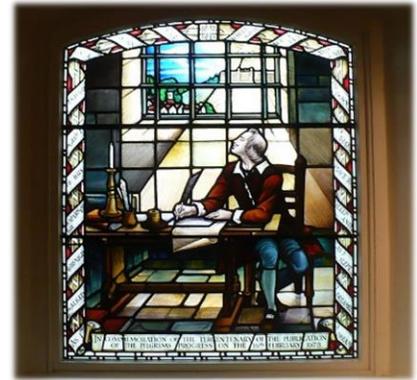


May 11, 2020

## Good morning, Everybody.

Did you get a fresh, encouraging start on the new week this morning? I hope so (smile). Certainly there were many of you who did. But perhaps there are a few who had a perfectly wonderful day yesterday but found yourself already foundering today. Don't stay down a minute more.



All God's splendid gifts are just as much yours in Christ right now as they were twelve hours ago. They may include rebuke (if that's what you deserve and need already today), restoration (*He restoreth . . .* (the word means, "returns," or "turns back"), perhaps a little parental discipline (Hebrews 12), strength (*as your days, so shall your strength be*), the Divine "wish" that you might experience God's *grace, mercy and peace* (I Timothy 1:2; II Timothy 1:2), and *all things that pertain unto life and godliness* (II Peter 1:3). How can you possibly obtain them? After all, you stumbled right out of the gate this morning.

*Be anxious for nothing, but in everything, by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known unto God. . .*

Have you done that intentionally? Not carelessly. Not half-heartedly (*if you seek me with **all** your heart. . .*) or with a double mind (*let not that man think that he shall receive **anything** of the Lord*), but deliberately, humbly, and believingly (*according to your faith be it unto you*). If so, then receive into your soul the *peace of God that passeth understanding* (Philippians 4:7). Don't attempt to fight for it; to wring it desperately out of your circumstances. **Receive** it.

*Peace I leave with you,  
My peace I give unto you (John 14:27).*

*His name will be called. . . Prince of peace (Isaiah 9:6).*

*Peace from God our Father. . . (I Tim. 1:2).*

*Peace, peace, wonderful peace,  
Coming down from the Father above. . .*

*The fruit of the Spirit is . . . peace. . . (Gal. 5:22).*

You may feel already today that you don't have any chance whatsoever of getting even five quiet minutes to open your soul to the sunshine of His love. One harried mother of many children a few centuries ago found that in her tiny little home she could only find a *closet and shut the door*, by throwing her apron over her head!

Have you tried that (smile)? I do it nearly every morning. Our street is so busy and noisy that by a little after 7:00 a.m. I feel as though I'm trying to read and pray out alongside a freeway. But I rummaged around for an answer and hit upon an "apron" several years ago; a set of noise-cancelling headphones. A little funny looking, but they work. If I were again a student in a dorm, or living in some crowded circumstance, I'd put a set of these on my wish list for a birthday. There's something about slipping them on that truly quiets, not just the outside, but my inside. You might try them (smile).

### **Back to Blantyre**

But, of course, one can fellowship with God in a less than ideal circumstance and no technological apron. I mentioned yesterday morning the little one-room apartment in which David Livingstone, his four siblings, and their two parents lived in Blantyre, Scotland. Turns out that my estimate of its size was way too generous.

Last night Jan Patterson sent a note relating that she and Alan have had the pleasure of visiting Blantyre twice. She went looking on the web and found the dimensions of that room. It's 10'x14', less than 150 square feet. For seven people! Below is a picture.



I hope that it will encourage you to see this little space. There are none of us living in such a straitened circumstance, I'm pretty sure.

Praying for You Today,

Pastor Minnick