

**August 20, 2017**

## GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

**-Today:** We hope to have a morning catechism and an afternoon service at 2:30 p.m with Student de Leeuw. He is in Rock Valley at 7:00 p.m. There is a singalong for the young people after the evening service in the RV church.

**-Next Week:** We hope to have a morning reading service and an evening catechism service.

This week **Wednesday**, Study Groups meet

**Ladies: Rescheduled September 6** Baby shower for Tyler and Krista Johnson. Please contact us for further changes and details.

-All the Lord willing-

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

### **We Remember in Prayer:**

-Those who have been unable to gather with us for some time, our widow and widower, our elderly, and the unborn, prodigal sons and daughters, any others who are unable to gather with us today, are under doctor's care, and all those who have hidden crosses.

## MEDITATION

*Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth."* 3 John 2.

When his (the man's) *temper is subdued*, his pride laid low, his corruptions weakened, and his heart is a quiet principality where the King of Zion reigns, so as to enjoy pardon, peace, salvation, love, and blood shed abroad therein, then his soul is prosperous, and is in health.

O what a difference when the soul is sickly and when it is in health! Of all wretched feelings to a child of God, a feeling of soul-sickness is the worst; and of all blessed feelings to a child of

God, a feeling of spiritual health is one of the best. Especially if a man has ever enjoyed in his soul the presence and testimony of God, walked with the Lord, had his heart in some measure watered by the blessed Spirit, then he feels the sickness more. It is then the desire of his soul that the Lord would, by any means, make it to prosper. He counts spiritual prosperity to be the greatest blessing God can give, and temporal prosperity without spiritual prosperity little else but a curse.

Now the Lord brings about this state of spiritual prosperity sometimes by his rod and sometimes by his smile. We want both. We need the bitter medicine to purge out the filthiness, and we want the presence of God in the heart to make the soul prosper in his ways. All afflictions will not do; all smiles will not do. If the Lord were to give nothing but smiles, we should be like children pampered with sweetmeats. If we had not sharp afflictions and cutting convictions, we should argue thus: "What does it matter whether I sin or not? My backslidings do not provoke the Lord. It is all one how I live, speak, or act. The Lord smiles all the same." Thus, if the Lord were to throw his favours away, it would feed our pride and sinfulness. Therefore the Lord, to correct this cursed recklessness, fills the backslider with his own ways, teaches him to loathe himself by laying his rod sharper upon him, and makes him groan and sigh over his baseness, before he applies the blood of Jesus, which cleanses from all sin, and restores to him the joys of salvation.

The apostle John, therefore, could not wish a greater blessing for his beloved Gaius than that "his soul might prosper and be in health." What would it profit Gaius that the farm flourished, that the business was going on successfully, that money was coming in like water, if the Lord frowned, and his soul was sickly?

But if the Lord was prospering Gaius's soul, watering it and making him fruitful, would he not, when he came to be stretched on the deathbed, bless the Lord for his dealings with him, however painful they might have been at the time; mercifully withholding those things which only feed the flesh, and giving him those which made his soul prosper?

~From a sermon by J. C. Philpot

*Notes*

# Netherlands Reformed Congregation

Sioux Falls, SD



*The Lord is not slack concerning his  
promise, as some men count slackness;  
but is longsuffering to us-ward, not  
willing that any should perish, but that  
all should come to repentance.*

*2 Peter 3:9*

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