

**October 31, 2021**

## **GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**This Week:** 9:30 a.m. Reading Service and 2:30 p.m. Rev. Witvoet.  
No classes.

**Next Week:** 9:30 a.m. Reading Service and 6:30 p.m. Catechism  
Reading Service. Classes after the morning service.  
-All the Lord willing-

**Offerings** Today: 1<sup>st</sup> General Fund      Next week: 1<sup>st</sup> General Fund  
2<sup>nd</sup> Prison Diary                              2<sup>nd</sup> School Fund

### **We Remember in Prayer:**

-Our widows, widowers and lonely ones, the unborn, prodigal sons and daughters, those undergoing treatments, and all those with hidden crosses.

## **MEDITATIONS**

### **Holy letters**

And that from a child thou hast known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. – II Timothy 3:15 With the Holy Scriptures Paul means the Old Testament. The apostle speaks about the Scriptures – in the plural – because the Old Testament consists of thirty-nine books. And he calls them holy because “all Scripture is given by inspiration of God” (v.16a; see the marginal notes 57 and 58 in the Haak Bible).

Literally the apostle writes to Timothy about the holy letters. Each drop of water of the sea is water. Each letter of the holy letters belongs to God’s Word. Evidently, this is a very precise matter, not only as far as the words are concerned, but also when it regards the letters. Even the smallest letters, such as the jot, and the smallest sign of punctuation as a tittle – a dot. “For verily I say unto you,” said the Lord Jesus, “Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled” (Matt. 5:18).

Together with the Gileadites, Jephthah had defeated the Ephraimites. The fleeing Ephraimites could be known by their speech. Once they were taken, they had to say, Shibboleth, but they said, Sibboleth – with a sharp “s” sound. In writing there is a difference in the first letter, and in pronouncing these words a small difference in sound can be heard. But it was decisive: the Ephraimites could be known by their pronunciation and they were slain (see Judges 12:6). It is a precise matter, indeed.

Have the Holy Scriptures already become holy letters for us personally? Do we know of it that they are able to make us wise unto salvation, for the first time and by renewal? This is unto the true knowledge of Him of Whom we read, “Then opened He their understanding, that they might understand the Scriptures” (Luke 25:45).

To know the Holy Scriptures is a great privilege. Many know about sports and movies from a child, but hardly know that God’s Word exists. Timothy was nourished up from his earliest youth in the sound words of faith and good doctrine (I Tim. 4:6). This nourishing was not done by his father, who had remained a heathen, but by his grandmother Lois and his mother Eunice. In both dwelled the unfeigned faith. Did this also dwell in Timothy from a child? This is often stated, but it does not say so. What it does say is that he has known the Scriptures from a child. This was spoken in front of him and lived in front of him by Lois and Eunice. To be sure, true conversion could only be worked by the Lord, but in dependence they took care that Timothy knew it.

The Waldenses had their children memorize entire chapters. God can bless it, my child – they said – and when persecution comes and you have no Bible, then you know it, you have it in your memory. In some concentration camps, the entire Old Testament was present – in the memory of the Jews.

We and our children – and our duty and our guilt!

Ask for wisdom and everything which is indispensable. And ask especially that there may not only be a knowing of the Scripture, but especially a being made wise by the Scripture by the Holy Spirit. Ask to be taught in the three matters, in the secrets of salvation. Then being made wise shall become an increasingly greater wonder for one, who becomes more and more foolish in his own eyes.

~Rev. Hogchem

Grant, Almighty God, that we may learn seriously to consider in how many ways we become guilty before Thee, especially while we daily continue to provoke Thy wrath against us. May we be humbled by true and serious repentance, and fly eagerly to Thee, as nothing is left to us but Thy pity alone; when cast down and confounded, and reduced to nothing in ourselves, may we fly to this sacred anchor, as Thou art easily entreated, and hast promised to act as a Father of mercies to all sinners who seek Thee. Thus may we approach Thee with true penitence, and relying on Thy goodness, never doubt the granting of our requests; and being freed by Thy mercy from the tyranny of Satan and of sin, may we be governed by Thy Holy Spirit, and so directed in the way of righteousness as to glorify Thy Name throughout our lives, till we arrive at that happy and immortal life which we know to be laid up in heaven for us, by Christ our Lord. – Amen      ~John Calvin

## NOTES

# Netherlands Reformed Congregation

Sioux Falls, SD



*Serve the LORD with gladness: come  
before his presence with singing.  
Psalm 100:2*

---

*All who would like to stand for the 3<sup>rd</sup> song are welcome to.*

---

### Consistory

Elders: Mr. Rick Rozeboom, Mr. Craig Timmer  
Mr. Norm DeWit, Treasurer, Mr. Derek Kattenberg, Clerk

### Contacts

Moderator: Rev. Hofman  
Bulletin announcements: Mr. Craig Timmer [craigtimmer@ymail.com](mailto:craigtimmer@ymail.com)  
Sermon recordings: Mr. Ryan Rozeboom  
Website: [nrclf.com](http://nrclf.com)

Church Times: 9:30 a.m. and 2:30 or 6:30 p.m.