

October 6, 2024

This Week: 9:30 a.m. Reading Service
6:30 p.m. Catechism Reading Service (LD1b)
Classes after the morning service.*

*Assignments on the Members Page on the website

Next Week: 9:30 a.m. Catechism Reading Service (LD2)
6:30 p.m. Reading Service
Classes after the morning service.

Tuesday: Prayer service for the classis meeting in Sioux Center with Rev. Slingerland at 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday: Classis Midwest meets in Sioux Center.

Advance Notices:

October 30 7:00 p.m. Rev. Slingerland (Reformation Day Eve)

November 3 2:30 p.m. service with Rev Adams

November 27 7:00 p.m. Rev. Maljaars (Thanksgiving Eve)

December 1 2:30 p.m. service with Rev. Maljaars

-All the Lord willing-

New Publications: TBS Quarterly and Insight Into

Collections: Today: 1st General Fund Next week: 1st General Fund
2nd Hudson Taylor 2nd Prison Diaries

We Remember in Prayer:

- For wisdom for the delegates in the decisions which must be made in the upcoming classis meeting.
- Our widows and lonely ones, our families, prodigal sons and daughters, and those with hidden crosses.
- All those suffering because of war, persecution, and natural disasters, especially those suffering after the devastating hurricanes

MEDITATIONS

"Be thou in the fear of the Lord all the day long. For surely there is an end; and thine expectation shall not be cut off." Proverbs 23:17-18

Here the Lord is addressing Himself to a soul labouring under temptation and passing through peculiar exercises; and this is the exhortation that He gives it: "Be thou in the fear of the Lord all the

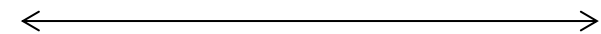
day long;" watching His hand, submitting to His will, committing everything into His care and keeping; not hardening your heart against Him, but looking up to Him, and worshipping Him with godly fear, "For surely there is an end." When the end comes, everything will be made plain and clear.

This quiet submission, this watching and waiting, a man can never be brought to unless he has seen an end to all perfection; an end to his own strength, wisdom and righteousness. To sit still is the hardest thing a man can do. To lie passive at God's footstool when all things seem to be against us; to have a rough path to walk on, to be surrounded with difficulties, and yet to be in the fear of the Lord all the day long, watching His hand, desiring to submit to His will, seeking only that wisdom which cometh from above, and trusting that He will make the way straight, not putting our hand to the work, but leaving it all to the Lord – how strange, how mysterious a path! And yet it is the only one that brings solid peace to a Christian; "For surely there is an end." Whatever sorrows and troubles a man may have to wade through, there will surely be an end to them.

If we try to get ourselves out of perplexities, we are like a person trying to unravel a tangled skein of silk by pulling it forcibly; the more it is pulled, the more entangled it gets, and the faster the knots become. So if we are plunged into any trial, providential or spiritual, and we attempt to extricate ourselves by main force by kicking and rebelling, we only get more entangled. The Lord then says, to encourage us to wait patiently upon Him till He shall appear, "Surely there is an end."

This is the universal testimony of the Scripture, that the Lord appears and delivers when there is none shut up or left; and the experience of the saints agrees with the testimony of the written Word, "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end . "

~J.C. Philpot



Prepare me, gracious God,
To stand before Thy face;
Thy Spirit must the work perform,
For it is all of grace.

In Christ's obedience clothe,
And wash me in His blood;
So shall I lift my head with joy
Among the sons of God.

Do Thou my sins subdue;
Thy sovereign love make known,
The spirit of my mind renew,
And save me in Thy Son.

The first warrant to believe in Christ is *God's hearty invitation*, holden forth, *Isa. 55:1, 2, 3, 4, 5. Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money: come ye, buy and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money, and without price...*

Here (after setting down the precious ransom of our redemption by the sufferings of Christ, and the rich blessings purchased to us thereby, in the two former chapters) the Lord, in this chapter,

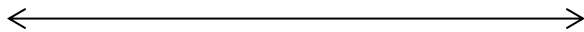
1. Maketh open offer of Christ and his grace, by proclamation of a free and gracious market of righteousness and salvation, to be had through Christ to every soul, without exception, that truly desires to be saved from sin and wrath: "Ho, every one that thirsteth," saith he.

2. He inviteth all sinners, that for any reason stand at a distance from God, to come and take from him riches of grace, running in Christ as a river, to wash away sin, and to slacken wrath: "Come ye to the waters," saith he.

3. Lest any should stand aback, in the sense of his own sinfulness or unworthiness, and inability to do any good, the Lord calleth upon such persons in special, saying, "He that hath no money, come."

4. Because the Lord knoweth how much we are inclined to seek righteousness and life by our own performances and satisfaction, to have righteousness and life as it were by the way of works, and how loath we are to embrace Christ Jesus, and to take life by way of free grace through Jesus Christ, upon the terms whereupon it is offered to us; therefore the Lord lovingly calls us off this our crooked and unhappy way with a gentle and timeous admonition, giving us to understand, that we shall but lose our labour in this our way: "Wherefore do ye spend your money (saith he) for that which is not bread? and your labour for that which satisfieth not?"

Adapted from the Westminster Sum of Saving Knowledge



Great is the danger of seeking to be wise above what is written. The Bible is the limit of all real knowledge in matters of religion. To the law and to the testimony, if any doctrine or practice is not to be found there, reject it instantly and forever; it is poisonous, and tends to death and hell.

NETHERLANDS REFORMED CONGREGATION

Sioux Falls, SD



*To the end that my glory may sing
praise to thee, and not be silent. O LORD
my God, I will give thanks unto thee for
ever. Psalm 30:12*

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