

## February 4, 2024

**This Week:** 9:30 a.m. Reading Service  
6:30 p.m. Catechism Reading Service (LD31)  
Classes after the morning service.

**Next Week:** 9:30 a.m. Catechism Reading Service (LD30 Q82)  
6:30 p.m. Reading Service  
Classes after the morning service.

**Wednesday:** Afternoon coffee time for senior citizens at 2:00 p.m. in the mini-gym at the NRC school in Rock Valley.

**Advance Notice:** March 24 services with Rev. Kleijer  
-All the Lord willing-

**Collections:** Today: 1<sup>st</sup> General Fund Next week: 1<sup>st</sup> General Fund  
2<sup>nd</sup> Hudson Taylor 2<sup>nd</sup> Israel Mission

### We Remember in Prayer:

-Our widows and lonely ones, prodigal sons and daughters, and all those with hidden crosses.

## MEDITATIONS

*"And now, Lord, what wait I for? My hope is in thee." Psalm 39:7*

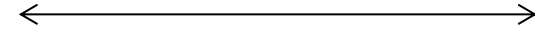
"My hope is in thee." Yes, for all His people, God is and remains that Rock whose work is perfect. He will never put His poor people to shame, although they have given Him many reasons why He should never notice them again. He has loved His people with an everlasting love and has drawn them with cords of loving kindness and He will never let them go. In the heart of all the elect, God has planted a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. The Father did not put to shame the hope that was in the heart of the Surety of the Covenant; and neither will He put to shame the hope in the hearts of His favored ones whom He has loved from before the foundation of the world.

"My Hope is in thee." God Himself has placed a hope within their hearts by the Holy Spirit. God Himself sustains that hope which is as an anchor of the soul and which enters into that within the veil. Hope does not have as its object the favors they might receive from God. He draws their affection away from those things. It is rather fixed upon God alone and is therefore sure and steadfast. The Lord

says to His people: "Ye are My witnesses that I am God." That dispels all doubt and uncertainty. The Triune God is the hope of His people. Therefore, Paul speaks of the God of hope in Romans 15:13.

People of God, be joyful in hope. Here we are saved in hope, but the time shall come when it shall no longer be in hope. Hope in God shall come into communion with Him in the presence of Him that sits upon the throne, and of the Lamb. May God revive the hope which is in our hearts so that we may long for that eternal day in which all things of time and sense shall be destroyed, and the children of God shall obtain the desire of their hearts.

~Rev. W.C. Lamain



## HAPPINESS

Happiness, thou lovely name, where's thy seat, O tell me where?  
Learning, pleasure, wealth, and fame, all cry out, "It is not here."

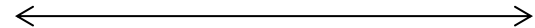
Not the wisdom of the wise can inform me where it lies,  
Not the grandeur of the great can the bliss, I seek, create.

Thee to praise, and Thee to know, constitute our bliss below;  
Thee to see, and Thee to love, constitute our bliss above.

Lord, it is not life to live, if Thy presence deny;  
Lord, if Thou Thy presence give, 'Tis no longer death to die:

Source and giver of repose, singly from Thy smite it flows;  
Peace and happiness are Thine; mine they are, if Thou art mine.

~A. Toplady

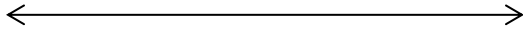


How often God's Word is to you a sealed book; how often you hear from the pulpit the most encouraging preaching, yet get no encouragement from it; how often you hear Christ held forth in His Person, blood, and righteousness, and go away as you came, without any sensible relief. What is the reason? Because you are overcome. Unbelief, bondage, darkness of mind, and insensibility rest upon your spirit and all these keep you from feeding upon the manna. But sometimes a gracious word comes over all these hills and mountains of unbelief, bondage, doubt and fear, and as this word drops into your heart, you begin to shout victory over all your foes and fears. Then the Word of God begins to open itself up in its sweetness and blessedness. The Lord of the house brings out the hidden manna, and the Word of God is made sweet and precious to the soul. Sometimes you read the Word of God as a dry and barren

task to satisfy conscience. When is that? When you are shut up in unbelief and bondage.

But at other times the Word of God is read with pleasure, and it is to you the joy and rejoicing of your heart. This is when you can believe it; and thus faith turns the Word of God into manna. But if you are barren, then the Word of God is barren; if dead, the Word is dead; if cold and lifeless, the Word is so too. But when the scene changes, when the clouds are dispersed, then you see light in God's light. Then it is a blessed Bible, and precious book, full of sweet promises and encouraging invitations. It is in this way the manna is given to the overcomer.

~J. C. Philpot

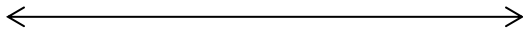


Parents: Speak much with your children about the good they must do and the evil they must refrain from doing. Speak especially that they must honor and obey their parents, who have done and still do them much good, and that they must love their parents and be helpful and obedient to them.

Speak much with them about good children who fear God and about mischievous, disobedient, and bad children who do not fear God, and tell them of what the goodness of the one and the badness of the other consists. Tell them they must follow the example of the former and so be pleasing to God and to you and be blessed by God. But if they follow the example of bad children, they will make God and their parents angry, and then God will punish them in this world with diseases and other punishments and later in hell.

Also speak much with them about death and the grave, about hell and heaven. Tell them who will go to hell and who to heaven, how horrible things are in hell and how good and glorious things are in heaven, a thousand times better than things on earth. But add to this that no one goes there except those who are afraid to commit sin and to make God angry.

~Jacobus Koelman



Take heed to yourselves, lest your example contradicts your doctrine, and lest you lay such stumbling blocks before the blind as may be the occasion of their ruin; lest you may unsay that with your lives which you say with your tongues; and be the greatest hinderers of the success of your own labors.

~Richard Baxter

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Consistory

Elders: Mr. Derek Kattenberg, Mr. Craig Timmer

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# NETHERLANDS REFORMED CONGREGATION

**Sioux Falls, SD**



*O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy  
name in all the earth!*

*Psalms 8:9*

Services at 9:30 a.m. and 2:30 or 6:30 p.m.