

September 10, 2023

This Week: 9:30 a.m. Reading Service
6:30 p.m. Catechism Reading Service (LD16Q40-42)

Next Week: 9:30 a.m. Reading Service
6:30 p.m. Catechism Reading Service (LD16Q43)

Advance Notice:

-Courtland, Ontario, a branch of the Norwich congregation, will be instituted as a new congregation on Wednesday, **September 27**. The service can be followed by livestream at www.nrcnorwich.ca.

-**November 1**, we hope to have a Reformation Day evening service with Rev. Slingerland
-All the Lord willing-

Collections: Today: 1st General Fund Next week: 1st General Fund
2nd Israel Mission 2nd NAGMission

We Remember in Prayer:

-Our widows and lonely ones, the unborn, our married couples, prodigal sons and daughters, and all those with hidden crosses.

MEDITATIONS

Folk may move a great length towards Christianity and yet not reach the thing. It is the plague of many to be brought such a length, for they settle on their lees, and it slayeth them. This should alarm you all.

Look on the parts of man. He may reach far in his knowledge; had not Balaam great revelations? He may reach far in his will or resolution; so did Saul in a manner change his heart towards David, when he was convinced. He may reach far in his affections; he may love, rejoice, delight in the things of God. He may reach far in the outward man; he may reach a deal of reformation, both in regard of sin and of duty. He may reach far in his judgment; he may judge the things of God excellent. Many said of Christ, "Never man spake as this Man."

Consider the common steps of a Christian work, and we shall find him come a great length who hath not the thing. He may be under conviction, as Saul was; under the terror of God, as Felix, who trembled; under some joyful reception of the truth, holding out a refuge; under some calm and quiet of mind, in expectation of His favor; so were the foolish virgins. He may be a man of some

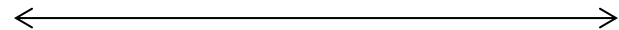
experience, as Balaam, whose eyes were opened to see the visions of God. All this may be followed by some reformation; Satan may go out of the man for a season, and yet his estate be bad.

If we consider profession, and the parts of it, he may go a great length. He may talk much of law and gospel. He may confess much to his own shame. He may humble himself in sackcloth, as Ahab did. He may ask for the ordinances of justice, as a man that fain would know and do duty. He may side and join with God's interest in a very hard time; so did Demas and others, who afterwards left the apostles. He may give much of his goods to God and the saints; so did Ananias and Sapphira; if not all his goods, and his body to be burnt.

If we consider the most special graces, he may have things very like them. He may have a sort of faith; so were many said to believe in Christ, to whom He would not entrust Himself. He may have a huge deal of repentance and walk mournfully. He may have a strange measure of the fear and awe of God. He may have a strange sort of hope; so are hypocrites said to have a hope which perisheth. He may have love. He may have flashes of joy, very like the joy of the Holy Ghost, even the powers of the life to come, as if it were preludes of heaven. Yea, he may have more than I can now condescend upon, and be almost a Christian, and yet have nothing of true Christianity, a dram weight of which can lay claim to the crown of heaven, and that most justly.

Remember that these things are not my allegations, but clear and manifest, according to the Scriptures. And, therefore, look to yourselves, and be not easily satisfied; for it is very hazardous to be a half-Christian.

~Rev. Guthrie



Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile. Keep, hold back, restrain, vigilantly guard, preserve. The same word is applied to keeping the commandments, keeping covenant, keeping the law, keeping the heart. This ought to be easy work; but sin has made it very difficult, and, without divine grace, impossible,. Yet we may not on that account be excused from our duty,. The ways in which men sin with the tongue are many. Laurentius says there are as many sins of the tongue as there are letters in the alphabet. Richard Baxter has catalogued thirty. Speaking becomes sinful when it is hasty, rash, continual, unseasonable, excessive, clamorous, senseless, unchaste, indelicate, impure, filthy, prevaricating, quibbling, deceitful, lying, slanderous, tattling, babbling, backbiting, destructive, reproachful, opprobrious, flattering, seductive, betraying confidence, revealing secrets, awakening groundless suspicions, tale-bearing, news-carrying, railing, reviling, boastful, scornful, desperate, murmuring, foolish, egotistical, vain, proud, malignant, bitter, resentful, cursing, profane, or blasphemous. "The tongue is a world of iniquity." Sins of the tongue lead to horrors of conscience, loss of

peace of mind and loss of appetite; to broils, quarrels and bitter contentions; to fighting, stabbings, shootings and murders. Perhaps no form of sin more terribly destroys personal, domestic, social and public peace and prosperity. "The tongue is a fire." It burns all who abuse it. It burns them up. Guard your lips, but do more: Depart from evil and do good.

~Plumer

The Saviour calls his people sheep,
And bids them on his love rely;
For he alone their souls can keep,
And he alone their wants supply.

The bull can fight, the hare can flee,
The ant in summer food prepare;
But helpless sheep, and such are we,
Depend upon the Shepherd's care.

Jehovah is our Shepherd's name,
Then what have we, though weak, to fear?
Our sin and folly we proclaim,
If we despond while he is near.

When Satan threatens to devour,
When troubles press on every side,
Think of our Shepherd's care and power,
He can defend, he will provide.

See the rich pastures of his grace,
Where, in full streams, salvation flows!
There he appoints our resting-place,
And we may feed, secure from foes.

There, 'midst the flock the Shepherd dwells,
The sheep around in safety lie;
The wolf in vain with malice swells,
For He protects them with his eye.

Dear Lord, if I am one of thine,
From anxious thoughts I would be free;
To trust, and love, and praise, is mine,
The care of all belongs to thee. ~Newton

Consistory

Elders: Mr. Rick Rozeboom, Mr. Craig Timmer Deacon: Mr. Norm DeWit

Contacts

Moderator: Rev. Slingerland

Bulletin announcements: Mr. Craig Timmer nrcsfsd@gmail.com

Sermon recordings: Mr. Ryan Rozeboom Website: nrcsf.com

Consistory meets the first Monday of the month at 10:00 a.m.

NETHERLANDS REFORMED CONGREGATION

Sioux Falls, SD



*The LORD shall reign for ever, even thy
God, O Zion, unto all generations. Praise
ye the LORD.
Psalm 146:10*

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