00:00

and well praise the Lord for that let's

00:01

take our Bibles tonight let's go

00:02

together the book of Genesis chapter

00:04

number 2 please Genesis and chapter

00:07

number 2 is where we'll find our text

00:08

this evening and appreciate the emphasis

00:10

that brother with Sam placed on praying

00:13

for our missionaries at this time and

00:15

was in contact with mother James Prager

00:18

just before the service tonight and they

00:21

are of course missionaries out of our

00:23

church to Siberia and in the Far I guess

00:27

they'll be the far eastern edge there of

00:29

Russia and he shared with me that the

00:32

nearest corona vase corona virus case to

00:36

them is over two thousand miles away and

00:38

and I said boy pray that it stays that

00:41

far away and pray that the nearest case

00:44

to us goes about 2,000 miles away very

00:46

soon as well

00:47

and he did share with me he said that

00:50

because of what's happening in our world

00:52

and the markets he said the value of the

00:54

dollar has increased by thirty percent

00:55

and so that has been a huge help to them

00:58

at least at this point in time and is an

01:01

encouragement and I so I so then I then

01:03

replied to him I said brother James I

01:05

almost wish I was where you are instead

01:07

of where I am tonight and he said well

01:08

would you mind it being thirty thirty

01:10

degrees below zero and I said okay I'm

01:12

good we're on that so anyways we we

01:14

certainly do want to be mindful of our

01:16

missionaries thank you again brother was

01:17

sam for mentioning that but he forgot he

01:20

failed to mention one thing and that is

01:21

when the the violin trio was playing

01:24

that was when you at home were supposed

01:25

to go to Cleveland Baptist or click on

01:27

the give tab and to give your offering

01:28

so that was our offertory for the

01:31

evening and of course we're being a

01:32

little facetious here tonight let me to

01:34

encourage you we have such a faithful

01:36

church to give and during this time in

01:38

which we cannot be together and in the

01:40

normal way that we would to be mindful

01:42

of that and be reminded again that our

01:44

church ministry still has

01:45

responsibilities to meet bills to pay

01:47

not the least of which of course are the

01:50

missionaries we mentioned just a moment

01:51

ago well we're in Genesis chapter number

01:53

two tonight and I want to just call to

01:56

your attention a few verses here as we

01:58

get started look with me in verse number

01:59

15 if you would Genesis chapter number

02:01

two and verse number 15 where the Bible

02:03

says in the Lord God took the man and

02:05

put him into the Garden of Eden to dress

02:07

it and to keep it and the Lord God

02:10

commanded the man saying of every tree

02:13

of the garden thou mayest freely eat but

02:15

of the tree of the knowledge of good and

02:18

evil thou shalt not eat of it for in the

02:20

day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt

02:22

surely die now I want you to focus

02:24

specifically with me if you would on

02:26

verse number 18 where the Bible says

02:28

this in the Lord God said it is not good

02:34

that the man should be alone I will make

02:39

him an help meet for him tonight with

02:43

the Lord's help I'd like to preach the

02:44

message that I've entitled a pandemic

02:47

within a pandemic a pandemic within a

02:52

pandemic let's pray together tonight and

02:54

ask for the Lord's blessing on the

02:55

reading of the word and certainly the

02:57

message that we have tonight father we

02:58

thank you for the opportunity that we

03:00

have to gather albeit in a very unusual

03:03

way a way that we're not used to a way

03:06

that we really don't like to be very

03:07

frank I hate the thought that our people

03:10

are scattered all around that they're

03:12

not here in the auditorium with us Laura

03:15

that will not be able to fellowship like

03:17

we normally would after the service

03:18

enjoy one another's company and yet Lord

03:21

we believe that Lord your disruptions

03:25

are part of your divine plan just as

03:27

much as your blessings are and so Lord

03:29

we're trusting you through all of these

03:30

things we pray very specifically Lord

03:33

that you would take special care of our

03:35

people and we think specifically of our

03:38

older members of our congregation who

03:41

statistics tell us are much more

03:42

vulnerable to this disease I pray that

03:44

they would be wise and I pray that they

03:46

would make wise decisions we but we pray

03:48

for the rest as well that we would Lord

03:51

that we would be patient during this

03:52

time and the Lord that you would again

03:55

teach us something during these days in

03:57

which our lives have been somewhat

03:59

interrupted and upended that you could

04:01

not or would not maybe have taught us

04:03

otherwise and help us again to be

04:04

sensitive to your leading Lord would you

04:06

fill me with your Holy Spirit's power as

04:08

I attempt to preach this message tonight

04:10

I pray in Jesus name Amen

04:13

well I certainly am NOT sharing with you

04:15

anything that is a bit of a surprise

04:17

than to tell you that our world in

04:19

recent days has been gripped with the

04:21

outbreak of this virus that we know of

04:24

as the corona virus it's almost hard for

04:25

me to imagine oh we

04:26

could go Wednesday I stood in the same

04:28

pulpit and life was fairly normal we had

04:31

heard whispers about this thing and and

04:33

what potentially was coming and it

04:36

seemed as if even in that service that

04:37

things began to really unravel the next

04:39

day more drastic steps were taken it

04:42

seems like every day something else is

04:44

being shut down something else is being

04:46

closed and in our lives again have been

04:49

even dramatically interrupted over the

04:52

last few a few days and to be very frank

04:54

I'm thinking myself those of you that

04:56

are tuning in tonight in your homes or

04:57

whether you're here in the auditorium

04:58

chances are you are probably tired of

