Speaker: 0

Good afternoon, South Lewiston and friends, just to want to give a little bit of encouragement and update as well. All things here at South Lewiston and for some encouragement, as I said, for these days that we live in, and ever-changing even just a little bit ago with governor mills, executive order for nonessential business being shut down, you know, a lot to take in and, and process. So to that point today is March 25th and Psalm 25 is unbelievable. It's just fantastic. The first words are Lord. I appealed to you, you know, it's, it's, it's the temptation to make our appeals to everyone. And then God finally gets like in the back of the line, so to speak when he should be first in line, the first person we go to is our first line of defense, our first line of wisdom of love. And we need to make our appeals to him even to be able to understand who we are, obviously, who he is to understand how he wants us to view the things that are going on right now.

Speaker: 0

In fact, we will be shaped by our viewpoints will be shaped by who we go to first for truth, for wisdom. And if we're going to news and, and experts though, good and helpful, absolutely to a degree, nonetheless, it's God who has to shape our hearts and our minds to know how to process those things for what is honoring to him and to what is best for our neighbor. God defines those things. A biblical approach defines those things. And so we want to be mindful of that. And it's just a great, a great plea in verse two, it says, my God, I trust in you, man, make God the object of your trust.

Speaker: 0

Let's move away from the vague phrases and terminology of my faith is my faith that we do not have faith in faith. That's hopelessness, that's despairing, it's flimsy, it's superficial. It's not going to hold us. It's not going to shape us. It's not going to inspire us. No, our hope our faith is in God. And we have to put our trust in him, acknowledge that there's so much more in the Psalm, but it goes on to say, you know, make your ways known to me. Lord, teach me your paths, guide me in your truth and teach me for you are the God of my salvation. So we want to be teachable. We want to be looking. We want to be humble, acknowledging that we don't have all the answers and neither does anyone else. We need to be careful about tunnel vision, probably do a poor job of describing it.

Speaker: 0

But I think a lot of, you know, especially those that perhaps first responders, police security, those who have been in military or currently you can get into a situation in which you're so maybe focused on one threat that you're not able to see the other threats around us or the consequences of actions after seeing down the road foresight prudence. And so we need to be careful about that. We need to pray for our leaders to have that kind of foresight, to not just think here and now, but also a little bit forward as well, as much as we can. And so we just gotta be careful. We don't have that tunnel vision that we don't get caught in our echo chambers in terms of what's being said, reported stats, advice, counsel, we need to remain humble. God knows all this. And, and we don't have to all, we don't have to know all of this.

Speaker: 0

We, we can't, we can't have perfect knowledge. We can't have infinite knowledge, but we can't have some. And that takes time and patience. And God has to be our ultimate teacher there and his word with the Bible open to again, shape our hearts and our minds for how to think and not just what to think, but how to think through these things. Again, this is pivotal to follow God, to follow Christ and to love our neighbor wisely. It's easy just to say, love your neighbor. And here's how I think you need to do this. That's an assertion and that's great. And there's plenty of that. We've talked about that as a church, of course, but it's another thing to think critically about is this really loving for my neighbor and it's not an easy answer. It is often a case by case basis. So we need to be thoughtful, mindful of these things and the strategies and counsel that are out there are. So there's so much to take in, as I've said, I just, just be mindful that it's not settled in terms of what we, in terms of what this is going to look like going forward. And we're just being mindful of that. Be willing to accept or agree to disagree, but accept that our different points of view and strategies that might differ from you. But don't call into question someone's integrity or love for their neighbor or say, they're not pro-life. I really don't want to hear that. Don't don't tell me that.

Speaker: 0

So have you know me for a while, know why, but anyways, later in Psalms, you know, just the, it, it talks about how those who fear the Lord, those who have a fear of a reverence for him, God will reveal his covenant to them. In fact, more specifically, verse 14, it says the secret counsel of the Lord is for those who fear him. And he reveals his covenant to them. This is a fear of, of reverence profound reverence of awe of worship. And, and to make God our fear, because we will fear people or circumstances as a substitute. This is a part of, of being made in the image of God. We remade to reverence God to be in awe of him, to be a worship, to worship him. And if we don't continue to put him before our, our hearts and our eyes, by being in the word in prayer, listening to godly counsel, reading, godly counselors and other books and things, we will fall prey to having other objects other than God be our fear, be what we most value.

