

May 5, 2024

The NEED FOR SALVATION

This Week: 9:30 a.m. Catechism Reading Service (LD40)
6:30 p.m. Reading Service

Next Week: 9:30 a.m. Reading Service
6:30 p.m. Catechism Reading Service (LD41Q108)
A sing along is planned at the school after the evening service in the Rock Valley church. Anyone from 16 years to young married adults are encouraged to attend.

Wednesday: 7:00 p.m. Rev. Slingerland hopes to serve us for an Ascension Day service.

-All the Lord willing-

Collections: Today: 1st General Fund Next week: 1st General Fund
2nd Hudson Taylor 2nd Disaster Relief

New Periodicals: BTB catalogues

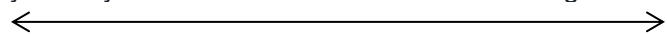
We Remember in Prayer:

-Our widows and lonely ones, prodigal sons and daughters, and those with hidden crosses

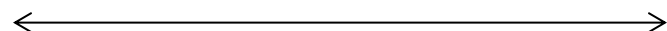
MEDITATIONS

If I were strong in faith, I should be able to do more service for God. Then I should be able to resist temptations, and to overcome the evil one: for the apostle John says, 'I write to you, young men, because ye are strong, and have overcome the evil one.' But I have great temptations, and but small strength to resist them. I have a great deal of work to do for God, and have no strength to do it with; therefore I am thus discouraged; have I not cause and reason to be?

No: for the spiritual battle is not always to the strong. Our victory lies not in ourselves and our habitual strength, but in Christ's fresh assistance. Though your grace be weak, yet you may do much for God in your day. James 3:5. ~William Bridge



No sinner was ever saved by giving his heart to God. We are not saved by our giving, we are saved by God's giving. ~A. W. Pink



"Give unto us therefore a possession among the brethren of our father." Numbers 27:4b

The Lord caused the history of the daughters of Zelophehad to be recorded for others. It was intended for the church of the Old Testament, but also for the church of the New Testament. Their account is especially intended for those who feel they are left out. They are the spiritual orphans who believe salvation is possible for everyone else but not for them. They cry out that they are lost, and it seems that all the evidences of God's favour are dispensed to others while they themselves are left out. The Lord knew that they would consider that salvation was impossible for them. Was this distress not worked by God Himself? That is why the same God gives comfort when He records the answer to this request of the daughters of Zelophehad.

Now the important question is whether we have become spiritual orphans. By virtue of our birth we are not like that. We would rather have an earthly inheritance than a spiritual inheritance. We prefer a place of earthly favour rather than one of heavenly favour. By nature we have no delight in any spiritual inheritance. That is why we do not rise up with the daughters of Zelophehad to do violence to the kingdom of heaven. That is because we have false rest. We think all is well with us because we rest on some notion of universal grace. Still others say, "We ourselves can never do anything to gain salvation." But none of these joins in with those who petition God for a crumb of God's favour. They do not ask for an inheritance with God. When it really comes down to it, it is worthless to them. They do want a place in heaven, but what is heaven without God? Surely you cannot be an heir of an unknown God, can you?

Are you also one of these people? Then it is high time that you face the reality of your totally depraved condition. You are spiritually dead and that is why you have no desire for an inheritance with God. Death cannot desire; death has no need; death cannot wrestle; death does not plead. Oh, awake, you that sleep, and arise from the dead, before you soon have to say, "God was willing, but I was not willing." Then it will be too late. Then the land of promise will have already been divided, divided forever. Then you will knock at the door of the heavenly Canaan, but the answer will be: "I never knew you. I never saw you alone before My presence, pleading for a place of grace." Will you, a son or daughter of the new dispensation, be one of these? Has it never been proclaimed to you? Wake up, before your eternal inheritance is in the kingdom of darkness where the worm dies not and the fire will never be quenched.

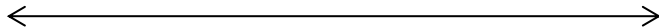
~Rev. F. Bakker

Much of the preaching in the book of Acts focuses on the coming of God's kingdom in the person of Christ. In fact, not only does the book of Acts begin with God's kingdom, but it also ends by declaring the kingdom of God. In 28:31, Luke indicates that Paul was "proclaiming the kingdom of God."

In 1:4-5, Luke indicates that Jesus told the apostles to wait in Jerusalem until the Holy Spirit came upon them. These verses introduce another incredibly important theological theme that will develop throughout the book of Acts—the Holy Spirit. When the Spirit falls on the apostles at Pentecost (Acts 2:1-4), their lives and their ministries are radically transformed. Acts shows us that Christ sends the Spirit to make the proclamation of the gospel effective. The church is built by God's word and God's Spirit.

This point is something we must remember, especially today. God does not build his church through gimmicks or programmatic cleverness. The church is not dependent on marketing strategies for its success. Our only hope to see lives changed by the gospel is to faithfully proclaim God's word and then trust God's Spirit to make our proclamation effective. Even in our own lives as Christians, as we seek personal transformation into Christ's likeness, we must turn to God's word and then ask God's Spirit to make it effective in our lives as we trust in the gospel of Christ.

~R. Albert Mohler Jr.



139 Q. Explain to me, then, the forgiveness of sins, which you possess in faith and confess with your mouth in this next article, "I believe the forgiveness of sins."

A. I believe that all that is sin and is called sin, whether residual sin (like the corrupt, evil disease that continues to hold me in its grip, so that I never love God with all my heart or my neighbor as myself) or actual sins (like thoughts, words, and deeds that are contrary to God's commandments)—I believe, I say, that all this, as tightly as it may still cling to me, has been freely remitted and pardoned and will remain so forever. This happens by grace through faith in God's promise in the gospel, through the sacrifice of Christ on the cross. Indeed, it has been pardoned in such a manner that even all memory of both the transgressions and the punishment has been erased from God's mind, as surely as if I had never sinned or had no more sin in me. Therefore, I trust God through Christ that now in this life I am saved, as the Holy Spirit said through David in Psalm 32:1, 2, "Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man unto whom the LORD imputeth not iniquity, And in whose spirit there is no guile."

~Caspar Olevianus

NETHERLANDS REFORMED CONGREGATION

Sioux Falls, SD



*Hear my prayer, O LORD, and let my
cry come unto thee. Psalm 102:1*

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

Consistory

Elders: Mr. Derek Kattenberg, Mr. Craig Timmer
Deacons: Mr. Norm DeWit, Mr. Rick Rozeboom

Contacts

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