05:01

hearing about the coronavirus aren't you

05:02

you know it's tired of that word I know

05:04

I am I almost don't even want to say it

05:06

you know and I suppose if we if we if we

05:08

don't say it maybe we can maybe we can

05:11

make it vanish or go away perhaps again

05:13

you even maybe even tuned in tonight

05:15

there in your home or here in the

05:17

auditorium you tune in tonight to get

05:19

your mind off of the topic maybe you're

05:21

sitting here you're thinking yourself

05:23

you know okay we're gonna we're going to

05:24

turn on Cleveland Baptist Church we're

05:26

gonna hear a message from God's Word so

05:27

we can get our mind off of the news well

05:30

I hate to inform you I wish there was

05:33

something that was a little more

05:34

positive to discuss from the Bible

05:37

tonight but I believe that in times like

05:39

this that God's people have always been

05:42

called upon to address the needs of the

05:44

hour to address the times and the

05:47

seasons that we're living in the events

05:49

that are current in our lives I'm

05:50

reminded of the children of Issachar the

05:52

Bible says about them and second 1st

05:54

chronicles chapter number 12 and verse

05:55

number 32 that they were men that had an

05:57

understanding of the times I'll be

06:00

honest with you I don't have a full and

06:02

complete understanding of all that is

06:04

happening of all that God is doing in

06:06

our world today but I believe there are

06:08

some important and key lessons that we

06:10

can learn from what's happening in our

06:12

society can I say that it's important

06:15

for us to understand that every aspect

06:17

of life has a root and it has a fruit we

06:22

might say that every aspect of life has

06:24

a cause and it has an effect I'm

06:27

reminded of September the 11th of 2001

06:30

many of you perhaps that are tuning in

06:33

would not remember that if you were 20

06:36

years old and younger that what that was

06:38

not something that was probably in your

06:40

mind

06:40

that you would remember at all but the

06:42

vast majority of folks probably that are

06:43

watching remember that day well and I'm

06:46

thinking of myself there were the events

06:48

of that day and then there were the

06:50

things that came about as a result of

06:52

that day that we still live with today

06:54

every time you and I get on an airplane

06:56

we we face the the effects of what was

07:00

caused on September the 11th of 2001 now

07:03

every every machine that you walk

07:05

through that scans your body and your

07:07

articles of clothing to determine

07:09

whether or not you have something that

07:11

should not be taken with you on an

07:12

airplane came about as a result of the

07:15

events that happened on that day so

07:17

there's cause and effect in life there

07:19

there's the root of things and then

07:21

there's the fruit that grows out of the

07:23

root and I want us to think tonight just

07:26

briefly with the time that we have

07:28

available about one of the potential

07:30

fruits that could grow out of the root

07:32

that is known as of as the coronavirus

07:34

and in the in the fruit that I'm

07:37

speaking of is is something that that

07:39

has become familiar to us in recent days

07:41

there's a there's a new buzzword there's

07:43

a new phrase that has become again all

07:45

too familiar to us that are living in

07:47

these in these days and that is that is

07:50

the phrase social distancing you've

07:54

heard that over and over again haven't

07:55

you IIIi don't suppose that I'd ever

07:58

heard that term that phrase prior to

08:01

probably a week ago and yet now we're

08:03

all familiar with it early it's sort of

08:06

why we're doing what we're doing tonight

08:08

why I'm sitting at an auditorium that

08:11

has just a smattering just a handful of

08:14

people in it is because of this this

08:17

phrase this buzzword that is known of as

08:19

social distancing the the the

08:23

terminology or the term the definition I

08:25

should say the term is this it is the

08:27

practice of maintaining a greater than

08:29

usual physical distance from other

08:32

people or of avoiding direct contact

08:35

with people or objects in public places

08:37

during the outbreak of a contagious

08:40

disease in order to minimize exposure

08:42

and reduce the transmission of

08:45

infections you get all of that that was

08:47

a mouthful wasn't it let me let me give

08:49

you that definition again just so that

08:51

we're all on the same page so that we're

08:52

all clear social distance

08:54

is the practice of maintaining a greater

08:57

than usual physical distance from other

09:00

people or of avoiding direct contact

09:03

with people or objects in public places

09:05

during the outbreak of a contagious

09:08

disease in order to minimize exposure

09:10

and reduce the transmission of infection

09:15

now I do want to say publicly I want to

09:17

go on record the state publicly tonight

09:18

that I think if this is a wise step for

09:20

us to be taking during this time I

09:21

really do I think it's needful during

09:24

this time in which there are so many

09:26

unknowns about this virus and so many

09:28

questions that people might have things

09:30

that we've not yet discovered about it I

09:33

think that what is being what is being

09:35

asked of most people is quite reasonable

09:37

even though it is quite inconvenient and

09:39

quite miserable I think if if it's if

09:42

it's being done out of a pure motive the

09:44

idea that we're trying to save lives

09:46

we're trying to protect people who are

09:48

vulnerable then I am in agreement at

09:51

this time that we practice what has

09:53

commonly become known of as a social

09:56

distancing now I again am preaching to a

09:59

mostly empty auditorium tonight because

10:01

people are choosing to practice social

10:04

distancing I gotta be honest I don't

10:06

like it I don't like it we we I I had a

10:09

gentleman come by my office today and

10:11

and I was working in in my office and he

10:13

called me he was standing outside my

