

October 13, 2024

This Week: 9:30 a.m. Catechism Reading Service (LD2)
6:30 p.m. Reading Service
Classes after the morning service.*
**Assignments on the Members Page on the website*

Next Week: 9:30 a.m. Reading Service
6:30 p.m. Catechism Reading Service (LD3)
Classes after the morning service.

-All the Lord willing-

Thank You Received:

We would like to express our heartfelt thank you for the many tokens of love and support after the sudden loss of Marius. The many visits, calls, cards, meals, and gifts as well as the many offers of help are truly heart-warming and very much appreciated.

Elizabeth Versteeg and family
William and Tena Blom and family
Aane-Kors and Gerry Versteeg and family

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

We Remember in Prayer:

- 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

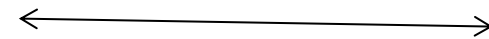
“Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought; but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.”
(Romans 8:26)

“We know not what we should pray for as we ought.” How often do we find and feel this to be our case! Darkness covers our mind; ignorance pervades our soul; unbelief vexes our spirit; guilt

troubles our conscience; a crowd of evil imaginations, or foolish or worse than foolish wanderings distract our thoughts; Satan hurls in thick and fast his fiery darts; a dense cloud is spread over the mercy seat; infidelity whispers its vile suggestions, till amidst all this rabble rout, such confusion and bondage prevail that words seem idle breath, and prayer to the God of heaven but empty mockery.

In this scene of confusion and distraction, when all seems going to the wreck, how kind, how gracious, is it in the blessed Spirit to come, as it were, to the rescue of the poor bewildered saint, and to teach him how to pray, and what to pray for. He is therefore said “to help our infirmities,” for these evils of which we have been speaking are not willful, deliberate sins, but wretched infirmities of the flesh. He helps, then, our infirmities by subduing the power and prevalence of unbelief; by commanding in the mind a solemn calm; by rebuking and chasing away Satan and his fiery darts; by awing the soul with a reverential sense of the power and presence of God; by presenting Jesus before our eyes as the Mediator at the right hand of the Father; by raising up and drawing forth faith upon His Person and work, blood, and righteousness; and, above all, by Himself interceding for us and in us “with groanings which cannot be uttered.” When the soul is favored thus to pray, its petitions are a spiritual sacrifice, and its cries enter the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth, for “He that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is in the mind of the Spirit, because He maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God” (Romans 8:27; James 5:4; I Peter 2:5).

~ 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.

There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked (Isa 57:21). Till convinced of sin, and Christ becomes the sinner's friend, there is no peace, no mercy, no hope, no heaven. Alas! How many slumber into hell under the misguiding influence of false peace?

My son, give me thine heart. Proverbs 23:26

If thou hast not done it, do it now. Let there be no half-giving. To hesitate — to delay — is to refuse. And why should you delay? Has Satan been so good a Master, that you are reluctant to leave him? Can you find a better friend than Him, who hath cared so long for you, than Him who hath died for you? Now then, with the help of the Divine Spirit, without whom this cannot be done — resolve, decide — once for all — for ever. But if thou hast done it, do it daily. He is still the same; still as deserving of your heart as ever. Thou canst not give it to him too soon or too often. The command does not hale us (as Saul haled his victims, Acts 8:3) to the service of God. The citadel is not stormed, but it opens its gates. A principle of immortal energy constrains the heart; yet only by "making it willing." (Psalms 110:3.) The reluctance is melted away, and by the power of love the heart is "compelled to come." (2 Corinthians 5:14. Luke 14:23.) What so free as a gift? And never is the will so free, as when it moves towards God. Weak as he is, yet the child can testify, that to give his heart is his first desire; that he never designs or intends anything less; that he longs for the consuming of every corruption, which hinders the full surrender. Oh my God! thy grace alone can enable me. I am ashamed of the gift. Nothing can be more unworthy. But because it is the purchase of thy death, and thou callest for it, it is thine own, it shall be thine. Take it then as it is. Make it what it is not. Keep it with thyself. Bind it so close to thee with the cords of love, that it may never cast a wishful look away from thee. Had I a thousand hearts, all should be thine. Thou alone canst fill it. Thou alone art worthy of it. Exalt thine own throne in it for ever.

Think how all hangs on this point. Give it; all the blessings of the gospel are yours. Refuse; you trample them under your feet; you live a life of base rebellion to your best friend, and of cruel madness to your own soul; you live without Christ; you will die without hope; accursed, lost for ever. The command of authority is an invitation of love — Dwell upon it. Think how right, how reasonable, how winning, how much it is beyond everything else, how much worth accepting in spite of every hindrance and objection. -Charles Bridges

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.