

January 5, 2020

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today: 9:30 a.m. Reading Service, 6:30 p.m. Catechism Reading.
Classes after the morning service.

Next Week: 9:30 a.m. Catechism Reading, **2:30 p.m.** Rev. Hofman
No classes

Advance Notices:

January 17, 7:00 p.m. Singalong

January 19, 2:30 p.m. Rev. Witvoet

-All the Lord Willing-

Offerings Today: 1st General Fund Next week: 1st General Fund
2nd School Fund 2nd Living Bread

Congregational Meeting on December 25:

Mr. Norm Jongetjes was chosen for deacon but he did not have freedom to accept this office.

House Visitation: January 7 5:00 Mrs. Jennie Johnson

6:00 Mr. & Mrs. Tyler Johnson, 7:00 Mr. & Mrs. Paul Johnson

We Remember in Prayer:

-Mr. Spaans, whose brother, Andrew Spaans of Mitchell, SD passed away on Thursday.

-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.

MEDITATION

"Seek ye out of the Book of the LORD, and read: no one of these shall fail..." Isaiah 34:16a

In the name of the Lord, Isaiah had to solemnly declare God's judgements to the Edomites who persecuted the people of Israel. The sword of the Lord, made ready to battle in Heaven, would be as the wrath of the Lord. The Edomites would be slain and so the Lord would avenge the enemies of His people. In our text, the Lord spoke an encouraging word which is also applicable today to His embattled

Church: *"Seek ye out of the Book of the LORD, and read."* What is in this Book? You can read Who the Lord is for His people, the faithful One! He never forgets nor forsakes them because *"He has graven them upon the palms of His hands."* He is the One Who defends His people in their warfare because they have no power in themselves against their many enemies.

In this Book, you can read of the wondrous ways in which the Lord saved His people and delivered them. You can also read of God's judgements upon their enemies: the Egyptians in the Red Sea, the Amalekites in the desert, etc. Unconverted traveler to eternity: *"Seek ye out of the Book of the LORD, and read"* what the Lord had done in former times and what He will do in the future! This Book is not read often enough and when it is read, there is little interest or attention. Do we ponder what is written in this Book, especially that which pertains to eternity? Read in the Book of the LORD that we still can be converted.

To those who experience spiritual warfare; perhaps there are times that you feel that you don't know what to do anymore, that you only have sin and guilt and continue under the sentence of death. *"Seek ye out of the Book of the LORD, and read"* about the way of free grace, of atonement through the blood of the Lamb and of complete redemption through Christ's offer on the cross. Seek and read in this Book where you can find everything needed for your salvation. Read in this Book that no one can pluck you out of His hand or out of the hand of His Father. Seek, read, learn and be encouraged and comforted from the Book of the LORD.

"No one of these shall fail" means that everything recorded in this Book of the LORD will come to pass. All His words are "true and faithful" and not even one thing will remain unfulfilled. Judgments will come upon nations and people and upon us personally. By nature, we do not believe this and continue in our state of death. This changes when the Lord works salvation in a soul. Then man will be given to believe and accept that he deserves the judgments which are recorded in this Book and experiences anguish and sorrow. He exclaims with David: *"Have mercy upon me, O God."* In the depths of his lost state, it is a miracle to hear: *"I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life"* and He still saves because not one of His promises shall fail. At times, God's children may question with Asaph:

Forever shall His promise fail? Has God forgotten grace?

Has He withdrawn His tender love, In anger hid His face?

~Psalter 212:3

His promises and His faithfulness will not fail. He promised that He will not break His Covenant. Everything the Lord promised to His people will happen. *"For all the promises of God in Him are yea, and in Him Amen."* Many doubts can beset God's people, many fierce battles can come upon them and the water can rise up to their lips, so high that they fear they will drown. Oh, people of God, this is certain: *"God shall wound the head of His enemies"* If we are unconverted, our destiny is also recorded in this Book: *"The smoke of our torment will ascend up for ever and ever."*

As an encouragement for God's children and a warning to all: *"Seek ye out of the Book of the LORD, and read: no one of these shall fail..."*
~Rev. J. Koster

Notes

Netherlands Reformed Congregation

Sioux Falls, SD



*But he answered and said, It is
written, Man shall not live by bread
alone, but by every word that
proceedeth out of the mouth of God.
Matthew 4:4*

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.