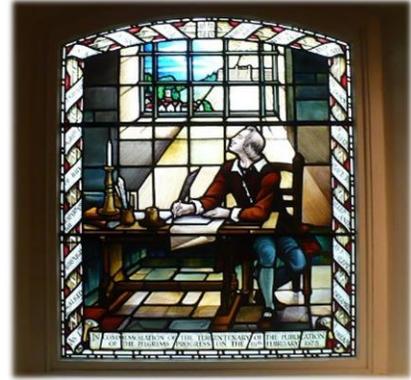


May 19, 2020

## Good morning, Everyone.

Two rainy days in a row. Today's gentle drip is more soothing than yesterday's deluge.



(About fifteen minutes after I wrote that, it began to pour! And has been doing so off and on ever since.)

### Parenting 1:8

We have a fledgling ministry for families entitled “Parenting 1:8” (based on Proverbs 1:8) that has barely gotten off the ground since its inception in the Spring of 2013. But the three conferences that we’ve had (with the Ken Endeans, the Terry Hamiltons, and the Matt Fagans) were outstanding. I have a fourth couple in mind for a next conference, and hope to begin planning for it over the summer.

At our conference last year the church provided a small book for dads. It was originally a sermon by Matthew Henry, but has since been edited and published under a new title, “Building a God Centered Family: A Father’s Manual.” It’s also for moms, of course.

What reminded me of the book was a note that came yesterday from one of our moms.

I have recently just started reading the book from the parenting conference. As I read the introduction, a part of it read, “. . . making the family a little church was the key to reformation and that there would be no reformation without it.”

I immediately wondered if this was not one of the works the Lord desires to work in His people’s lives and homes through this pandemic. I thought of your question about how the Lord was preparing our church. I thought of the many homes given this book and less hurried days for turning our time

to improving this area in our homes. It has certainly been a desire of my heart to be more intentional in this area.

That's encouraging! Amen! Now a word to the dads (smile).

Eight or nine of the 90-some pages concern family worship. One of Henry's counsels is that the family be sure to *offer up family thanksgivings*. He points out that there are many blessings families enjoy which they may be overlooking, but would note immediately if they disappeared. One of the paragraphs is especially convicting in light of our present world-wide health crisis.

*I wonder how any that believe in God or His providence can omit it [thanking God together as a family]. Do you not find health in your family? Has sickness been kept or taken from the midst of you? Does not God bring plentifully into your hands, and increase your substance? Have you not your table spread, and your cup running over, and manna rained about your tents? And does not the whole family share in the comfort of all this? Then let there be the voice of thanksgiving in those tabernacles where the voice of rejoicing is (Psalm 118:15). . . . Shall not the God of your mercies, your family mercies, be the God of your praises, your family-praises, and that daily?*

