

April 30, 2023

This Week: 9:30 a.m. Catechism Reading Service (dB #1)
6:30 p.m. Rev. Vogelaar

Next Week: 9:30 a.m. Reading Service
6:30 p.m. Catechism Reading Service (dB #2)

Monday: 10:00 a.m. Consistory Meeting

Wednesday: 7:00 p.m. Ladies' Baby Shower at Split Rock Fire Station for Mrs. Elisabeth Maassen.

Advance Notice: Rev. Slingerland hopes to be in our midst on **May 17** at 7:00 p.m. for an Ascension Day service.

-All the Lord willing-

Collections: Today: 1st General Fund Next week: 1st General Fund
2nd Kingdom Boundaries 2nd Prison Diary

We Remember in Prayer:

-The needs of our country as we observe a National Day of Prayer this Thursday.

-Our widows and lonely ones, the unborn, our married couples, prodigal sons and daughters, and all those with hidden crosses.

MEDITATIONS

"As the shadow of a great rock in a weary land." Isaiah 32:2

The comparison that is used in the text is very beautiful and very significant. The dry, barren, and scorched wilderness of Arabia is a very lively representation of the misery that men have brought upon themselves by sin. It is destitute of any inhabitants but lions and tigers and fiery serpents; it is barren and parched, and without any river or spring; it is a land of drought, wherein there is seldom any rain, a land exceeding hot and uncomfortable. The scorching sunbeams that are ready to consume the spirits of travelers, are a fit representation of terror of conscience, and the inward sense of God's displeasure.

And there being no other shade in which travelers may rest, but only here and there that of a great rock, it is a fit representation of Jesus Christ, who came to redeem us from our misery. Christ is

often compared to a rock, because he is a sure foundation to builders, and because he is a sure bulwark and defense. They who dwell upon the top of a rock, dwell in the most defensible place; we read of those whose habitation is the munitions of rocks. He may also be compared to a rock, as He is everlasting and unchangeable. A great rock remains steadfast, unmoved, and unbroken by winds and storms from age to age; and therefore God chose a rock to be an emblem of Christ in the wilderness, when He caused water to issue forth for the children of Israel; and the shadow of a great rock is a most fit representation of the refreshment given to weary souls by Jesus Christ.

There is rest and refreshment in Christ for God's people who are wearied with persecutions, when exercised with afflictions, and when wearied with the buffetings of Satan. The devil, that malicious enemy of God and man, does whatever lies in his power to darken and hinder, and tempt God's people, and render their lives uncomfortable. In such a case if the soul flies to Christ, they may find rest in Him, for He came into the world to destroy Satan, and to rescue souls out of his hands. And He has all things put under His feet and therefore He can restrain Satan when He pleases. And that He is doubtless ready enough to pity us under such temptations, we may be assured, for He has been tempted and buffeted by Satan as well as we. He is able to succor those that are tempted, and He has promised that He will subdue Satan under His people's feet. Let God's people therefore, when they are exercised with any of those kinds of weariness, make their resort unto Christ for refuge and rest.

~Jonathan Edwards

You will meet with many professing to love the true doctrines of the gospel; but, alas! they at the same time love their sins, and too evidently show themselves to be boasters, proud, covetous, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God. Remember, Satan has millions of devices, of which a young convert knows but little, and he is as well pleased to lead his people captive with the knowledge of the word as in any other way. Satan fears nothing but the power and Spirit of the gospel, which changes God's dear people from glory to glory, and conforms them to the image of His dear Son. You must not infer from what I have said that I am against the blessed doctrines of grace; I only would have you not prize that knowledge that puffeth up. The true knowledge of the gospel is a great blessing, and may you abound in it more and more, so that you may prove things that are excellent. There is no other knowledge worth having compared with it; and I pray that the Lord may by His Spirit lead you to count all things but dung for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus our Lord.

~W. Tiptaft

Prayer must not stand in the stead of diligence. Let it rather give energy to it. The miner's indefatigable pains; his invincible resolution; his untiring perseverance; seeking, yea, searching for hid treasures, — such must be our searching into the sacred storehouse. To read, instead of "searching the Scriptures," is only to skim the surface, and gather up a few superficial notions. The rule of success is — Dig up and down the field; and if the search be discouraging, dig again. The patient industry of perusal and re-perusal will open the embosomed treasure. "Surely there is a vein for the silver." (Job 28:1.) Yet what miner would be content with the first ore? Would he not search deeper and deeper, until he has possessed himself of the whole; not satisfied with taking away much, but determined to leave nothing? Thus let us daily explore "the length, and the breadth, and the depth" of our boundless stores, until we be "filled with all the fullness of God." (Ephesians 3:18-19.)

This habit of living in the element of Scripture is invaluable. To be filled from this Divine treasury; to have large portions of the word daily passing through the mind; gives us a firmer grasp, and a more suitable and diversified application of it. Yet this profit can only be fully reaped in retirement. We may read the Scriptures in company. But to search them, we must be alone with God. Here we learn to apply ourselves wholly to the word, and the word wholly to us. This enriching study gives a purer vein of sound judgment. The mere reader often scarcely knows where to begin, and he performs the routine without any definite object. His knowledge therefore must be scanty and ineffective. Nor is the neglect of this habit less hurtful to the Church. All fundamental errors and heresies in the Church may be traced to this source — "Ye do err, not knowing the Scriptures." (Mat 22:29.) They are mostly based on partial or disjointed statements of truth. Truth separated from truth becomes error. But the mind prayerfully occupied in the search of Divine truth — crying and lifting up the voice — will never fail to discern the two great principles of godliness — The fear and knowledge of God. There is no peradventure nor disappointment in this search — Then shalt thou understand.

-- Charles Bridges on Proverbs 2:1-6

Consistory

Elders: Mr. Rick Rozeboom, Mr. Craig Timmer

Deacon: Mr. Norm DeWit

Contacts

Moderator: Rev. Slingerland

Bulletin announcements: Mr. Craig Timmer nrcsfsd@gmail.com

Sermon recordings: Mr. Ryan Rozeboom

Website: nrcsf.com

Netherlands Reformed Congregation

Sioux Falls, SD



*Our help is in the name of the LORD,
who made heaven and earth.*

Psalms 124:8

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