

January 14, 2024

This Week: 9:30 a.m. Catechism Reading Service (LD30Q80)
6:30 p.m. Reading Service
Classes after the morning service.

Next Week: 9:30 a.m. Reading Service
6:30 p.m. Catechism Reading Service (LD30Q81)
Classes after the morning service.

Thursday: The first meeting of the Asaph Choir is planned for the season at 7:30 p.m. Highschool age and older are welcome. They will be meeting in the music room in the NRC school in Rock Valley weekly.

Friday: The NRCS youth activity group will be meeting at Great Bear for a winter ski/snowboard trip immediately following school. For more information contact Rebekah Rozeboom at 712-441-45677.

Advance Notices:

-January 28, 2:30 p.m. service with Rev. Witvoet'
-The post high school youth group plans to have a topic with Elder Van Den Brink in school on Friday, **February 23** at 7:00 pm. For more information, please contact Case Vogelaar (712-360-2725) or Beth Kelderman (605-987-7881).

-All the Lord willing-

Collections: Today: 1st General Fund Next week: 1st General Fund
2nd NAGMission 2nd Alpha Center

We Remember in Prayer:

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

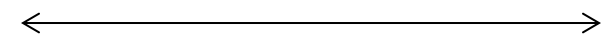
MEDITATIONS

Be careful of not making a Saviour of faith. There is a danger – and it cannot be too vigilantly guarded against – of substituting the work of the Spirit for the work of Christ; this mistake it is that leads so many of God's saints to look within, instead of without, themselves for the evidences of their calling and acceptance; and thus, too, so many are kept all their spiritual course walking in a

state of bondage and fear, the great question never fully and fairly settled, or, in other words, never quite sure of their sonship. The work of Christ is a great and finished work; it is so glorious that it can admit of no comparison, so complete that it can allow of no addition, and so essential that it can give place to no substitution. Precious as is the work of the Holy Ghost in the heart, and essential as it is to the salvation of the soul, yet he who places it where the work of Jesus ought only to be, deranges the order of the covenant, closes up the legitimate source of evidence, and will assuredly bring distress and uncertainty into his soul. "Righteousness, peace, and joy," are the fruit of a full belief in the Lord Jesus Christ; and he who looks for them away from the cross, will meet with disappointment: but they are found in Jesus. He who looks away from himself, from his vileness, guiltiness, emptiness, and poverty, fully and believingly unto Jesus, shall know what the forgiveness of sin is, and shall experience the love of God shed abroad in his heart.

If, then, your faith is feeble and tried, be not cast down; faith does not save you. Though it be an instrument of salvation, and as such, is of vast importance, it is but the instrument; the finished work of Immanuel is the ground of your salvation, yea, it is your salvation itself. Then make not a Saviour of your faith; despise it not if it is feeble, exult not in it if it is strong, trample not on it if it is small, deify it not if it is great; such are the extremes to which every believer is exposed. If your faith is feeble and sharply tried, it is no evidence that you are not a believer; but the evidence of your acceptance in the Beloved, is to arise from Jesus alone; looking to Him just as you are; looking unto Him when faith is feeble; looking unto Him when faith is tried; looking unto Him when faith is declining, yea, looking unto Him when you fear you have no faith. Look up, tried and tempted soul! Jesus is the Author, the Sustainer, and He will become the Finisher of thy faith. All thou wantest is in Him. One glimpse, dim though it be, of His cross, - one touch, trembling though it be, of His garment, - will lift thee from thy lowest depths, lighten thy heaviest burden, gild thy darkest prospect, and when thou arrivest at Jordan's brink, will bear thee safely through its swellings, and land thee on the sunny and verdant shores of Canaan. Let this be your prayer, urged unceasingly at the throne of grace until it is answered – "Lord, increase my faith": and then, with holy Paul, you too shall be enabled with humble assurance to exclaim, "I know in whom I have believed, and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day!"

~Octavius Winslow



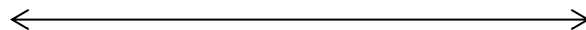
Jesus, cast a look on me;
Give me sweet humility;
Make me poor, and keep me low,
Seeking only Thee to know. ~Rev. J. Berridge

As in water face answereth to face, so the heart of man to man.
Proverb 27:19

As in the reflection of the water face answereth to face; so in another heart, we see the reflection of our own. (Psalms 33:15.) Human nature has suffered no change since the fall. The picture of man's corruption, drawn over four thousand years ago, is man as we see and know him now. The Apostle's graphical description of the Christian conflict is as if we had been sitting before him for our own likeness. (Rom 7:14-25.)

Scripture history also illustrates this unity. Ishmael's mocking shows the enmity of the heart in all ages. (Galatians 4:29.) Who of us does not find something answering to Jonah's evil temper in our own fretfulness, waywardness, or ingratitude? Job shows us our impatience, our mistaken judgments of God's dealings with us, and the special trial of Satan's temptations. David's heart, in all its varied exercises, answereth to our heart. Else how could we take up his confession, praises, conflicts, and triumphs, and feel that no words of ours could more entirely and accurately express our own selves? It is these Scripture portraits that make the word of God so "profitable for reproof, correction, and instruction in righteousness." (2Ti 3:16.)

Hence, we learn sympathy with the members of Christ. We share their joys and sorrows, the confidence and temptations. Self-knowledge also instructs us thus to know human nature and to deal wisely and profitably with our fellow sinners. The practical lesson of humility and forbearance is also deeply taught. A man observes a face reflected in the water, not thinking that it is his own face, which is the actual object of disgust. He exclaims with vain self-preference against the ungodliness of the sinner or the infirmities of the saint. Why! it is thine own self thou art reviling! Change thy language of scorn for self-abhorrence and shame! ~Charles Bridges



Humility and Judging Others: "A humble man values others at a higher rate than himself, and the reason is because he can see his own heart better than he can another's. He sees his own corruption and thinks surely it is not so with others; their graces are not so weak as his; their corruptions are not so strong. 'Surely,' he thinks, 'they have better hearts than I.' A humble Christian studies his own infirmities and another's excellencies, and that makes him put a higher value upon others than himself" ~Thomas Watson

Consistory

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

Contacts

Moderator: Rev. Slingerland

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

Sermon recordings: Mr. Ryan Rozeboom

Website: nrcsf.com

NETHERLANDS REFORMED CONGREGATION

Sioux Falls, SD



*I will praise the LORD according to his
righteousness: and will sing praise to the
name of the LORD most high.*

Psalms 7:17

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