10:14

office and he said he said pastor Peter

10:16

said are you uh are you available are

10:18

you busy I said I have a few minutes and

10:19

so he said I'm outside your office do

10:21

I'd like to talk to you and so I was

10:23

teasing him I've got a good relationship

10:24

with this gentleman and and so I was

10:26

walking towards the door and I said hey

10:27

we're gonna have the conversation

10:29

through the door I said I I can't be

10:30

near you he laughed and I laughed of

10:32

course I opened the door but I was I was

10:34

careful here's the man who I'd normally

10:35

shake hands with immediately and and and

10:38

and we would spend time together and be

10:40

in close proximity to one another and I

10:42

and I felt like it was almost like we he

10:45

had a plague or I had a plague that we

10:46

were trying to avoid one another

10:48

standing further off than we might

10:50

normally do so again because of fear and

10:53

because of concern and this gentleman

10:54

was was a part of that older age bracket

10:57

in which he would be considered a little

10:58

bit more vulnerable and and so again I

11:00

think there's wisdom in that but I don't

11:02

like it I don't like a church that's

11:04

empty I don't like a church that is no

11:07

Emily just buzzing with activity and

11:10

people around I got me on yesterday

11:11

yesterday during the day I I was walking

11:14

through my office and I stood for just a

11:15

moment I had a quiet moment I looked

11:16

over by the by the candy where the

11:18

children go to get candy after the

11:20

service and I was nearly reduced to

11:22

tears when I thought there's a potential

11:24

that for several weeks our children

11:25

won't be able to come to church like

11:26

they normally do and and they're

11:29

probably crying because they won't get

11:30

the candy I'm crying because I won't see

11:32

them and I won't have an opportunity to

11:34

try to minister to them and end it and

11:36

to see them in a in a physical way I

11:38

don't like what's happening in our world

11:41

and and again I want to say that the

11:43

effects of this virus will be will be

11:45

something that that some will get

11:48

terribly sick because of this virus some

11:50

already have so the beginning of the

11:52

service as far as they know there's 31

11:54

confirmed cases of the corona virus here

11:56

in Cuyahoga County and those who

11:59

contract this disease will get terribly

12:01

sick and sadly I hate to even say this

12:04

but sadly some will even die as we've

12:07

stated over and over again as you're

12:08

well aware there's a much greater

12:09

likelihood of of succumbing to this

12:11

disease to the point of death for those

12:14

who are have pre-existing health

12:16

conditions already or those who are of

12:18

the older generation and population but

12:21

can I say that in some respects I

12:22

believe that that there will be also

12:24

another sickness there will be another

12:27

fruit that will come out of the root of

12:30

the corona virus there will be another

12:32

effect that will come out of the cause

12:33

of this kovat 19 that will be will be

12:36

less physical but it will be more mental

12:39

and more emotional and and and that is

12:41

that this pandemic of Cova 19 will lead

12:44

to another pandemic that I would refer

12:46

to as loneliness loneliness why because

12:51

well because people are practicing

12:53

wisely at this point in time they're

12:55

practicing that thing that we know of is

12:58

social distancing so as I stand here

13:01

tonight I'm thinking of things that are

13:04

empty tonight that would normally be

13:05

full I'm thinking of an empty church I'm

13:09

thinking of in this church empty

13:11

nurseries that would normally have

13:14

precious children in them squawk and cry

13:17

and laugh and play in having a good time

13:19

I'm thinking on a Wednesday

13:21

I'm thinking of empty classrooms that

13:24

would be full with hundreds of young

13:25

people and and even adults that are

13:28

being discipled and being trained in

13:30

God's Word I thought about this I

13:33

thought about empty empty buses that

13:37

will sit on the parking lot for the next

13:39

few weeks until until we're given some

13:41

type of a clearance that we can return

13:44

to some what level of normalcy and I'm

13:46

thinking to myself that because of that

13:48

are our bus children our bus teenagers

13:50

our bus adults are going to have a hard

13:51

time worshipping and getting here

13:54

because we're just not gonna be able to

13:55

offer that service I'm thinking of empty

13:59

parking spaces I'm talking about things

14:02

that are in the church that we all know

14:04

of and pews that are empty and in people

14:07

who would normally be here but they are

14:09

not here because again they're

14:10

practicing this idea of social this

14:12

thing I thought I thought of empty

14:13

schools all across the state of Ohio

14:16

schools that would normally be filled

14:18

with children who are receiving an

14:20

education children that are playing on

14:22

the playgrounds at recess children that

14:24

are playing in the gymnasium during gym

14:26

class so sitting in the cafeteria

14:27

enjoying lunch talking together laughing

14:30

together creating memories together and

14:32

I'm thinking to myself that for the next

14:33

few weeks of the very least the schools

14:35

will be empty I'm thinking about tea

14:37

restaurants empty coffee shops I drove

14:41

by Cracker Barrel tonight on the way to

14:42

church there was hardly any cars in the

14:44

parking lot at all obviously that's

14:47

that's rare usually there's always

14:48

people and in those types of

14:50

establishments I'm thinking about empty

14:52

coffee shops and I think it was just

14:53

today that they're closing salons and

14:56

they're closing barber shops and yeah

14:57

and they're closing all of these places

14:59

in the name of social distancing and

15:02

again I'm not criticizing that I'm I'm

15:04

saying that probably it's the best thing

15:06

to do with the information that we have

15:07

