

**September 1, 2019**

## GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Today:** 9:30 a.m. Catechism Reading, 2:30 p.m. Rev. Hofman

**Next Week:** 9:30 a.m. Catechism Reading, 2:30 p.m. Rev. Adams

-All the Lord Willing-

The Youth Committee from the Rock Valley and Sioux Center churches is planning on grilling and serving at Living Bread on **Friday, September 6**, from 5 to 7 p.m. for the neighborhood. You are invited also to come for a burger and visit.

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

### We Remember in Prayer:

-Those who have been unable to gather with us for some time, our widows and widowers, our elderly, the unborn, prodigal sons and daughters, those who are under doctor's care, and all those who have hidden crosses.

## MEDITATIONS

### THE HOUSE OF THE LORD

***"For a day in Thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness." (Psalm 84:10)***

In this Psalm David is lamenting his being in exile and not able to go up to the house of the Lord. He says in verse 1, *"How amiable are Thy tabernacles, O LORD of hosts."* He goes on in verse 2 sighing for the courts of the LORD and his heart cries out to the living God. Then he says in verse 4, *"Blessed are they that dwell in Thy house,"* and now he speaks of a *"day in Thy courts."* God's own house was in the tabernacle, temple and the place where the proclamation of God's Word is brought forth. Now David is speaking of a day in God's house that it is better than a thousand days in the tents of the wicked. Why is this?

When we think of God's house or His true people, we see that God is the architect of His house. He is the Creator of heaven and earth, full of wisdom, goodness, power and mercy. The Almighty has chosen His people from eternity, calls them by the power of His Holy

Spirit, molds them according to His good pleasure and reveals His only begotten Son as the only Mediator and Redeemer of His Church. These people especially have a delight and desire to be in the house of the Lord and to preserve and uphold His holy day.

When we think of God's house, the place where His Word is proclaimed in truth, it is the normal place where He gives audience to His people and calls sinners from darkness to His most marvelous light. Here He spreads out His banqueting table, "He brought me to the banqueting house, and His banner over me was love" (Song of Solomon 2:4). What an eternal privilege to experience the dainties of His table, to have a good hope through grace, comfort to trust and rely only upon the God of all grace, and to see Him Whom our soul loves. God's house is the normal place where the Lord visits His people and where He works in the hearts of sinners. Leave not your place empty, it might be the time that the Lord will speak because we know not the secret will of God and we are called upon to use the means.

In God's house, God both receives and reveals His glory. If you want to see things of science, you must go to the laboratories of science. If you want to learn of farming you must spend time on a farm. If you want to see the glory of a national leader you must go where that person is. So, my dear friends, if there is a desire to learn of the King of kings, to hear His voice and the glory of His great Name we must go to the house of the Lord. Habakkuk 2:20 says *"But the LORD is in His holy temple: let all the earth keep silence before Him."*

The text speaks of the *"house of my God"* but also of *"the tents of wickedness."* "Tents" here are to be understood as rich, glorious and splendid places. "House" refers to God's house being eternal, and what is learned in the Lord's house spiritually is eternal. Paul writes in Hebrews 11:25, *"than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season."* One may have the greatest joys of the things here below, but that has no comparison with what God gives to His people. Then one day in God's house is better than all of these earthly matters. Thomas Brooks wrote, "The least good look that a man hath from God, and the least good word that a man hears from God, and the least love letter and love token that a man receives from God, is exceedingly precious to that man that hath God for his portion." May many receive that portion from the Lord.

David also says that *"I had rather be a door keeper in the house of my God."* The margin in Hebrew, says, "I would choose rather to sit at the threshold" which in Eastern culture signifies great and deep humility. Now David is saying, even if I sit at the threshold of God's house, that would be better than all the false joy and pleasure of sin.

May we be given the same desire as the Psalmist. Seek this priceless influence of the Holy Spirit and when the doors of God's house are open let not your place be found empty. May God's house be, or become, your home and the place where you desire to come.

-Rev. P.L. Bazen

*Notes*

# Netherlands Reformed Congregation

Sioux Falls, SD



*So we thy people and sheep of thy pasture  
will give thee thanks for ever: we will  
shew forth thy praise to all generations.  
Psalm 79:13*

Consistory

Mr. Craig Timmer, President      Mr. Norm DeWit, Treasurer  
Mr. Dave Hoogendoorn, Clerk

Contacts

Bulletin announcements: Mr. Craig Timmer or (231) 942-1389  
Sermon recordings: Mr. Ryan Rozeboom

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