfect stillness; Find your hope in God alone.
While you rest in His salvation, You cannot be overthrown,
Wait, my soul, grow strong in waiting; Glory in your God and rest;
Meditate on His perfections, Read His comforts and be blest."

I have been very motivated to renew my efforts to commit these Psalms to memory and even have a dedicated "Praise Glorious" for use at work now. 😊 A very heartfelt thank you for such a wonderful blessing!

Praising God for His blessings,

September L. Washer

Here's the list of our folks working in health care:

Helen Berman (nurse in Zambia)
Dan Dahlhausen (doctor)
Karen Diachenko (secretary in a doctor's office)
Anne Dreisbach (nurse in Suriname)
Flora Earnest (nurse)
Helen Houtz (nurse)
Tom Kendall (doctor)
Sharon Lambright (nurse)
Rachel Langendorfer (nurse in PNG)
Mary Larsen (nurse)
Jennifer Pearson (nurse in PNG)
Benson Quattlebaum (nurse)
Asher Vincent (nurse)
September Washer (nurse)

Could we all band together around these folks with our prayers? It would be really encouraging to them to know that there won't be a day that goes by, but that we're interceding with the Lord for an impenetrable shield of protection to be thrown all around them while they work.

Praying for You Today,

Pastor Minnick