

November 10, 2024

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

Next Week: 9:30 a.m. Reading Service
6:30 p.m. Catechism Reading Service (LD6)

Advance Notices:

- November 15** Youth Activity at Thunder Road
- November 27** 7:00 p.m. Rev. Maljaars (Thanksgiving Eve)
- December 1** 2:30 p.m. service with Rev. Maljaars
- December 2** Congregational Meeting
- December 15** services with Rev. Slingerland
-All the Lord willing-

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

New Publications: Banner of Truth and Insight Into

We Remember in Prayer:

- Mr. and Mrs. Vince and Lindsey Byers, whose baby boy, Asher Bernard-Harold was born early at 20 weeks and passed away shortly after birth. May the Lord remember them and the grandparents and further family in their grief.
- Our widows and lonely ones, our families, prodigal sons and daughters, and those with hidden crosses.
- With thanksgiving, the election, especially in the continued preservation of unborn life in our state

MEDITATIONS

It has been well said, that "In a mere legal way many believers have toiled all their time for power over some corruptions, who, like Peter and the rest, have caught little or nothing, because Jesus Christ was not in the company." That, you know, is self-effort; and if any fruit were to spring from it, it would only be to self-pleasing and self praise; all wild gourds which bring death in the pot. If we want good fruit, it must spring from the good Vine; if we want plenty of fish, it must be by casting on the right side of the ship. If we desire close walking, holy living, much victory, communion, enjoyment, it must come by abiding in Jesus. Hear what He Himself says, "he that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me you can do nothing."

Are there not others who once believed they had an assurance of God's love but who fear that, with a persistent and prolonged coldness creeping over their affections, their early assurance had no roots in reality?

With David they say:

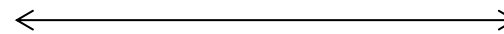
*"How long wilt thou forget me, Lord,
Shall it for ever be?
O, how long shall it be that thou
Wilt hide Thy face from me?"*

William Cowper expressed in memorable words the holy concern which often lies in the bosom of God's people.

*"Where is the blessedness I knew
When first I saw the Lord?
Where is the soul-refreshing view
Of Jesus and His Word?"*

*What peaceful hours I once enjoyed
How sweet their memory still!
But they have left an aching void
The world can never fill."*

But is not this anxiety in itself a real proof that we still possess what we fear to have lost?



A company of Christian people met one day in a certain home. Among them was a young woman whose heart the Lord had savingly touched. But at that moment she was full of grief, for she feared that her earlier love to her Lord had died in her heart. Then the door opened and in walked a tall, elderly man who was a total stranger to her. As he stood before the company he said, "Who among you loves the Lord most?... you poor soul," he said, "who are full of fear that your love to Him has died in your heart," Then he went on his way, but to her he was a messenger of God. Instantly her hope revived and her heart began to burn within her. Christ was in her heart in spite of all her fears.

One of my treasured memories is a conversation I once had with an old man in a Glasgow hospital. In his earlier days this man enjoyed great nearness to the Lord; but his time of favour had seemed to come to an end. For many years he walked without the light of the Sun and afraid that he was deceived in his hope. But as he spoke one could see that he was now enjoying the "latter rain" of the Lord's renewing grace. The Lord, he told us, had restored to him the joy of his salvation. Thus, as it often happens, our spiritual anxieties are frequently in themselves an evidence of our regeneration. This sense of desertion is something of which "Talkatives" and "Formalists" know nothing. A dead formalism is always satisfied with its own pretty shroud. -Murdoch Campbell

Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. 1 John 4:10

Do you desire that Christ would come unto you in a way of gracious manifestation? "He that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him" (John 14:21). Do you earnestly desire the fulfilling of this promise, that Christ would discover to you more of the loveliness of His person, and of the love of His heart? Are you grieved when your Beloved does withdraw Himself; when the curtain is drawn, and a cloud interposes between you and this Sun of righteousness, when He hides and veils His face from you; and do you long after Christ's return, and the discoveries of Himself unto you? "Come, Lord Jesus; come quickly; be as a roe, or a young hart upon the mountains of spices; leap over the mountains, and skip over the hills, and make haste unto my soul, which is sick of love for thee, in thy absence from me; O that I might see thy face, which is so fair; that I might hear thy voice, which is so sweet! that I might feel thy presence, which is so refreshing! O that I might behold thy heart-ravishing smiles; say, Lord, that I am thine, and thou art mine; that thou hast loved me, and given thyself for me; that thy love to me was from everlasting, and that it is unchangeable." Are these the breathings of your soul? If so, such are the breathings of love to Christ. ~Thomas Vincent

It is a blessed thing to be able to mourn an absent God and to desire his soul-cheering presence. It is better to weep and cry for lost spiritual privileges and comforts with a relish even for their memory, than it is to be at ease in the fulness of earthly comforts. Godly mourning is better than carnal rejoicing. ~Plumer

There are two ways of making satisfaction by punishment. The one is by ourselves.

The other way of making satisfaction is by another. This is the method which the gospel reveals, and the mercy of God allows. "What the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God, sending his own Son, &c." "God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, &c." (Rom. 8:3. John 3:16.) This is evangelical. It is not, indeed, taught in the law; but it is no where condemned, or excluded. Neither is it repugnant to the justice of God; for if only satisfaction be made on the part of man by a sufficient punishment for his disobedience, the law is satisfied, and the justice of God permits the party offending to be set at liberty, and received into favor.~Ursinus on Lord's Day 5 Q&A 12.

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.