

March 25, 2020

Dear Bereans, The pastors have no changes to report this morning in terms of church operations. We will be live-streaming once again this Sunday, March 29th.

We would like to remind you the Berean deacons sincerely desire to help any member in need. Please be sure to contact your deacon should you or any Berean you know of require assistance. The "Deacon Care List" can be found under the "Resources" tab at the top of Berean's Home Page.

Today's pastoral encouragement is from Pastor Terry Bixler:

There's an old Chinese proverb, it says, "May you live in interesting times." If you Google it, you'll see that in its full context, it's not meant to be a good thing for the recipient. However, when Christians look at "the times" we live in, we can rest assured knowing that our great God has ordained all that has come to pass. Not only has He ordained them, he has promised that all things that come to pass will be for our good.

Brothers and Sisters, we do live in interesting times. What we want to ask ourselves is, how will we live in times such as these. No doubt we will be tested and tests from the Lord are meant to mature us in our faith. They are designed to bring out the best in us and cast out the worst. Perhaps more importantly, times like these provide us with the greatest opportunities to be a witness to the grace and mercy God has shown us by extending the same to our neighbors. Take a moment and think of a person or a circumstance where you can bring the gospel into play. It may be a fellow believer who is struggling with doubt or anxiousness. Perhaps there is a situation where the letter of the law can be tempered by the Spirit of the Law Giver. Trust that the Lord will bring someone or some situation to mind.

Scripture tells us that our good works were designed by our Father, so let's seek them out and bestow them graciously. This will bring glory to the Father and to the doer of the word, treasure in heaven.

As we look forward to the days ahead be strengthened and encouraged by the words of David in Psalm 139. If you don't already know this, it's my "go to" passage in nearly all circumstances. It's right there along with some WD40 and duct tape.

Psalm 139 English Standard Version (ESV)

Search Me, O God, and Know My Heart

To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David.

139

O Lord, you have searched me and known me!

2

You know when I sit down and when I rise up;

you discern my thoughts from afar.

3

You search out my path and my lying down
and are acquainted with all my ways.

4

Even before a word is on my tongue,
behold, O Lord, you know it altogether.

5

You hem me in, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.

6

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is high; I cannot attain it.

7

Where shall I go from your Spirit?
Or where shall I flee from your presence?

8

If I ascend to heaven, you are there!
If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!

9

If I take the wings of the morning
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,

10

even there your hand shall lead me,
and your right hand shall hold me.

11

If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me,
and the light about me be night,"

12

even the darkness is not dark to you;
the night is bright as the day,
for darkness is as light with you.

13

For you formed my inward parts;
you knitted me together in my mother's womb.

14

I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
Wonderful are your works;
my soul knows it very well.

15

My frame was not hidden from you,
when I was being made in secret,
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

16

Your eyes saw my unformed substance;
in your book were written, every one of them,

the days that were formed for me,
when as yet there was none of them.

17

How precious to me are your thoughts, O God!
How vast is the sum of them!

18

If I would count them, they are more than the sand.
I awake, and I am still with you.

19

Oh that you would slay the wicked, O God!
O men of blood, depart from me!

20

They speak against you with malicious intent;
your enemies take your name in vain.

21

Do I not hate those who hate you, O Lord?
And do I not loathe those who rise up against you?

22

I hate them with complete hatred;
I count them my enemies.

23

Search me, O God, and know my heart!
Try me and know my thoughts!

24

And see if there be any grievous way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting!