

April 2, 2020

Dear Brothers & Sisters,

Perhaps after a week or so of being home you are beginning to wonder what its like on the "outside." Maybe you are lamenting visits to your favorite ice-cream shop or group outing. I would venture to guess that even now your mind may be wandering – remembering seeing your best friend and giving them a hug or ordering a cup of coffee at Starbucks.

Its natural to experience social pangs when kept from the things we enjoy. It would seem as though each of us has a given limit to how much isolation we can handle before we begin to feel "cabin fever." I would venture to guess that even the isolation is not as frustrating as not knowing how long it will last. The anxiety of not knowing how long we will have to endure a scenario creates an additional burden to process.

This is the same anxiety that King David experienced, wondering how long he would have to endure his enemies winning over him. In Psalm 13, King David repeats the sentiment of lament, asking "How long, Lord?" Sometimes our enemies are not ones we can see, touch or even articulate. Everything from disease, financial burdens, relational brokenness, and social/psychological hurdles to self-created anxiety can weigh us down. Seen and unseen forces can feel as though they have the upper hand, while options feel few and insufficient.

In verse 5, David proclaims God's unfailing love and eternal salvation as a powerful reminder that no matter how things may seem – God is in control, He loves us, hears our prayers, is on His throne and can do all things! In light of the trouble David is experiencing in this world – he notes that God is bigger than any time frame here on earth. This is truly a cause for rejoicing!

No matter where we go (or unable to go) scripture tells us the good news that God goes with us.

<sup>9</sup> Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." *Joshua* 1:9

Each week I continue to lift you up in my prayer times with God. If you have specific prayer requests or needs for medications or food – please let me know. Even when we are not together in person, we are still the body of Christ!

Grace & Peace,

Pastor Eric

## Psalm 13

- <sup>1</sup> How long, Lord? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me?
- <sup>2</sup> How long must I wrestle with my thoughts and day after day have sorrow in my heart? How long will my enemy triumph over me?
- <sup>3</sup> Look on me and answer, Lord my God. Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep in death,
- <sup>4</sup> and my enemy will say, "I have overcome him," and my foes will rejoice when I fall.
- <sup>5</sup> But I trust in your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in your salvation.
- <sup>6</sup>I will sing the Lord's praise, for he has been good to me.