available to us now and I'm just simply

15:10

saying that establishments places where

15:12

people need where people connect where

15:14

they fellowship where they congregate

15:16

those places are being closed and we're

15:18

all being told go to your homes and stay

15:20

in your homes you see can I just be

15:26

frank with you life was not meant to be

15:27

lived alone God determined God created

15:32

us listen for fellowship he created us

15:35

for

15:35

companionship and I'm here to tell you

15:38

that kovat 19 will not just take some

15:41

people's health from them but it's also

15:43

going to rob us as collectively as a

15:45

society it is going to rob us of the

15:47

interaction the fellowship and the

15:49

companionship that we all crave I say

15:54

that when God created man here in

15:56

Genesis chapter number 2 when God

15:58

created man there was an initial period

16:00

in which Adam was devoid of human

16:03

interaction the Bible is clear about

16:07

that can I say that I believe that this

16:09

period of time was intentionally done by

16:13

God it was it was something in which God

16:15

was helping Adam to discover in a

16:18

greater way his need for partnership and

16:21

a companion we've read tonight in the

16:24

scripture we didn't read it this far but

16:27

in verses 19 in verse number 20 the

16:29

Bible says and out of the ground the

16:31

Lord God formed every beast of the field

16:33

and every fowl of the air and brought

16:35

them unto Adam this man who is all by

16:38

himself at this point in time brought

16:41

them unto Adam to see what he would call

16:42

them and whatsoever Adam called every

16:45

living creature that was the name

16:46

thereof and Adam gave names to all

16:50

cattle into the fowl of the air and

16:52

every beast of the field but notice the

16:54

last phrase but for Adam for Adam there

16:58

was not found and help meet for him

17:02

God brought these animals to Adam he had

17:07

create God had created them he brings

17:09

them to Adam so that Adam might name

17:10

them according to verse number 19

17:12

whatever name Adam gave to each animal

17:15

that name was was final it established

17:18

that that is what that animal would be

17:20

called moving forward God gave Adam this

17:22

authority to do this and I suppose in

17:25

some respects it was part of the

17:26

Dominion that God gave man to have over

17:29

this earth and over this world and

17:31

specifically over the animal kingdom

17:33

that we might say so Adam names the

17:35

animals it's a sign of his Dominion or

17:37

his control over them and yet God is

17:42

doing something else and all of this

17:43

besides just name the animals again God

17:47

never does anything by accident

17:49

there's always the plan there's always a

17:51

pattern there's always something that

17:53

God is trying to get across and can I

17:56

just can I just say that in a moment

17:57

like this we should probably reminded of

17:59

that because we're sitting here and

18:01

we're saying why God why this why empty

18:05

churches why empty schools why empty

18:06

restaurants if you're anything like me

18:08

Lord why empty restaurants I love to eat

18:10

out why we're reminded less than God God

18:16

never does anything by accident and

18:20

again to say that that God is the author

18:21

of this I'm not saying that but but God

18:23

obviously is in control of all things

18:25

and he does allow certain things into

18:26

our lives Bible says that the rain falls

18:29

on the Justice as well as it falls on

18:31

the unjust and so we're dealing with

18:34

some of the fallout from these things

18:36

but there's something else that God was

18:37

accomplishing here's here's what it is

18:39

Adam was seeing close up in high

18:42

definition he was seeing as he's naming

18:44

the animals that there was no one like

18:47

him there was no there was no creature

18:52

like him there was no creature that was

18:55

brought to Adam the name that had his

18:57

kind of hands

18:58

there was no creature that was brought

19:01

to add on that ahead of his facial

19:02

features there was no creature that was

19:05

brought to Adam to be named that had the

19:07

skin that he had that talked like he

19:09

talked that walked like he walked and

19:12

that that that was like him he was

19:14

different from every other creature that

19:16

God brought to him to name and he was

19:19

seeing all of this what God was doing

19:22

God is creating within Adam this desire

19:26

he's discovering he's looking around and

19:28

he's saying I'm different than everybody

19:30

else I'm all alone there's no one that I

19:34

can talk to there's no one that I can

19:36

interact with there's no one that I can

19:39

spend time with I'd say that some

19:43

respects Adam not by choice but Adam was

19:47

the world's first social distance er

19:49

living in a world all by himself no one

19:53

else around no other human interaction

19:55

whatsoever God listen God had a plan God

20:00

always has a plan God took a rib

20:03

from Adams side and for him the first

20:05

woman that had ever lived her name was

20:07

Eve and God allowed Adam to be involved

20:10

listen God involved Adam

20:11

loud Adam I should say to be involved

20:13

with social distancing long enough to

20:16

realize how much he hated social

20:19

distancing when I just wonder I just

20:23

wonder if maybe maybe part of what God

20:25

is doing is God is trying to get a the

20:29

attention of mankind and he's reminding

20:31

us listen we need one another we need

20:35

the church we need the fellowship we

20:39

need the companionship we we crave it

20:42

it's so important it's so valuable can I

20:47

say that in a world that has slowly

20:49

degenerated into living lives of social

20:53

distance say what do you mean by that

20:55

I'm talking about young people that I

20:56

see sometimes walking around with

20:57

earbuds in their ears don't bother me

21:00

I'm listening to something I got music

21:02

going on here I don't want to talk say

21:05

oh yeah that's that's the teenagers well

21:06

we adults sometimes know better I'm

