

January 10, 2021

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today: 9:30 a.m. Reading Service (Galatians series)
6:30 p.m. Catechism Reading service
Classes after the morning service.

Next Week: : 9:30 a.m Catechism Reading service
2:30 p.m. Rev. Witvoet

Bible Study Groups meet the 1st and 3rd Wednesday evenings of each month at Living Bread
-All the Lord willing-

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

We Remember in Prayer:

- Mr. & Mrs. Zomer who hope to move to Rochester to start his treatments next week
- Our widows, widowers and lonely ones, the unborn, prodigal sons and daughters, and all those with hidden crosses.

MEDITATION

The Lord's Will

"When he (Paul) would not be persuaded, we ceased, saying, The will of the Lord be done." Acts 21:14

While in Caesarea, Paul received a message from the prophet Agabus that he would be bound and delivered into the hands of the Gentiles. His friends begged him not to go to Jerusalem, but the apostle declared fearlessly: "I am ready not to be bound only, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus." Paul did much for his friends, but the Lord came first. If it was in God's eternal counsel that he was to suffer for the Lord's name and cause, he was prepared, even if it was the will of the Lord that he would have to die. Earlier, Paul told the elders in Ephesus: "None of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the Gospel of the grace of God." Paul stood his ground, not because he was so strong in himself, but because he was strengthened by Christ's power. God's children are ready to do anything when they are ministered to by Christ. Paul had only one desire: to glorify God. Therefore he bowed in humility before

the sovereignty of his King. What rich grace was revealed in the life of the apostle. A characteristic of new life is a sincere desire to bow before the Lord. Christ is the Conqueror and man is enabled to unconditionally side with God.

"And when he would not be persuaded, we ceased, saying, The will of the Lord be done." With a few words, Luke described what happened in Philip the evangelist's house. Undoubtedly much was discussed, but Paul must have pointed out to his friends that he could never deny his Lord and Savior. He was well aware that he had to go to Jerusalem because the Holy Ghost explicitly revealed this to him. The knowledge that suffering and oppression awaited him did not cause him to decide to follow another road other than God's will. God asks obedience of His servants. Paul's friends understood this and ceded to his decision; he had to go. They did not say: "Paul, we warned you..." No, they agreed and said: "The will of the Lord be done." Paul and his friends were of the same faith that "worketh by love" and they unconditionally sided with God. Soon they travelled with Paul, but more importantly, the Lord travelled with them. Christ went first. "Follow Me" pertains to all His children in all places at all times.

Nothing is more prevalent in Scripture than doing the will of God. The Surety did God's will perfectly. When He had to drink the cup of suffering, Christ concluded His prayer: "Thy will be done." Thus Christ atoned for the sin of His guilty and rebellious children and merited a new obedience for them. They learn to pray, in whatever difficult circumstances: "Thy will be done in earth, as it is in Heaven." God is not served by "Praise the Lord" singers because He said: "Not everyone that saith unto Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the Kingdom of Heaven; but he that doeth the will of My Father..."

Living according to the will of God is a mark of grace; it is practicing holiness; revealed by fearing the Lord. Reader, have we learned to follow God's will or do we decide what we do? If we live according to our will, we fight against God's will and it will not be well with us for eternity. In the Day of Judgement, Christ will say: "But those Mine enemies, which would not that I should reign over them, bring thither, and slay them before Me." Then we will recall all the warnings Christ sent us and we will have to admit that it would be just if we would be lost forever. Yet, we are still in the time of grace, the accepted time, the day of salvation.

Tribulation is intrinsic to the lives of God's children; however, it is only for ten days. Paul wrote to the Corinthians: "Our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory." With this assured knowledge, Paul could submit himself to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.

~Rev. R. Boogaard (1921-2013) *Translated from "de Saambinder"*

Netherlands Reformed Congregation

Sioux Falls, SD



*Exalt the LORD our God, and
worship at his holy hill; for the
LORD our God is holy.
Psalm 99:9*

All who would like to stand for the 3rd song are welcome to.

Consistory

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

Mr. Derek Kattenberg, Clerk

Contacts

Moderator: Rev. Hofman

Bulletin announcements: Mr. Craig Timmer craigtimmer@ymail.com

Sermon recordings: Mr. Ryan Rozeboom

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