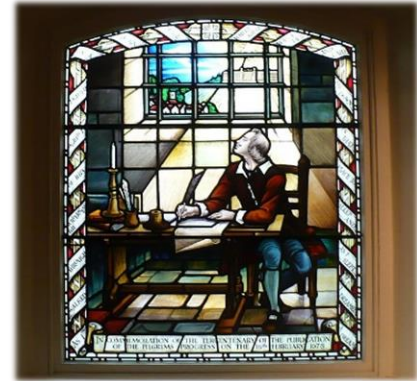


May 26, 2020

Good morning, Everybody.

Would you please take a look at the picture below?



This is one of Dr. Boyd's new projects. He's an innovative gardener, as well as a professional entomologist (*bug man*, is what he calls it). What you're looking at is his newest gardening project. It's an oak sapling from an acorn he germinated, replanted now in an old stump in their yard. And you can guess what he's calling it; *the stump and the shoot*. Anyone following our current Lord's Day evening Psalm series is in the know about what that image and verbiage portray.

Since our entire church is now going to be following this project with keen interest, it really needs to succeed (smile).

No Other Explanation

The nearly ninety-year-old dust cover of my copy of *Borden of Yale* has a few blurbs of recommendation. The first, by Charles Erdman (renowned, conservative professor of theology at Princeton from 1905-1936), reads,

Apart from Christ, there is no explanation of such a life.

Wouldn't that make a great challenge by which to live each new day? To live in such a way today that *apart from Christ*, there could be *no explanation*? No

explanation for the faith. No explanation for the faithfulness. No explanation for the patience under provocation. No explanation for the gracious disposition. No explanation for the wise words. No explanation for the spiritual mindedness. No explanation for the love in thought and word and deed. No explanation for. . .

What a blessedness, what a peace would be ours to be able to lie down each night with a grateful awareness that, *Apart from Christ, there could be no explanation for the way I lived today.*

Planning

This afternoon our staff will be finalizing plans for phasing back into our on-site services and ministries. I know that you'll pray that we'll not overlook any essential considerations and that the arrangements will enable us to worship on Sunday with minimal distracting bustle and confusion. Undoubtedly, the first service or two will feel a little novel. But with the Lord's blessing upon our efforts to be considerate of one another and to do things *decently and in order*, we'll probably be able to adjust pretty quickly. But let's do be sure not to take this for granted, but to display our dependence upon the Lord by praying about it intentionally and specifically. Luther said that, *To have prayed well was to have studied well.* Likewise, *To have prayed well is to have prepared well.*

Prayed for You Around 7:00 This Morning,

Pastor Minnick