21:09

thinking myself a world that that

21:12

prefers online interaction to personal

21:15

interaction we got we got thousands of

21:19

friends on social media that we interact

21:21

with on a regular basis but we we don't

21:24

hardly talk to anybody you know in a

21:25

physical sense I'm thinking about a

21:28

world that prefers shopping online at a

21:31

place like Amazon to going to a mall to

21:34

go into Walmart say well I've been to

21:36

Walmart I've been to the mall I've been

21:37

to those places - I prefer Amazon as

21:38

well but I'm just I'm just saying I'm

21:40

just simply saying that we as a society

21:43

as a culture we we have we have become

21:45

social distances without even realizing

21:48

it how about again the concept of of

21:53

sending shooting a text as opposed to

21:55

making a phone call it's easier well we

21:59

we can we can bypass all the

22:01

pleasantries I can just get my message

22:03

out right away and by the way I'm guilty

22:04

of all of these things but I'm just

22:08

simply saying that is our world we have

22:11

slowly degenerated into this lifestyle

22:14

in which we we have established

22:16

forms of distance socially between one

22:19

another and I'm praying and I'm thinking

22:22

that perhaps perhaps that God might use

22:24

this time to wake us up and to shake us

22:27

and help us understand we need one

22:29

another we need the partnership we need

22:32

the the commitment the the relationship

22:35

that comes as we enter into fellowship

22:38

with one another I want to share with

22:41

you three thoughts tonight from this

22:43

passage of Scripture I want say number

22:44

one it's pretty obvious isn't it from

22:47

verse number eighteen that the continual

22:49

practice of social distancing is not

22:51

good in the eyes of God it is not good

22:55

it's not good now listen we're all

22:57

willing to make these sacrifices for

22:59

this time and we're all looking forward

23:02

even though we've only been doing it for

23:03

a few days we're all looking forward to

23:05

the day in which we can move beyond this

23:07

and we can open the doors of the church

23:08

again people can worship and we'll sing

23:11

together and we'll give together we'll

23:13

serve together we'll love together we're

23:15

looking forward to that I'm I can't wait

23:17

for that day I dread whatever time that

23:21

we have in which this is the way that we

23:22

have to meet where you're sitting in

23:24

your pajamas that's a horrible thought

23:26

isn't it when you're sitting in your

23:28

pajamas watching on your television

23:31

around your tablet on your phone you're

23:32

watching the service and I'm just simply

23:34

saying that it is not good according to

23:37

Scripture according to God that we be

23:39

alone that we practice social distancing

23:43

God said it was unhealthy for Adam to be

23:46

alone it wasn't good Solomon would add

23:49

some thoughts to this to this particular

23:51

thought regarding the value of

23:53

partnership and relationship would you

23:55

take your Bibles and go with me to

23:56

Ecclesiastes chapter number 4 in Clues

24:00

Nasty's chapter number 4 we get some

24:02

specific thoughts regarding this concept

24:05

of the value of relationship and

24:07

partnership and doing things together

24:10

listen what the Bible says in verse

24:11

number nine two are better than one

24:13

because they have a good reward for

24:16

their labor for if they fall the one

24:19

will lift up his fellow but woe to him

24:22

that is alone when he follows for he

24:24

hath not another to help him up again if

24:26

to lie together then they have Heat they

24:29

can stay warm but how

24:30

can one be warm alone and if one prevail

24:33

against him two shall shall withstand

24:35

him and a three-fold cord is not quickly

24:37

broke here the Bible saying here the

24:40

Bible saying the two are better than one

24:41

and if we just kind of we just kind of

24:44

move it out a little bit further unpack

24:46

a little bit more the final portion of

24:47

this verse says that three are better

24:49

than two and if two are better than one

24:52

and three are better than two then 4 are

24:53

better than three and I'm thankful for

24:55

the few folks that are here tonight

24:57

and I just want you to know something

24:58

that our church is a whole lot stronger

25:01

when we're all here when we're all

25:02

together when we're all able to worship

25:04

and to serve the Lord and to go forward

25:07

the way that God has called us to go

25:08

forward can I say that listen this is

25:10

this is revolutionary in some respects

25:12

because man is created in the image of

25:14

God the need for relationship listen it

25:18

is not specific to just us you see we're

25:21

created in God's image we we bear His

25:24

image we're we're like him in some

25:26

respects now let's let's kind of let's

25:29

kind of unpack a little bit more that

25:31

means that we are the result of God's

25:33

creative power to address his own desire

25:37

for companionship and partnership now

25:41

let that sink in for just a minute it

25:44

will be reminded that God listened God

25:47

created you for a relationship with him

25:52

that's that's that's life transformative

25:55

it's why we do such a disservice to

25:58

teach children in public schools in

26:01

government schools and even private

26:03

schools that you're just you're just a

26:06

random chance that you didn't come from

26:10

God that you just evolved that that's

26:12

how everything got here you know you

26:16

know what we're doing we're doing that

26:17

we're saying God is a is a liar because

26:20

God told us in the Bible how we got here

26:23

and beyond that listen we are we are

26:26

missing out on life's greatest calling

26:29

because God's great it listen life's

26:31

greatest calling his relationship with

26:33

God can I say that it is not good listen

26:37

it is not good a distance oneself from

26:39

God it's not good

26:42

it's not good you say well you're

26:43

talking to Christians tonight I know

26:44

