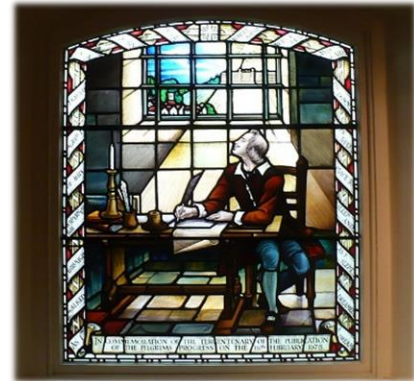


July 13, 2020

## Good morning, Everybody.

I trust that you've had a good beginning to the new week. Day by day the Lord is tenderly watching over us. He hears and answers our prayers. Is there in you some corroding care or doubtfulness about this?



What did you ask last week? Did you pray for work? Did you ask, *Give us this day our daily bread*? And what did you request before your meals? Did you request renewed physical strength from your eating and drinking? Did you ask for good health from your food? Or to query down another line, did you request safety as you drove about the city or out of town from one place to another? And did you ask to be protected from this present virus? Did you pray to be able to sleep? And did you, in turn, experience those very benefits? And others like them? Then, *What do you have that you did not receive* (I Corinthians 4:7)? Is it not He Who opens His hand and satisfies the desire of every living thing (Psalms 145:16)?

Begone, unbelief: my Savior is near,  
And for my relief will surely appear;  
By prayer let me wrestle, and He will perform;  
With Christ in the vessel, I smile at the storm.

His love in time past forbids me to think  
He'll leave me at last in trouble to sink;  
Each sweet Ebenezer I have in review  
Confirms His good pleasure to help me quite through.

--John Newton, *Olney Hymns*

But, of course, He may have humbled us for a time and allowed us to go hungry (Deuteronomy 8:2). (Though most of us have probably never known *real, gnawing, pit-of-the-stomach hunger* a single day in our lives). What is such "hunger" but His occasional reproof and faithful discipline, "even as a father

*corrects* the son in whom he delights” (Prov. 3:12). Perhaps you’re fearful about this today. You keep trying to figure out whether your loss or your need or your pain is His discipline or just something that has happened. You keep thinking that you’d feel so much better if it were just a happening. That way you’d know that He’s not chastening you. But why would you be happier about that?

Whom the LORD loves He reproveth,  
Even as a father *corrects* the son in whom he delights (Proverbs 3:12).

*Loves . . . delights* (the Hebrew word is translated, *accepts, enjoys, favors, is pleased with, takes pleasure in*). We suspected that since He reproveth us He did not like us. Or that He’d left us. Ohhhh, how **wrong** we were. *Why (!)* are we so prone to mistake His love for His hatred?

This very rod was sent in love to the soul. Perhaps we were living at ease, or in heartless backsliding. The awakening voice called us to our Bible and to prayer. Thus eyeing God in it we see it to be love, not wrath; receiving, not casting out.

We might perhaps have wished it a little altered; that the weight had been shifted, and the cross a little smoothed where it pressed upon the shoulder. But now that our views are cleared, we discern blessing enough to swallow up the most poignant smart. We see the “needs-be” for our preservation from imminent danger. . . . We come to an unhesitating verdict in favour of the absolute perfection of the dispensation. . . . His discipline is that of the family; not of the school; much less of the prison. He corrects his children, not as criminals, but as those whom He beholds without spot, *made accepted in the Beloved*.

--Charles Bridges

### *That’s a baby.*

Last night I shared with you Mr. Boyd’s line, *That’s a baby*, which he recommended to preachers for their neutral use when presented with a new little one by its biased parents. After announcing the birth of Prentiss Joy Hamilton, our newest

grandbaby, I thought I ought to share one picture, and then if you really don't think that she's as beautiful as I described her, you may use Mr. Boyd's line if you wish and no offense will be taken (smile). Our entire family is exceedingly grateful for a healthy little girl and a swift, safe delivery.



Praying for You Today,

Pastor Minnick