

Daily View

“But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called ‘today’” Hebrews 3:13

May 30, 2020



Taking Good Things for Granted

This has been an interesting week. We had no water at our house for 2½ days (the hottest days, of course). We decided that we have taken for granted the ability to turn on a faucet that produces clear, clean water whenever we want. Instead, like the woman at the well in John 4, we had to seek our water from another, outside source. We imposed on our very kind neighbors to get buckets of water and haul them back to our house.

That was inconvenient and didn't solve all our problems, but it also was a good reminder for us. It reminds us that there are still many places in the world that do not have access to running water or even clean water. [If you'd like to help with that, visit <https://waterboys.org>].

Many of us feel the pinch of not being able to worship together at the building. The pinch hurts so much that we tried desperately to make it happen this week but we just couldn't do it with a clear conscience. “What ifs?” abounded, so we decided to put prudence ahead of eagerness and we postponed our plan to gather for now. That was a difficult decision. In the end, as the announcement said, we decided to err on the side of caution.

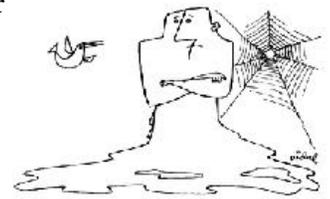
From my youth, I've used the old Ben Franklin decision-making model. You draw two columns, A & B, and list positive reasons for doing something in column A and negative reasons in column B and whichever column “wins,” all things being equal, is what you go with. The decision to go back to the building had a long list in both columns. But, as Shakespeare said, “discretion is the better part of valor.” That means making the decision that carries the least risk is, at times, the more valiant one.

But meeting at a building every Sunday is in a Christian's DNA. It's what we do and, like access to running water, we've taken that privilege for granted. I certainly have. Doubtless,

some of you may feel you are not even worshipping God properly unless you're at the building. You know better, but it's hard to shake that feeling.

I can't speak for everyone in the church, of course, but I can tell you that all of us in the leadership desperately want to get back to normal. But I can also tell you that, if we follow all of the CDC Guidelines, our meetings would be far from “normal.” Seeing one-fourth of our brethren from a distance and singing behind a mask is not “normal.” And, even with all that, we would be bearing some risk that we have determined is unacceptable at this time (yes, we know there is always a risk; but this is different. See Terry's article in yesterday's Daily View).

When we take something for granted — like water and meeting together — waiting for it to come back to normal is difficult. Seth Godin said, “Waiting is, sort of by definition, a waste of time. But time is scarce, so wasting it is a shameful act.” And, remember: we never really waste *time* we just waste ourselves.



ARE YOU WASTING YOURSELF?

So we wait, but do not waste. We wait, patiently. Patience is a virtue, the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22). And James 5:7-9 reminds us of the value of patience.

Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door.