that but even James wrote the Christians

26:47

and said draw nigh to God and he'll draw

26:48

nigh to you I think that indicates that

26:51

we as Christians sometimes can be in a

26:53

position when we're not drawing nigh to

26:54

God and so we see here that we we are we

26:58

are the result of God's creative power

27:00

to address his desire for companionship

27:03

and fellowship God didn't simply create

27:06

us because he had nothing better to do

27:08

that's not how we got here one day God

27:11

just had this idea let's let's let's

27:13

create man let's have a little game here

27:16

which we make this world for him to live

27:17

on never listen we we originated out of

27:20

a need out of a desire that God had for

27:22

fellowship for relationship for

27:25

companionship for love we aren't we

27:29

aren't the result of some divine

27:31

experiment that we were created to meet

27:34

a need that God had for love for

27:37

friendship and for relationship and to

27:39

go through life and to ignore this need

27:41

that he has and to ignore that same mean

27:44

that he is planted within us is to miss

27:46

out on the purpose for which we were

27:48

created Albert Barnes put it this way he

27:51

said speaking of man he is formed to be

27:54

social to hold converse or conversation

27:58

dialogue he says this not only with his

28:00

superior that's God but also with his

28:05

equal that's that's us in other words

28:09

listen you and I were created to be

28:11

social beings social first of all

28:14

relationship with God above and it is

28:16

not good it is not good that the man

28:19

should go through life alone without God

28:22

let me say secondly it is not good that

28:24

the man should go through life alone

28:26

apart from others apart from others so

28:32

this habit of social distancing if it's

28:35

continually practiced God says it's not

28:38

good we can deal with it for a time when

28:42

you get along with it for a time but but

28:43

don't settle into the habits that you're

28:45

developing right now understand that

28:47

this is this is for a time that when

28:50

this is all lifted and we move beyond

28:51

this and we will move beyond this then

28:54

we're going to get more engaged we're

28:55

going to get

28:56

we're plugged in we're gonna get more

28:57

involved than we ever have can I say

28:59

number two not only the continual

29:01

practice of social distancing is not

29:03

good but numbers number to them say this

29:04

the greatest social relationships that

29:07

you and I enjoy are those which God

29:09

makes for us see that verse number 18

29:13

again the Bible says and the Lord God

29:16

said it is not good that the man should

29:18

be alone so here's here's what God does

29:20

he says I will make him an help meet for

29:24

him

29:26

I will make him and help me for him God

29:31

listen God identified a problem that

29:34

Adam had the problem was loneliness and

29:37

God begins to begins the process to

29:40

overcome this problem God took it upon

29:44

himself to make specifically for Adam

29:46

and help meet for him God took a rib

29:49

from Adam side and carefully formed Eve

29:52

to meet the needs that Adam would have

29:54

in life she listened she was created

29:57

just for him by God know I've said this

30:01

before you've heard me say this before

30:03

but when I was a kid growing up

30:06

Christmas of course is my favorite

30:08

holiday it's every kid's favorite

30:09

holiday right and do you know do you

30:11

know who I got the greatest Christmas

30:13

presents from now I didn't I don't know

30:15

that I necessarily got the most

30:16

Christmas presents from these people but

30:18

I got the best Christmas presents from

30:19

them it's for my mom and dad they got us

30:23

the bet they got us exactly what we

30:25

wanted no my my grandparents they would

30:28

buy gifts and sometimes they'd buy lots

30:29

of gifts and some of them were really

30:30

really great things that they thought we

30:32

wanted but listen why did mom and dad

30:33

why did mom and dad get us the best

30:35

gifts because they knew us better than

30:36

anybody else some respects they were

30:40

involved in the creation of us I

30:43

understand that listen God formed us but

30:46

we came from them so then they knew they

30:50

knew me better than anyone they lived

30:53

with me that's important right every day

30:56

they would hear me say something like oh

30:58

I really wish I had that they would see

31:00

that I was lacking in a certain area and

31:01

they would set about to try to provide

31:04

the gift that was that was best and now

31:06

that I'm now that I'm married you know

31:08

the best gifts come from my wife

31:10

she's an incredible gift giver she's

31:14

always she's always on the lookout what

31:16

does he need that he doesn't have what

31:18

are the children need that they don't

31:19

have she's an incredible gift giver can

31:22

I say something when God listen when God

31:24

makes something for you it gives you the

31:26

very best it gives you the very best and

31:30

I'm here to tell you that the greatest

31:31

social relationships that you and I have

31:33

the ones that we need to poor the

31:34

majority of our time and our attention

31:36

to are the ones that God has made

31:38

specifically for us let me let me share

31:40

three of them with you number one

31:41

there's your birth family your birth

31:44

family this is somewhat elementary but I

31:47

think it bears sharing who you were born

31:51

to listen was no accident you know the

31:54

Bible says in Jeremiah 1 and verse

31:55

number 5 before I formed thee in the

31:56

bellies God speaking to Jeremiah before

31:58

I formed in the belly I knew thee and

31:59

before thou camest forth out of the womb

32:01

I sanctified thee and I ordained thee a

32:03

prophet unto the nations

32:05

you know God saying cut saying listen

32:08

listen Jeremiah before you were ever

32:10

even formed I knew you I had a plan for

32:12

your life and part of us in part of that

32:15

plan meant that I was going to I was

32:17

going to form you in this why was

32:20

