

November 3, 2024

This Week: 9:30 a.m. Reading Service
2:30 p.m. service with Rev Adams
No classes

Next Week: 9:30 a.m. Catechism Reading Service (LD5)
6:30 p.m. Reading Service

Thursday 7:00 p.m. The Siouland Modern Media Committee would like to invite you all to join the Virtual Media Presentation: "Fabulous & Fragile: Understanding Mental Health, Technology, and Our Kids," by Protect Young Eyes. This presentation will be focusing on the intersection of research, brain science, algorithms, and potential solutions. We ask that you pre-register for the event using this link: <http://mnkm.2.vu/pyewebinar>

-All the Lord willing-

Collections: Today: 1st General Fund Next week: 1st General Fund
2nd NAGMission 2nd Alpha Center

We Remember in Prayer:

- Our widows and lonely ones, our families, prodigal sons and daughters, and those with hidden crosses.
- The elections, that the Lord may yet have mercy on our nation and state.

MEDITATIONS

Entirely from Him

The same Spirit Who revealed the promises is also the Fulfiller of them, and He is Almighty. The blessing on the use of the means is entirely from Him; it is He Who teacheth man knowledge, and from Him we are to seek it in prayer. With all our reading, hearing, studying, or meditating upon the Scriptures we must look up to Him for His divine teaching.

If any of you, believers, lack wisdom, let him ask it of God, Who giveth to all askers liberally, and upbraideth not, and it shall be given him, but let him ask in faith. Here is a command and promise. When we lack wisdom, which we always do, as much as we want breath, we are to ask it of the Spirit of wisdom, and it shall be given us. He will make us wise unto salvation; He will keep us in the use of means dependent on His leading us into all useful truth, and of His revealing to us the things which are freely given to us of God, to show them to us as realities, and to put us into the enjoyment of

them as blessings. In this dependence on Him we live, and move, and have our being.

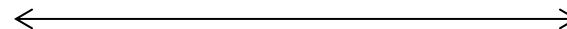
Our spiritual life and faculties, and the exercise of them, and the improvement of them, are entirely from His influence; for the apostle, mentioning the several gifts and graces of the Holy Spirit says, "All these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as He will." To Him, then, we are to look up for every good gift, and every perfect gift.

Whenever we open the Bible, we should ask His light and His teaching. He is the chief Commentator. He only can put the Scriptures into our inward parts, and write them upon our hearts, so that we may experience them to be the power of God unto our salvation.

Our first Reformers were of this sentiment, exhorting us to pray that, by the holy inspiration of God's Spirit, we may think those things that be good, and by His merciful guiding may perform the same.

Grant to us, Lord, we beseech Thee, the Spirit to think and to do always such things as be rightful, that we, who cannot do anything that is good without Thee, may by Thee be enabled to live according to Thy will, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

~Rev. WM. Romaine



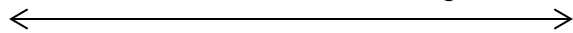
For the encouragement of those who are cast down because they lack full assurance, I should like to relate the following story. In the North of Scotland, a large congregation once sat listening to approved men of God who testified of their interest in Christ. The "Question" was based on the exhortation "to make our calling and election sure." To some this theme was a great deep. There was present an old soldier, however, who, when he was asked to make his comment on this subject, brought honey and sweetness out of the words. As a pensioned soldier, the King's allowance came into his hand with unfailing regularity. He had never seen his name in "the big book in London," but the King's money, which he carried in his purse, was the evidence that his name was truly there. In the same way God's people get their daily portion of grace from the Lord's hand, and this is the proof that their names are written in the Book of life. The Lord refreshes them with "a drink from the well of Bethlehem which is by the gate." This is the "earnest" of their eternal enjoyment of the pleasures which are forever more at His right hand. They sit lowly at His feet where sweet "crumbs" of His love and grace reach their waiting souls. This is the poof that God is preparing a table for them where "they shall hunger no more neither thirst anymore." One drop of the love of Christ in our heart and one promise applied to our mind by the Holy Spirit, are, indeed, the earnest that we are to enjoy and inherit these, in all their fulness, by and by.

~Murdoch Campbell

The integrity of the upright shall guide them: but the perverseness of transgressors shall destroy them. Riches profit not in the day of wrath: but righteousness delivereth from death. The righteousness of the perfect shall direct his way: but the wicked shall fall by his own wickedness. The righteousness of the upright shall deliver them: but transgressors shall be taken in their own naughtiness. When a wicked man dieth, his expectation shall perish: and the hope of unjust men perisheth. Proverbs 11:3-7

Integrity or righteousness is a most valuable guide in all perplexities. (Matthew 6:22.) The single desire to know the will of God, only that we may do it (Psalms 143:10), will always bring light upon our path. It is also a covert from many dreaded evils. "God is a buckler to them that walk uprightly. Who therefore is he that will harm you, if ye be followers of that which is good?" (1 Peter 3:13.) Let the Christian "stand, having on the breast-plate of righteousness; and that wicked one toucheth him not." (Ephesians 6:14. 1 John 5:18.) Often indeed does it deliver from temporal, always from eternal, death. "Whoso walketh uprightly shall be saved. In the pathway thereof there is no death. If a man keep my sayings, he shall never see — never taste of — death." (Genesis 7:1; 2 Kings 20:3-6. John 8:51.) The perverseness, that neglects this godly principle, is the sinner's own snare and destruction. (Proverbs 28:18. John 8:51. Ezra 18:27.) And when the day of wrath cometh — as come it will — "a great ransom will not deliver." (Deuteronomy 1:43-44. Numbers 22:32. Isaiah 1:28. Ezra 9:9-10. Hosea 14:9.) Riches will profit nothing (Job 36:18-19); not even will they obtain "a drop of water to cool the tormented tongue." (Luke 16:19-24.) In vain will "the rich men of the earth" seek a shelter from "the wrath of the Lamb." (Revelation 6:15-17.) They and their hopes will perish together. 'They were not living, but lying hopes, and dying hopes.' What a contrast to that "hope, which is as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which entereth into that within the veil!"

~Charles Bridges



The sin and misery of man is that he has hope in himself, in the creature, in vanity, in a thing of nought. The end of all sound religious instruction is to withdraw the desires and expectations from all finite things and to raise them to God alone. And not forget the works of God. If all our expectation is from God and is built on the history of his mercy to those who have gone before us, and on his testimony, we cannot easily forget him or his doings.

~William Swan Plumer

NETHERLANDS REFORMED CONGREGATION

Sioux Falls, SD



I will give thee thanks in the great congregation: I will praise thee among much people. Psalm 35:18

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