February 3, 2019

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today: Morning catechism reading service and a 6:30 p.m. reading service. Catechism and adult classes after the morning service.

Next Week: Morning reading service and evening catechism service. Classes after the morning service.

-All the Lord Willing-

Offerings Today: 1st General Fund
.2nd School Fund

Next week: 1st General Fund
2nd Living Bread

New **Paul** magazines and brochures for a newly formed support group called Elim are in the rack this week.

We Remember in Prayer:

-Those who have been unable to gather with us for some time, our widows and widowers, our elderly, the unborn, prodigal sons and daughters, those who are under doctor's care, and all those who have hidden crosses.

MEDITATIONS

Often thy public means of grace, Thy thirsty people's wat'ring place, The archers have beset; Attacked them in thy house of prayer, To prison dragged, or to the bar, When thus together met. But we from such assaults are freed. Can pray, and sing, and hear, and read, And meet, and part, in peace: May we our privileges prize, In their improvement make us wise, And bless us with increase. Unless thy presence thou afford: Unless thy blessing clothe the word, In vain our liberty! What would it profit to maintain A name for life, should we remain Formal and dead to thee? ~John Newton

"Fear not, I am the first and the last. I am He that liveth, and was dead, and behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen."

(Rev. 1:17b-18a)

When the Lord revealed Himself, John feared. Why? Was he not converted and had there not been many spiritual experiences in his life? Yes; but when the Lord comes near to one of His children, they then see so much of that sinful "I" against so much holiness and majesty, that they, like John, fear. But the Lord is going to comfort John.

There we may learn valuable lessons. In the first place we learn how we must not comfort. Our words of comfort are many times so dangerous. Then we comfort man with man. Oh, that is so dangerous! Always remember, you are dealing with never-dying souls. Then we comfort the person in their missing, in their experiences, in their sighing and crying. When someone wants to comfort you because you have some of those experiences, be very careful. Are they directing you to an only Saviour for lost sinners?

Notice how the Lord comforts John. There we see John – unworthy. As a dead one he lies at the feet of Christ. Jesus does not point to John's experiences, but points to Himself saying: "Fear not, I am the first and the last." I have begun that good work in your life and will continue it until the end. John, you were worthy that you would sink away into eternal darkness, but I "was dead, and behold, I am alive for evermore." Not only for Myself, but as a mediator for My people. And then the Lord says, "Amen."

In that "Amen" lies the assurance for the church of God. When John may one day be lifted up above all strife, and may come home to the Father's house, then it is through no one else, by no one else than the loving Saviour. Oh, that we would find rest for our soul at no other place than by that Saviour!

~Rev. J. den Hoed

Many in the old world knew there was an ark, but were drowned, because they did not get into it. Knowledge which is not applied will only light a man to hell. It would be better to live a savage than to die an infidel under the gospel. Christ not believed in is terrible. Moses' rod, when it was in his hand, did a great deal of good. It wrought miracles; but when it was out of his hand, it became a serpent. So Christ, when laid hold on by the hand of faith, is full of comfort, but not laid hold on, will prove a serpent to bite.

~Thomas Watson

Notes

Netherlands Reformed Congregation

Sioux Falls, SD



Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms.

Psalm 95:2

Church Times: 9:30 a.m. and 2:30 or 6:30 p.m.

Consistory

Mr. Craig Timmer, President Mr. Norm DeWit, Treasurer
Mr. Dave Hoogendoorn, Clerk
Contacts