Intellivision Jeremiah's mother Rose who

32:21

Jeremiah's father was but I'm gonna form

32:22

you in her womb you're gonna be her

32:24

child you're gonna grow up in her home

32:27

she was gonna be instrumental in raising

32:29

you to be the young man and ultimately

32:31

the man that you will become your

32:32

father's gonna be involved in this role

32:34

as well I'm just here to tell you that

32:37

our birth family is no accident unless

32:39

I'm well-aware maybe even some in the

32:41

room tonight certainly maybe some of you

32:43

watching online I'm well aware that

32:46

there have been some that have

32:47

experienced profound hurt and wounds as

32:50

a result of the home that they were born

32:52

into I know that I get that as I say

32:56

that despite this pain despite this pain

32:59

I'm not belittling it but I'm saying in

33:02

spite of this pain in spite of the hurt

33:04

that might they might have caused you

33:06

these people were still chosen by God to

33:10

be the vehicle through which you were

33:11

brought into this world and all I'm

33:14

trying to say is that we ought to do

33:15

what we can to enhance our relationships

33:18

with these individuals God listen God

33:21

made them for you and

33:23

God made you for them they're not

33:26

perfect but guess what neither are you

33:27

we have problems we have issues with one

33:30

another from time to time and can I say

33:32

that in this in this time in which the

33:34

restaurants are closed and kids aren't

33:36

going to ball practice and they're not

33:37

going to drama practice and they don't

33:38

have school and and all of these things

33:41

during this time well let's do what we

33:43

can and to make this a fantastic time

33:46

for families with children still in the

33:48

home so that we can we can again we can

33:50

rec reconnect without some of these

33:52

other things that make us so busy that

33:54

drive us apart from one another so your

33:58

birth family there's a relationship

34:00

listen that God made as a person God

34:02

made just for you but there's a second

34:05

one that I find here and that is that is

34:07

our chosen family I'm speaking

34:10

specifically of the person that you will

34:12

choose to do life with through marriage

34:16

many of you that I'm speaking to you've

34:18

already made that choice you've already

34:20

made that decision some of you that I'm

34:21

speaking to you've not yet made that

34:23

choice or decision now I'm here I'm here

34:25

to warn you choose wisely pray about it

34:29

ask God to bring that person into your

34:32

life this is your chosen family this is

34:35

not the family you were born into you

34:37

had no choice in that matter this is the

34:38

family that you have chosen to create

34:40

yourself

34:41

it's the spouse that you're going to

34:43

marry I say that God did not create ten

34:46

women and have Adam choose he created

34:49

one woman and made sure to present her

34:50

to Adam in other words he made sure that

34:52

the two of them connected I think

34:55

sometimes teenagers get worried what if

34:56

I don't find the person what if we don't

35:00

connect what if we never meet one

35:02

another listen we've got a powerful God

35:06

don't we and do you think that if God is

35:08

wise enough to create someone just for

35:11

you do you not think that in his time

35:13

he'll be wise enough to be able to

35:15

connect the dots and bring that person

35:17

into your path and connect the two of

35:19

you together do you not think that God

35:21

is capable of that of course he's

35:23

capable of that

35:25

can I say that God creates one woman

35:29

presents her to Adam and the two are

35:32

unified and the Covenant of marriage and

35:34

proverbs 18:22 says this

35:37

whoso findeth a wife findeth a good

35:39

thing and obtaineth favor of the Lord

35:42

every man sitting in your home now you

35:44

ought to shout Amen right there

35:46

you found a wife you found a good thing

35:48

and you've obtained favor of the Lord

35:51

the chosen family listen it's a

35:53

commitment for life and man listen is

35:55

not wise to tear it apart tear asunder

35:59

jesus said this in Matthew 19:6

36:01

wherefore they are no more Twain but one

36:02

flesh what therefore God hath joined

36:04

together let not man put asunder I say

36:08

that from that chosen relationship by

36:11

choosing to enter into that relationship

36:12

more often than not comes the fruit of

36:15

children remember there's root and fruit

36:17

cause and effect this is the chosen

36:20

family this is the family that we have

36:22

created we had no choice regarding our

36:25

birth family but we do have a choice who

36:27

we will marry and the children that God

36:29

blesses our homes with and when it is

36:31

God's design listen that this family

36:33

will be the family that you will grow

36:35

closest to and you will develop the

36:37

deepest relationships and bonds with

36:39

listen Iowa says in Genesis 2 and verse

36:41

number 24 therefore shall a man leave

36:42

his father and his mother and shall

36:45

cleave unto his wife and they shall be

36:48

one flesh there's a third family that I

36:53

think of there's our birth family the

36:55

family were born into there's the family

36:56

that we choose to create your wife your

37:00

husband the children that God blesses

37:02

you with but there's a third family that

37:04

I think is a beautiful family that God

37:07

has made for us and that is the church

37:09

family the church family

37:11

I again believe that this is a third

37:14

type of family that is made it's made by

37:16

God to fill the needs that we have for

37:19

relationship the needs that we have for

37:22

community and for companionship again

37:24

that family is the church the church is

37:27

one body with many different parts and

37:29

did you know that God assembles the

37:30

church and his divine plan I'll tell you

37:33

if I if I let my mind go wild right now

37:35

at this time I'll start to think to

37:36

myself oh my so where are we where are

37:38

we six weeks from now what's left six

37:40