Speaker: 0

And that could be dangerous. RC Sproll I think said, you know, ideas have consequences and we just need to be mindful of that going forward. And as believers put God first, and what he says is good and true and wise, and he will help us understand what are his ways, what are the paths forward? What are the paths forward? There's no easy answers, but we will do well. And we will be faithful if we put God as, as the object of our reverence and our all, you know, at the end of the Psalm, it says, guard me and rescue me, may integrity in what is right. Watch over me for, I wait for you. So in all this, we have to just ask God to guard our hearts, to rescue us. We don't want to fall into hypocrisy.

Speaker: 0

You want to be mindful that we have blind spots and we need to humbly listen to our brothers and sisters to engage in what those look like. By definition alone, isolated Christians. We can't see our blind spots. That's why it's a blind spot. You can't see it, but with the body of Christ, we can see better, more clearly of what God wants us to see and to do. And so be mindful of that at the end of the Psalm, it says, God redeem from all its distresses. And may we pray that God would redeem the world that he would relieve relieve us from these distresses. He is sovereign. This is his world. This is our father's world. And he has a purpose for this. And we know the purposes. One that is true. When is that is good. That is for the eternal good, the eternal good, you're good that he's working together for all those that are called according to his purpose, that love him.

Speaker: 0

And so this great promise gives great hope for our hearts and our minds. You know, just a few things just to take away and an application so much, but continue praying for the church for South Lewiston. If you're watching this from other churches, be praying for your, for your church as well for all the churches in the area that we would be faithful, that we would think biblically wisely, that we would love well, that we would refrain where God wants us to refrain and that we would take risk where God wants us to take risk.

Speaker: 1

Mmm.

Speaker: 0

Pray for those that are sick, vulnerable, or, or vulnerable that are in that category of, of potentially getting COVID 19, pray for the suffering. For those that are working on the front lines, in the medical field, send them encouraging texts, ask them what you can do for them, ask them what we as a church could do for them so much to take in there, you know, be praying for those that are also suffering from the effects of all the restrictions that are being laid down in order to fight COVID-19 people with, without a job without income,

Speaker: 0

You know, struggling for groceries and whatnot. Again, please contact us at the church. If, if you know of a need that perhaps we can help out with, again, I would encourage to look up also the food distribution sites and things like that just in case, but be praying for, for every one in, in these categories that we've talked about just now and look for those opportunities to give. Thanks. You know, I had a neighbor today who did a snowblower, the, the end of the driveway where the plows come by and got that out of the way. So we could, and it just was a huge blessing, just so thankful for him to do that. And you know, it's a little things and by give thanks and be, and to rejoice is actually considered part and parcel of what it means to walk in the will of God, to rejoice in all things to give, thanks to God. This is something that is going to stand out all the more, and I am struggling to give thanks.

Speaker: 0

I think if my dog feels it anyway, so I look for those things and look for those opportunities to serve as, as you're already doing so many of you're already doing it. So you've helped out with the church and the food pantry and things like that. Thank you, justice week. Thank you. And you know, some of you coming out of tough times or are in tough times as well, even before COVID-19, and may you find comfort in the hands of God today? And as a church, may we rally around six feet difference. So as much as possible, and as, as wisely as that can be done, but nonetheless rally around the Lord in his grace together, and keeping that open hand, that open arm that look for those that maybe don't have a church maybe don't know Christ and have never really thought about it. But one by one, God seems to be taking things away that they valued most. And, and we can tell them of the one thing that can never be taken away. And that is the grace of the Lord Jesus and salvation.

Speaker: 0

So continue to be encouraged in the Lord and hope. This gives encouragement again this Sunday, if I didn't mention a Sunday streaming again, 10:00 AM and go to the slbc.church as a church website instructions, are there some, if you have any questions about that, contact us, pastor Brian will be preaching and be good to hear him in the pulpit again, and to give the word so pray for him and preparation. It's hard to sometimes know where to come down in terms of passages and themes and obviously, and things like that, but pray with confidence that the Lord certainly will lead and guide and work through the preaching of the word as well. So thanks for watching and may the grace of the Lord be with us all and may it multiply and may God bring a Swift and to COVID-19 for his glory and for the good of the world, have a great day.