

September 17, 2017

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Today:** Rev. Vogelaar hopes to preach for us both times. Rev. Adams is in Rock Valley at 2:00 p.m.
- Next Week:** We hope to have a morning catechism service and an evening reading service.
- Tuesday, Sep. 19,** Rev. Vogelaar is in Sioux Center at 7:00 p.m.
- Wednesday,** Study groups meet at 7:30 p.m.
-All the Lord willing-

Offerings Today: 1st General Fund Next week: 1st General Fund
 2nd Benevolent Fund 2nd School 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.

MEDITATIONS

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." Hebrews 11:1

Faith gives assurance to those people, who may possess this. It gives communion with God and Christ, it opens an invisible world. This is no imagination, no, it is reality, it is true, it is experienced. By faith we receive a taste of the promised good. So we read in John 8 that Abraham rejoiced to see the day of Christ, "And he saw it and was glad." But Abraham lived 2000 years before the birth of Christ. Therefore faith is called the telescope of faith.

When faith is in exercise, which is also a gift of God, then sometimes we may see what previously was hidden. In those moments we see so much magnitude and glory in God that our heart is filled with Him. "No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, He hath declared Him." In His light we see light. When the bright Morning Star and the Sun of Righteousness may arise, then all the clouds will disappear. This knowledge is only in beginning, but there we may see God in the glory of His Divine attributes. In the light of His virtues, we see our sins and iniquities. "Far be it from God, that He should do wickedness; and from the Almighty, that He should commit iniquity."

It is such a great wonder of the Lord, that our attributes, which are tarnished by sin, are restored in principle by Christ, and we may

rejoice in the Lord. So Simeon may say, "Mine eyes have seen Thy salvation." At such moments the eyes of faith are so clear that they may see the King in His beauty, which is in His deep humiliation as well as in His infinite exaltation.
~Rev. A.M. den Boer

UNABLE TO OPEN

"Behold, I stand at the door, and knock." Revelations 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 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 exposed to heat. You must answer God who has done nothing else but good, who still does not cease to do 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 your 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 your 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*" (Matthew 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



*He maketh me to lie down in
green pastures: he leadeth me
beside the still waters.
Psalm 23:2*

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