

April 26, 2020

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSED AFFLICTIONS

Services continue to be "listen live" only through our website:

nrclf.com

Today: 9:30 a.m. Service*
6:00 p.m. Rev. Vergunst (Combined with Waupun)

Next Week: 9:30 a.m. Service*
6:00 p.m. Rev. Vergunst (Combined with Waupun)

*Our morning service will be either an audio or reading sermon. In the evenings we will continue to follow our moderator in his catechism.

Adult classes continue at 2:00 on Sunday afternoons
-All the Lord willing-

Offerings: Please send offerings to Mr. Norm deWit. The April offerings would be for the General Fund, School Fund, Living Bread, and Church Book Supply.

Congratulations. We rejoice with the Kattenberg family on the adoption of the four children: Drake Alan(12-23-03), Trayton Michael(3-28-06), Kendra Elizabeth(5-8-12), and Kyla Ann(8-13-14) this past Monday. We wish you the Lord's blessing.

We Remember in Prayer:

- All those affected by the coronavirus: those who are ill, unemployed, suffering financial hardship, and suffering in various ways, the health care workers, our elderly and vulnerable.
- Our leaders and government officials, for wisdom.
- Our congregation in our continued separation physically, that we may be bound together in prayer.
- Our widows and widowers and lonely ones.
- All those with hidden crosses

MEDITATIONS

Seek grace to live as in the sight of God. This is what Abraham did: he walked before God. This is what Enoch did: he walked with God.

*Think nothing you would not like God to know (Psalm 19.14).

*Do nothing you would not like God to see (Genesis 16.13).

*Say nothing you would not like God to hear (Psalm 141.3).

*Sing nothing that would not be melodious in God's ear (Psalm 105.2).

*Write nothing you would not like God to read (2 Kings 19.14).

*Go nowhere you would not like God to find you (1 Kings 19.9).

*Read no book of which you would not like God to say: "Show it to Me" (Psalm 119.37)

"It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn Thy statutes." (Psalm 119:71)

As fallen human beings, we do not really know in a spiritual sense, what a true blessing is. We can be very happy in life, not experiencing many problems, living very smoothly, and as a result we may become very shallow and artificial. And when we die, after living such a "good" life, we may then receive the curse that we never felt was on us, but in actuality was. On the other hand, we may encounter a fair bit of misery in our lives and benefit spiritually from it. Let me explain.

I do not mean to state the obvious here: that difficulties often make people more mature and that problems can turn out to be a great advantage. We all know that some very fine people are formed by a life full of difficulties. I also do not wish to focus on those who become very religious by their suffering. That is also understandable. People need a god to help them and desire comfort from somewhere. Some may then create their own god and soothe themselves with a religion they can benefit from. We all realize that that does not help in the long term either.

I read in the Word of God that afflictions can do much better things for us. If blessed by God, suffering can really benefit us by bringing us to our knees and letting us feel our sins. That is a good result! It may make us feel unworthy of God's blessings and cause us to realize that we need more than God's help. We need forgiveness for our sins. Afflictions can rid us of the shallow Christianity that does not give salvation and does not bring about a true conversion.

We may first rebel and rise up against God when we are in trouble, but then we begin to see more and more of Who God is and who we have been. If that is the case, we will weep more about sin itself than about its consequences. Then we have more hunger for God and forgiveness than we have for help and comfort. King David was blessed with such beneficial afflictions. He was already a child of God, but he learned more about God and himself through the trials God sent him.

Afflictions can also be a blessing in another way. Here I mean the afflictions that came upon the Lord Jesus. People thought He was cursed and deserted by God, and actually He was. But He went through this to save people from the real curse. Dear reader, you need the true faith in this Saviour to be delivered from the curse that is upon you because of your sins. Whether you are troubled by afflictions or not, seek your salvation in an afflicted Lord Who suffered and died in order to save death-worthy ones.

~Rev. Van Ruitenburg

Netherlands Reformed Congregation

Sioux Falls, SD



*And thou shalt love the LORD thy
God with all thine heart, and with all
thy soul, and with all thy might.
Deuteronomy 6:5*

Consistory

Mr. Craig Timmer, President Mr. Norm DeWit, Treasurer

Contacts

Bulletin announcements: Mr. Craig Timmer craigtimmer@ymail.com or (231) 942-1389

Sermon recordings: Mr. Ryan Rozeboom

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