

June 30, 2024

This Week: 9:30 a.m. Catechism Reading Service (LD45Q117)
6:30 p.m. Reading Service

Next Week: 9:30 a.m. Rev. Vergunst
– Confession of Faith and Baptism
6:30 p.m. Rev. Vergunst

Advance Notices:

-July 28 2:30 service with Rev. Evers

-All the Lord willing-

Collections: Today: 1st General Fund Next week: 1st General Fund
2nd Prison Diary 2nd Flood Relief

We Remember in Prayer:

- All the people in Iowa and our areas in the devastating losses of their homes and businesses, especially for comfort in all the difficulties.
- For all the volunteers and people cleaning up, for health and strength
- For the Rock Valley church and other churches as they continue to try to clean to be able to worship together again.
- Our widows and lonely ones, prodigal sons and daughters, and those with hidden crosses.

MEDITATIONS

Thoughts on Faith in Christ

Faith is a light struck into the heart of a sinner whose understanding was darkened, yea, darkness itself, till God commanded light to shine in darkness; by which, though first but glimmering, he sees himself a sinner, miserable and undone, without a Savior, when Christ is held forth in the Gospel to be looked at by him, where He is set forth crucified and slain for sinners. So is this hope set before him, both to be looked at and to be laid hold on by him. Christ Himself says, "Behold Me, behold Me," to a nation not called by His name. "Look unto Me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth, for I am God, and there is none else."

Oh, such a sight of Christ fills the soul with love to Him as the most suitable and lovely One. The soul is now filled with eager desires

after Him, which is signified by hungering and thirsting after His righteousness, and panting after His salvation. And this sight of Christ by faith is near, and not afar off; now, and not hereafter; and for the person's self, and not another. He looks to Him, not merely as a Savior of others, but to Him as a Savior and Redeemer suitable for himself.

Faith is a motion of the soul unto Christ. Having looked and gazed at Him with wonder and pleasure, it is drawn toward Him. This is expressed in Scripture by "coming unto Him." "He that cometh to Me," says Christ, "shall never hunger; and he that believeth on Me, (which explains what is meant by coming) shall never thirst." This coming to Christ is upon an invitation given which encourages the soul to it. This invitation is given, by the Spirit and the Bride, who say "Come," and by ministers through the Gospel trumpet being blown with power, attended with efficacious grace, but also by Christ Himself Who says, "Come unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Such souls come who are influenced and powerfully wrought upon by the grace and Spirit of God. "All that the Father giveth Me," says Christ, "shall come to Me." Sovereign, efficacious grace will cause them to come, will bring them to Him through all discouragements, difficulties, and objections; which are all removed by what follows in that text: "And him that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out."

This coming comes from the Father's drawing: "No man can come to Me," says Christ, "except the Father which hath sent Me, draw him," draw him with His lovingkindness, through the power of His grace and of His Divine teachings. "Every man, therefore, that hath learned of the Father, cometh to Me," says Christ in John 6:45. This is a sovereign gift of His grace!

~ A Specimen of Divine Truths

Regeneration is absolutely necessary to qualify you to do any thing really good and acceptable to God While you are not born again, your best works are but glittering sins; for though the matter of them is good, they are quite marred in the performance. Consider, that without regeneration there is no faith, and "without faith it is impossible to please God" Heb 11:6. Faith is a vital act of the newborn soul. The evangelist, showing the different entertainment which our Lord Jesus had from different persons from receiving Him, some rejecting Him, points at regenerating grace as the true cause of that difference, without which never any one would have received Him. Unregenerate men may presume; but true faith they cannot have. Faith is a flower that grows not in the field of nature. As the tree cannot grow without a root, neither can a man believe without the new nature, whereof the principle of believing is a part.

~Thomas Boston

We have taken an oath in baptism and at the time we made our confession of faith to forsake the flesh. The flesh is a worse enemy than the devil because it is an inward traitor. An enemy within is worse! If there were no devil to tempt, the flesh would be another Eve, tempting us to the forbidden fruit. Oh, be careful of giving way to it! Where does all our discontent arise but from our flesh? The flesh tasks us with the immoderate pursuit of the world. It recommends ease and plenty, and if it is not satisfied, then discontent begins to arise. Oh, let it not have the reins; kill the flesh. In spiritual things the flesh is a sluggard; in secular things it is a leech crying, "Give and give" (Prov 30:15).⁴¹ The flesh is an enemy to suffering; it will sooner make a man a courtier than a martyr. Oh, keep it under control, put its neck under Christ's yoke, and stretch and nail it to His cross. Never let a Christian look for contentment in his spirit, until there is confinement in his flesh.

~Thomas Watson

When the wicked, even mine enemies and my foes, came upon me to eat up my flesh, They stumbled and fell. (Psalm 27:2)

The way the wicked fail is terrible. If they had any wisdom at all, the deluge, the fall of Sodom and Gomorrah, the overthrow of Pharaoh and his hosts, or any one of their great defeats would have fully satisfied them that their war on God, his truth, and his saints was hopeless folly. Since the world began, the end of every battle they have fought against God and his people has been this, they stumbled and fell.

Hide not thy face far from me; Put not thy servant away in anger: Thou hast been my help; leave me not, Neither forsake me, O God of my salvation. (Psalm 27:9)

One of the best exercises of a devout mind is converting promises into prayers. God says, "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." Let us continually pray, "Leave me not, neither forsake me." We may also rest assured that everything, for which we find warrant to pray, is to believers made sure in the oath of the covenant. God never stirs up a soul to cry, "Leave me not, neither forsake me," without saying, "I will never leave thee nor forsake thee." All that is promised is rightly prayed for; all that is rightly prayed for is surely promised.

~William Plumer

Consistory

Elders: Mr. Derek Kattenberg, Mr. Craig Timmer

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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.*

Psalms 104:24

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