

August 16, 2020

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today: 9:30 a.m. catechism reading and 6:30 p.m. audio services

Next Week: 9:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. services

-All the Lord willing-

Offerings Today: 1st General Fund Next week: 1st General Fund
 2nd School Fund 2nd Disaster Relief
**Collection plates will be on the foyer table at exit*

We Remember in Prayer:

-Our elderly, widows and widowers and lonely ones, the unborn, prodigal sons and daughters, and all those with hidden crosses

MEDITATIONS

TOMORROW MAY NEVER COME

*“Go to now, ye say, Today or tomorrow we will go into such a city and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain.”
(James 4:13)*

We in this land generally profess, that as we are by sinful nature, we are exposed to eternal death, and that therefor there is a necessity that we get out of a natural condition some time before we die. And those among us who are sensible that they have never passed through any such change as in Scripture is called a being born again, though they be not sufficiently convinced that there is any such lace as hell, yet have a kind of belief of it; at least they do not conclude that there is no such place, and therefore cannot but be sensible that it would be dreadful to die unconverted. Therefore, if they be in a considerable degree of ease and quietness in their condition, it must be because they have a dependence on being delivered out of such a condition some time before they die.

Inasmuch as they are easy, remaining in such a condition today, without any prospect of present deliverance, it shows plainly that they depend on another day. If they did not, they could have no quietness in their spirits; because, if there be no grounds of dependence on any further opportunity which they have today, is infinitely dreadful. Persons who are secure in their

sins, under the light of the gospel, unless they be deceived with a false hope, are generally so because they boast themselves of tomorrow. They depend on future opportunity; they flatter themselves with hopes of living long in the world; they depend on what shall come to pass hereafter; they depend on the fulfilment of their good intentions as to what they will do at a more convenient season.

Men behave themselves as those who depend on another day, when they neglect anything to day which must be done before they die. If there be anything, which is absolutely necessary to be done some time before death, and the necessity of it be sufficiently declared and shown to the person for whom it is thus necessary, if he neglect setting about it immediately, sincerely, and with all his might, certainly it carries this face with it, that the man depends upon it being done hereafter, and consequently that he shall have opportunity to do it. Because, as to those things which are absolutely necessary to be done, there is need, not only of a possibility of a future opportunity; but of something which is to be depended on, some good ground to conclude that we shall have future opportunity; therefore, whoever lives under the gospel, and does not this day thoroughly reform his life, by casting away every abomination, and denying every lust and doth not apply himself to the practice of the whole of his duty towards God and man, and begin to make religion his main business, he acts as one who depends on another day; because he is abundantly taught that these things must be done before he dies.

Those who have been seeking salvation for a great while, in a dull, insincere, and slightly manner, and find no good effect of it, have abundant reason to conclude, that some time before they die, they must not only seek, but strive to enter in at the strait gate, and must be violent for the kingdom of heaven; and therefore, if they do not begin thus today, they act as those who depend on another day.

~Jonathan Edwards

Let us use worldly things as wise pilgrims do their staves and other necessities convenient for their journey. So long as they help us forward in our way — let us make use of them, and accordingly esteem them. But if they become troublesome hindrances and cumbersome burdens — let us leave them behind us, or cast them away. The temptations of prosperity, like unseen bullets, wound and kill us before they are discerned.

~George Downame

NOTES

Netherlands Reformed Congregation

Sioux Falls, SD



*Let us come before his presence with
thanksgiving, and make a joyful
noise unto him with psalms.
Psalm 95:2*

Consistory

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

Contacts

Moderator: Rev. Hofman

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

Sermon recordings: Mr. Ryan Rozeboom

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