

January 12, 2020

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today: 9:30 a.m. Catechism Reading, 2:30 p.m. Rev. Hofman
No classes

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

This Week Friday, January 17, the topic and singalong evening starts
at 7:00 p.m. Please bring a drink or snack to pass after.

-All the Lord Willing-

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

We Remember in Prayer:

-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.

MEDITATIONS

God-Given Thorns

Strange gift indeed – a thorn to prick,
To pierce unto the very quick,
To cause perpetual sense of pain;
Strange gift! And yet, 'twas given for gain.

Unwelcome, but it came to stay;
Nor could it e'en be prayed away.
It came to fill its God-planned place –
A life-enriching means of grace.

O much-tried soul, with fainting heart,
The thorn with its abiding smart,
With all its wearing, ceaseless pain,
Can be the means of priceless gain.

And so whate'er thy thorn may be,
From God accept it willingly;
But reckon Christ, His life, His power,
To keep thee in the trying hour.

And sure – thy life will richer grow;
His grace sufficient will bestow;
And in heaven's morn thy joy will be
That by this thorn He strengthened thee.
~ Author Unknown

"Behold, I stand at the door, and knock." Revelation 3:20

The Lord Jesus Christ stands at the door of your heart and He is knocking. It is an urgent knocking. The best way to dismiss this urgency is by saying that you cannot open up the door. Saying this is the most splendid, most orthodox, and at the same time, the easiest way to ignore this knocking. You can appeal to your inability and then you appear to have the truth on your side. You could reason that you were born deaf and that therefore you cannot hear. That is all perfectly true. But have you ever sincerely wept behind the hard bolts of your corrupt heart of stone? Have you ever recognized your sin and guilt?

You have locked the door to God. Consider how many bolts there are that keep you fastened to your own will. It would be worthwhile, when you hear these calls from above, to look for the cause of your harshness against a loving God. Truly, the bolts are on the inside of your heart. It is because of your sins that you have locked the door of your heart to God. You have forsaken God. You have neglected Him. You do not want to know Him anymore. But now you read: "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock." Behold, the Lord has not withdrawn Himself from you; He still wants to be acquainted with runaway people. The Lord goes after man on his way to perdition.

Does it move you? Does it melt you that God does not want you to perish in your sin? The bolts of your heart have to melt as ice is exposed to heat. You must answer God who has done nothing else but good, and who knocks on the door of those who have forsaken Him. He has no pleasure in their death; He has no pleasure in your death.

Christ knocks at the door, seeking to enter your life. He Himself encountered a closed door until He paid for the wages of your sins. Now He knocks on the door of your human heart. Have you been made humble and meek because of the deep love of God who searches for you that He might save you from destruction?

Or do you complain that you have locked yourself up behind the bolts of your own sins and are now unable to pull the bolts back? Consider the terrible bolts. They are so heavy that you cannot open them yourself anymore. You cannot open them to receive the King. Remember, then, that you still are dealing with a God who is willing to give what He commands. Therefore, you cannot ask too much, for the Lord is willing to make room for Himself. "To him that knocketh it shall be opened" (Matt. 7:8). That is all because God Himself was the first who knocked on the door. ~Rev. F. Bakker

Notes

Netherlands Reformed Congregation

Sioux Falls, SD



*Sing aloud unto God our strength:
make a joyful noise unto the God of
Jacob. Psalm 81:1*

Consistory

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

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.