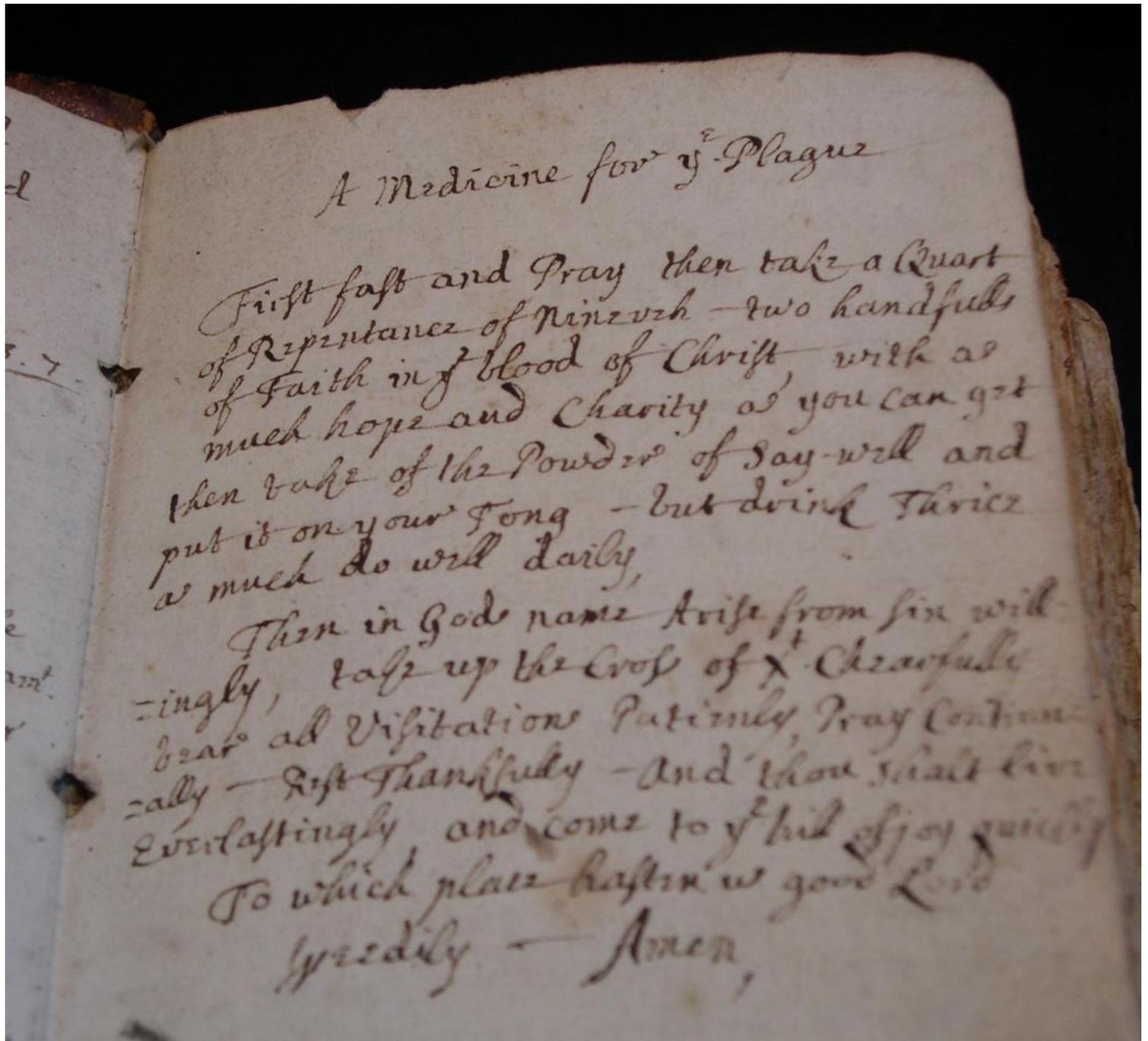
At the very least, our families thank the Lord together at mealtime. It would do all of us good to enlarge those thanksgivings to include the safety and provision that we continue to enjoy during this pandemic.

### Sarah Savage

I mentioned yesterday my having photographed one of the journals of Sarah Savage, Matthew Henry's oldest sister. She began them at twenty-two, just before her marriage, and continued until her death at 87. Her husband was a farmer, and they had all the overwhelming cares of life common to their era. Those included periodic outbreaks of fearful plague.

On one occasion she pours out praise that at a season when the mortality bills in London were broadcasting hundreds of weekly deaths in the city from a smallpox epidemic, she and her family were kept safe.

Near the beginning of one of her diaries, there's a page entitled, "A Medicine for Ye Plague." I thought you might be blessed by it, though you'll have to work a little at deciphering the three-centuries-old script.



I'll get you started, and then let's see how you do. . .

## **A Medicine for Ye Plague**

**First fast and pray. Then take a quart of repentance of Ninevah—two handfuls of faith in the blood of Christ—with as much . . .**

I hope that you'll be blessed from this little exercise in transcription (smile).

Praying for You Today,

Pastor Minnick