

# Daily View

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

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April 15, 2020



## Ant Spray Prayers

When I was 8 years old, I was staying with my grandparents in Patterson, as I often did for a couple of weeks every summer. Two of my cousins lived on the property in a house behind my grandparent’s house.

One day, I came into the house only to find about ¼ of a chocolate cake sitting on the kitchen table. I got a knife, cut about half of the remaining cake and sat down and ate a few bites. As I was eating the cake, my cousin Linda, a year younger than me, came into the kitchen, saw me eating the cake and informed me — in this order — that (1) there were ants on the cake and... (2) “oh yeah, I sprayed the cake with ant spray to get rid of them.”

To make a short story even shorter, I thought I was a dead boy. I knew it was just a matter of time.

I didn’t get mad at Linda. However, she may have sinned since God seems to like ants. He even says to us, “Go to the ant, O sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise” (Proverbs 6:6). But I didn’t call her out on that. I just sauntered into my older cousin’s bedroom and sat down in front of a mirror at a dresser, staring at myself, just waiting to die. I don’t even remember being scared, just kind of sad. As I stared at my 8 year old countenance, I said a little prayer along the lines of “now I lay me down to sleep...” mainly because I knew that prayer really well. I repeated the prayer several times — my imminent demise prompted me to “pray without ceasing.”

I don’t guess I need to tell you that I survived the ant spray scare. Neither the poison nor the ants killed me. I didn’t even get sick. But, years later, reflecting back on that event in my life, I was reminded about how prayer tends to crawl into the front seat of our life when trouble comes — I call those “ant spray prayers.”

Given the current preoccupation with “flattening the curve,” I wonder if the frequency of our prayers matches the Covid-19 curve. When times are bad, scary and dangerous, the curve rises; as things get better, the curve begins to flatten out. I have a feeling that, if we think about it, our prayers are sort of like that — our prayer curve flattens out as the danger fades. But when Paul said, “pray without ceasing,” (1 Thess. 5:17) he wasn’t kidding. We wrestle with that verse (“*without ceasing? How is that possible?*”). But we forget to read verse 18: “*give thanks in all circumstances for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*”

Let’s not let all our praying be ant spray prayers. Most of our prayers should be prayers of gratitude *in all circumstances*. After all, for most of us, our lives are filled with *ant spray free chocolate cake*, for which we ought to be grateful. Right?

## News

Look for an email from the elders in the next 24-48 hours about our projections and plans for getting back to assemblies. Meanwhile, let us know if you would like to participate in a service or Bible class via Zoom and we’ll let you know what is available.

Please let us know if you have any special needs; we are trying to keep in touch with everyone as much as possible, but don’t hesitate to let us know if you need something.

Remember that you can place your contribution through the door on Sunday or you can put it in the mail. The command is to “put something aside... as you may prosper” (1 Corinthians 16:2) and to do that on the first day of the week. You can do that and then put it in the mail.

Reminder: the filing date for taxes has been moved to July 15th this year so that may be good news to some of us.