

Sunday April 5, 2020

Another week of pandemic life has come and gone. Our Lord has sustained people through difficult circumstances over the ages, and frankly our time is nowhere near as difficult as some have been. This is our time and I want to exhort you to be ready for very hard times. If hardship does not come on us this month, we will rejoice.

Will you please prepare your mind, heart and mouth to be ready with thanks and praise? Meditate on the Psalms, learn from holy Scripture. Direct your mind's attention to daily bread, every day. Sometimes you may have the opportunity to speak to someone about the grace of God in Christ. You may be able to open your mouth to explain God's holiness, and His kind offer of forgiveness in Christ and the offer of eternal life. If you yourself might spend time reading over the first 4 chapters of Romans, you would be much prepared to share vital points about the Gospel.

Rom 1:16–17 NKJV 16 *For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. 17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "The just shall live by faith."*

Our service today will include a reading from Psalm 11. This is another beautiful portrait of David resolving to trust the Lord while men threaten him with their schemes of murder. If you feel threatened as if the devil taunts you, how do you answer back to him? If Satan whispers to your mind, "I will come and kill you", how do you answer?

1. Resolve to trust God for the time and the way of your death. None of us knows when and how, but our God does.
2. Recall the true Sovereign and just Judge. He will give justice; eternal life for the godly in Christ and He will give punishment for those who will not bow to Christ. Even Satan will have to bow. Remember that the hairs of your head are numbered, and so are the days of our lives- by the One who gave Christ to redeem sinners. He has gone away to prepare a place for those who wait for Him!

Luke 12:4–9 NKJV 4 *"And I say to you, My friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. 5 But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear Him who, after He has killed, has power to cast into hell; yes, I say to you, fear Him! 6 "Are not five sparrows sold for two copper coins? And not one of them is forgotten before God. 7 But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows. 8 "Also I say to you, whoever confesses Me before men, him the Son of Man also*

Sunday April 5, 2020

will confess before the angels of God. 9 But he who denies Me before men will be denied before the angels of God.

Our hymns today are:

Remember to pray for the congregation. Work through the list of names, and ask the Lord to protect and build up. Each of you needs to be praying for the Church. Please pray for me and our family. We hope to strengthen and serve the Church, and these times give us unique challenges. We need wisdom and we need God's Spirit to help us.

Krissy	Dan and Patty	Laura	Lance
Greg and Charlotte	Joe and Sorn	Rich, Angie and Brynn, Maeve, Cannon and Nolan	Terry, Lisa and Marcus and Adrian
Randy and Jackie	Banning, Eva, Bella	Susan	Nell and Bill
John and Amanda	John's dad, Dave	Joyce	Nick
Malachi	Natalia	Eloise	John and Lisa
Gary Walden	Roberta	Norma	Mike and Leann

Finally, plan out your days. Don't go completely routine-less. Plan time in God's Word, plan time in prayer and plan times to make phone calls to people you need to encourage. Write a couple of letters. Do not let this circumstance become a reason for your spiritual laziness and isolation. We love you guys, and we miss you and look forward to our being able to meet together again. Have a great Sunday by planning how you will honor and worship our Lord on the Lord's Day. I hope you will be encouraged.

In Christ, Mike