

January 28, 2024

This Week: 9:30 a.m. Catechism Reading Service (LD30 Q82)
2:30 p.m. service with Rev. Witvoet

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

Tuesday: Asaph Choir practice at 7:30 p.m. (instead of Thursday)

Friday: The NRC School Ladies Auxiliary plans to have a Soup Supper & Bake Sale from 5-8.

-All the Lord willing-

Collections: Today: 1st General Fund Next week: 1st General Fund
2nd Prison Diaries 2nd Hudson Taylor

We Remember in Prayer:

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

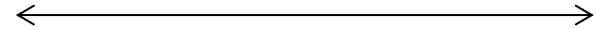
MEDITATIONS

DO YOU PRAY?

Do you pray? It is useless to say you know not how to pray. Prayer is the simplest act in all religion. It is simply speaking to God. It needs nothing but heart and will. It is useless to say you cannot pray till you have faith and a new heart and that you must sit still and wait for them. This is to add sin to sin. It is bad enough to be uncovered and going to hell. It is even worse to say, "I know it, but will not cry for mercy." This is a kind of argument for which there is no warrant in Scripture. "Call ye upon the Lord while he is near." If you want faith and a new heart, go and cry to the Lord for them. The very attempt to pray has often been the quickening of a dead soul. Oh, prayerless reader, who and what are you that you will not ask anything of God? Have you made a covenant with death and hell? Are you at peace with the worm and the fire? Have you no fear of eternal torment? Have you no sins to be pardoned? Have you no desire after heaven? Oh, that you would awake from your present folly. Oh, that you would arise and call upon God. Wait not because you feel unworthy. Wait for nothing. Waiting comes from the devil. Just as you are, go to Christ. The worse you are, the more need you have to apply to him. You will never mend yourself by staying

away. Oh, reader, go this very day. Beseech Him to pardon and wash you in His own blood; to give you a new heart, and plant the Holy Spirit in your soul.

~J.C. Ryle



God takes various occasions to convert men and uses various means to bring about his work. I mention this because some are apt to think they are not converted if it has not happened with them in the same way as with others. The first and most usual way is by the preaching of the gospel, for faith comes by hearing (Rom 10:14-17). Sometimes God takes the occasion when one has been reading to send a preacher, as to the eunuch (Acts 9). Whichever way the words reaches us to save us, let us reach to the saving word. Give yourself to reading and to hearing, and who knows but God may give you faith while you are reading or hearing, if He has not done it for you already.

Sometimes God takes occasion during a meeting or conversation, as it was between Christ and the woman of Samaria (John 4).

Sometimes God makes use of an affliction and a desperate condition, as he did to convert the prodigal son. And David found this of use for a re-conversion (Psalm 119:67-71).

Sometimes he works through some mercy he has shown and deliverance which he has brought about for a person, and in that way obliged and led him to repentance by his goodness. That was how the blind man was converted, and one of the lepers, and perhaps the jailer.

Sometimes God uses a dream (Job 33:14-30).

Sometimes it is from a man's curiosity, as Zaccheus, or many that have gone to see and be seen, or to hear words as a lovely song. Some who went to hear Paul for novelty believed (Acts 17:19-34).

Indeed, sometimes God uses the good behavior of others. When men will not hear the good word of God, the good works of women may lead to and be used for their conversion (1 Cor. 7). Oh, that there were more such preachers and preaching, for then perhaps there would be more conversion.

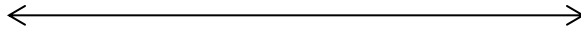
Sometimes God makes use of the patient sufferings of his saints, as he did that of Christ to convince a few at the time of his passion. And God blessed it so much that in later ages it became a familiar saying. The blood of innocent and patient martyrs became the seed of the Church.

We must not limit the Holy one of Israel, for though he ties us to means, he has not tied himself. But he works on many so indiscernibly that they hardly know the means used to do it. He waits to be gracious, for he is a God of judgment. He acts judiciously and takes what occasion he pleases; he best knows what will best take. If the work is done, we should not have misgivings as to which way it is done. But seeing the word preached is the most usual, we should wait and watch at the door of hope. ~Ralph Venning

There are the workers of iniquity fallen: they are cast down, and shall not be able to rise. Psalm 36:12

The holy inclination and love of his soul to God, man lost, and instead of it, he contracted an inclination and love to the pleasing of his flesh, or carnal self, by earthly things; growing strange to God, and acquainted with the creature: and the course of this life was suited to the inclination of his heart; he lived to his carnal self, and not to God, he sought the creature, for the pleasing of his flesh, instead of seeking to please the Lord. With this nature, or corrupt inclination, we are all now born into the world; for, "Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean?" (Job 14:4). As a lion has a fierce and cruel nature before it devours; and an adder has a venomous nature before she sting; so in our infancy we have those sinful natures, or inclinations, before we think, or speak, or do amiss: and hence springs all the sin of our lives. And not only so, but when God has of His mercy provided us a remedy, even the Lord Jesus Christ to be the Savior of our souls, and bring us back to God again, we naturally love our present state, and are loathe to be brought out of it, and therefore are set against the means of our recovery. And, though custom have taught us to thank Christ for His good will, yet carnal self persuades us to refuse His remedies, and to desire to be excused when we are commanded to take the medicines which He offers, and are called to forsake all and follow Him to God and glory.

~Richard Baxter



Parents: Speak much with your children about God, the God who has created all things and who has also created and sustained them and given them food and clothing; the God who is both in heaven and on earth; who knows and sees all things; from whom all good things come and who sends his judgments; the God who must be loved, praised, and worshiped.

Therefore, speak with them often about the sin that people commit against God's commandments and will when they speak or do evil, yes, even when they intend to do evil. Tell them that sin is severely punished and that they are sinners from their earliest youth. Point out to them the sin that is present in the evil they do when they do or say things that are against your will and God's will.

Speak much with them about Christ the Savior, who alone can see to it that sins are forgiven and that one does not have to bear punishment for them; Christ who also calls children to him to make good children out of them; who died for sinners who go to him and wish to obtain grace through him; and who will also take them to heaven if they refrain from evil and do the good.

~Jacobus Koelman

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.*

Psalm 7:17

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

Consistory

Elders: Mr. Derek Kattenberg, Mr. Craig Timmer

Deacons: Mr. Norm DeWit, Mr. Rick Rozeboom

Contacts

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