weeks from now but do you know what this

37:42

church is not my church this church is

37:43

God's church and he'll hold it together

37:45

in his time and in his plan and we can

37:48

trust his plan at all times

37:50

listen what Romans 12 versus foreign

37:51

fighters as far as we have many members

37:53

in one body and all members have not the

37:55

same office so we being many are one

37:57

body in Christ and every one members one

38:01

of another kind say that church was it

38:03

man's idea it's God's idea this time I

38:07

got to tell you it's painful it's

38:09

painful I hate it I hate it I hate it it

38:13

is likely listen it is likely i'll just

38:15

be frank with you was on a conference

38:17

call earlier with the with the governor

38:18

of ohio today and it is likely that the

38:20

church our church will not assemble in

38:22

this place like we normally do for

38:23

several weeks that is a strong

38:25

possibility i don't want it i don't want

38:28

to use the word that starts with em the

38:29

word months but that's that could

38:31

potentially happen to i I don't know can

38:35

I can I say that that while I nearly

38:39

reduced to grief over that I I do grieve

38:42

over that can I say that and remind you

38:47

that that the church listen is not it's

38:49

not confined to a building in other

38:50

words we our church goes on even if we

38:52

can't meet here at this point in time

38:54

you know that right we do and can I can

38:58

I just encourage our church those of you

38:59

that are sitting here tonight and those

39:01

of you that are watching online can I

39:03

encourage you to think creatively about

39:05

how you can minister to one another and

39:08

still minister to the loss during this

39:10

time I said the beginning of the service

39:12

I said I said let me encourage you if

39:14

the service of blessing wants to share

39:16

it with others share is you say some of

39:19

you have no idea what that's that is

39:20

you're not involved a social media well

39:21

that's fine but some of you you know

39:23

what I'm talking about and you know that

39:25

if a hundred people share the same thing

39:27

it's gonna blow up and people are gonna

39:29

be intrigued what's going on over there

39:31

and let's listen let's listen to the

39:32

church let's let's participate through

39:34

watching and listening and hearing I'm

39:36

just saying simply saying that's a

39:37

creative way that you and I can get the

39:38

gospel out how about checking on people

39:42

maybe checking on our neighbors maybe

39:44

leaving a little note on their door hey

39:45

listen during this time on what you know

39:47

that I'm here for you if there's

39:47

anything I can do to help you I want to

39:49

do that look after you the church listen

39:53

the church can still be the church even

39:54

though we're not gathering at 4431

39:56

Tiedemann Road for the next little while

39:58

we're gonna go out of the community we

40:00

can still make an impact in our world

40:02

think

40:03

how we can minister to one another and

40:06

can I say allow memories of this time to

40:09

carry you in the days ahead when the

40:10

church is meaning as we normally do and

40:12

you're tempted to sit out for various

40:14

reasons think think back to coronavirus

40:18

2020 when we couldn't go to church when

40:22

we were scared to walk outside of our

40:24

homes and breathe the fresh spring air

40:26

and remind yourself when you're tempted

40:29

to sit home and watch some some program

40:31

on television you're just tired because

40:33

you've had a long day or a long week or

40:35

whatever the case might be and remind

40:37

yourself hey listen I remember what it

40:39

felt like when I wanted to go to church

40:40

and worship with God's people and have

40:42

community and have fellowship and have a

40:44

relationship but I couldn't be reminded

40:47

of this see this is a family this church

40:50

this is a family that God has made for

40:53

each and every one of us and it ought to

40:55

get a serious level of commitment from

40:58

each and every one of us committed to

41:00

your chosen family aren't you

41:02

spouse that God's giving you the

41:03

children that God's given you the

41:05

parents that God's given you this is the

41:06

family to God's made it for us we are

41:10

one in Christ let me say finally now

41:14

finish here tonight number three when

41:15

our world returns to normal again and it

41:17

will I think when our world returns to

41:21

normal again let's put away social

41:22

distancing and determine to be socially

41:25

near to one another some of you say I

41:29

you know I'm prior to this I maybe had

41:31

slipped into the pattern of too much

41:33

time on my phone too much time on the

41:35

computer too much time in front of the

41:37

television too much time with the

41:39

earbuds in my ear and when we finally

41:42

emerge out of this I'm gonna I'm gonna

41:44

reconnect with people I'm gonna invite

41:47

people into my home and we're gonna

41:48

fellowship together I'm gonna get

41:50

involved in church like I was never

41:51

involved before I'm gonna teach a class

41:53

I'm gonna serve in a nursing home I'm

41:55

gonna go out into the community and

41:56

invite people to church I'm gonna work

41:57

on a bus rodimus I'm gonna do whatever I

41:59

can because I remember what it was like

42:01

when I couldn't do those things and I'm

42:05

gonna reconnect we will get through this

42:08

and when we do may we remember how hard

42:10

it was how hard it was to be socially

42:13

distant

42:14

I'm talking listen I'm talking about a

42:16

pandemic within a pandemic the pandemic

42:19

the the root the cause is coronavirus

42:26

the fruit the effect is a temporary time

42:30

of social distancing and may it teach us

42:33

some things about what God created us to

42:36

be he created us to be social people

42:39

social listen relationship with him

42:40

relationship with one another

42:42

superior equals may God help us and

42:46

drive these throughs home in our hearts

42:48

and our minds

English (auto-generated)

English (auto-generated)