

## July 21, 2024

The thousandth part of what I ought.

**This Week:** 9:30 a.m. Catechism Reading Service (LD47)  
6:30 p.m. Reading Service

**Next Week:** 9:30 a.m. Reading Service  
2:30 p.m. service with Rev. Evers  
Singalong in the Sioux Center church after their evening service for all ages with a time for questions with Rev. Evers.

### Advance Notices:

-August 11 and 18 2:30 p.m. services with Rev. Sonneveld  
-All the Lord willing-

**Collections:** Today: 1<sup>st</sup> General Fund Next week: 1<sup>st</sup> General Fund  
2<sup>nd</sup> Disaster Relief 2<sup>nd</sup> Emeritus Fund

### Collections Received:

Local Flood Relief	\$4500
General Fund	\$525
Prison Diary	\$99
Israel Mission	\$81
Kingdom Boundary	\$93
NAGMission	\$363
Hudson Taylor	\$77

### We Remember in Prayer:

-Mr. & Mrs. Jongetjes who celebrated their 51<sup>st</sup> anniversary yesterday.  
-Our widows and lonely ones, prodigal sons and daughters, and those with hidden crosses.

## MEDITATIONS

### THE CHRISTIAN A PARADOX TO HIMSELF

A myst'ry to myself am I!  
I live, and yet I daily die;  
Profess to be divinely taught,  
And yet know nothing as I ought.

I earnest long to grow in grace,  
Yet sometimes cannot seek His face.  
I love Him; yet I love Him not,

I'm poor, -- and rich; am blind, -- can see,  
From Jesus go; to Jesus flee.  
I'm wrong and right all in one day;  
I'm sad, -- then glad that I can pray.

I stand, -- and yet I often fall;  
I'm nothing, -- yet possessed of all;  
I sink, and yet I am not drown'd;  
I'm in the mire, yet on firm ground.

I'm naked, yet I have a dress;  
Am fruitless, and still guilt confess;  
A feeble one in Jesus' flock,  
Yet built upon the solid Rock.  
A.H.

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*"For My strength is made perfect in weakness."* 2 Corinthians 12:9

When is it we find divine strength? It is only when we are experimentally sensible of our own weakness, and feel utterly unable to think, to speak, or to do anything acceptable in God's sight; when weakness is not a doctrine, but an experience, when man's thorough helplessness is believed by us, not merely because we read it in the Scripture, but because we really know it in our own hearts. Then it is, and then alone, that we find the strength of the Lord made perfect in weakness. If we go forward in our own strength, we are sure to get baffled, none of our anticipations are realized, disappointment and mortification are the only crop we reap. But when we feel all weakness and emptiness, we find at times secret and unexpected strength communicated. So with respect to righteousness. When we go to the Lord, hating ourselves, abhorring and loathing ourselves in dust and ashes, and see no more reason why God should have mercy upon us than upon the vilest sinner who is daringly fighting against his Majesty, this is the time when he often gives to the soul a sweet testimony of its interest in Christ's righteousness. When we are puffed up with some conceit of our own righteousness, and thinking, 'surely we are not as bad as others, surely there are those who are or have been more inconsistent than we', then there is a denial on the Lord's part, to indulge us with a spiritual view of Christ's glorious righteousness. But when the soul stands naked and bare, clothed with humility and filled with contrition, then the Lord from time to time, opens up a sight of Christ's glorious righteousness as unto all and upon all them that believe.  
~JC Philpot

It is by God and by God alone that we live. All our strength is from him. This is true of the natural life of all; it is delightfully true of the spiritual life of the saints. Arndt: "This is glorious consolation against the contempt and persecutions of poor Christians, the little flock, which has no outward protection in the world, no outward strength. But the Holy Ghost imparts consolation, and says, the world shall not give strength and power to the church, but the Lord; as King Hezekiah comforted himself when he said, 'With them is an arm of flesh, but with us is the Lord of hosts;' and John, 'He who is in us is greater than he who is in the world.'" ~Plumer

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"Judge not" is not an absolute prohibition against criticism. Rather, Jesus' words here are intended to cure a disease that is natural to us all.

We all have the tendency to flatter ourselves while passing severe censure on others. This vice provides us with a kind of strange enjoyment, for hardly anyone exists who is not tickled with the desire to ask about other people's faults. Yet we also acknowledge that it is an intolerable evil to overlook one's own vices while being critical of others.

Jesus warns against the depraved eagerness for backbiting, censuring, and slandering others when he says, Judge not. He is not saying that believers should be blind to the faults of others, perceiving nothing, but only that they should refrain from the undue eagerness to judge. If they indulge themselves, everyone who wants to pass sentence on others will exceed the boundaries set by Christ.

Judging may also be influenced by wrongful curiosity about the actions of others. This disease includes the injustice of magnifying any trivial fault of others as if it were a very heinous crime. In addition, it includes the insolent presumption of looking disdainfully at every action of others, passing unfavorable judgment on it even when it might be viewed in a good light. ~John Calvin

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It is the mark of a hypocrite to be a Christian everywhere except at home. ~Robert Murray McCheyne

# NETHERLANDS REFORMED CONGREGATION

**Sioux Falls, SD**



*O LORD, how manifold are thy works! in  
wisdom hast thou made them all: the  
earth is full of thy riches.  
Psalm 104:24*

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