June 28, 2020

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today: 9:30 a.m. Baptism service and

2:30 p.m. service with Rev. Vergunst

Next Week: 9:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. services.

Advance Notice: July 12 9:30 and 2:30 p.m. with Rev. Hofman

-All the Lord willing-

Offerings Today: 1st General Fund Next week: 1st General Fund 2nd Theological School 2nd School Fund

*Collection plates will be on foyer table at exit. Please stay in your bench a few moments after the service so everyone has time to leave their gifts and remain distanced.

Collections Received February through May:

General Fund \$7168.32 School Fund \$1376.00 Living Bread \$3168.50 NAGMission \$1250.00 Theological School \$722.00 Disaster Relief \$250.00

Hudson Taylor \$200.00

We Remember in Prayer:

-Our widows and widowers and lonely ones, the unborn, prodigal sons and daughters, and all those with hidden crosses

MEDITATIONS

My dear friends:

The care of precious souls is a great trust committed to you by God, and to Him you are accountable for it. The instruction of youth is not to be left wholly to ministers, to school-masters or mistresses. No, parents ought to be instilling good principles into children, and masters into servants, as they have occasion, which might serve to leave abiding impressions on them many years thereafter; and so ye would become *"fellow-helpers to the truth,"* as in 3 John 8.

Pray do not think this is left to your option, to do it or not as you please: no, you are under an express divine command, O parents, to bring up your children "in the admonition of the Lord;" (Eph. 6:4), that is, in teaching them the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. The word translated "admonition", properly signifies "catechising." Likewise, the word which is rendered "train up" (Prov. 22:6), signifies to "catechise" a child when he is young. The command which God gave to the Israelites, is still binding on you, "Thou shalt teach them unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest

in thine house, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up." (Deut. 6:7). Abraham had a strong sense of his duty in this respect; and therefore he not only taught, but commanded, both his children and servants, to keep the ways of the Lord (Gen. 18:19). And can we expect to land in Abraham's bosom, if we tread not in Abraham's footsteps?

O fellow Christians! your enlisting yourselves and your children at baptism, under Christ's banner, obligeth you to use your best endeavors to enlarge the borders of His kingdom, and to ruin the empire of darkness. You pray that His kingdom may come; and this binds you to choose the best means to obtain what you pray for, namely, to instruct the rising generation in the knowledge of Christ. This would make your piety extend to ages to come; for your example herein may be a motive to them to tread in the same steps, and so one generation will teach another. Do you yourselves know the joyful sound of salvation through our glorious Surety, and will ye not desire to make others know it too? You ought to say with the four lepers, when they found plenty in the Syrian camp, "It is a day of good tidings, we do not well to hold our peace" (2 Kings 7:9).

And to conclude, let me likewise humbly entreat young persons, diligently to improve all such helps and means of instructions in the season of youth, and carefully to prepare for and attend all diets of catechising, whether in private or public, and hearken with delight to parents, masters, or ministers, who would teach them the things which concern their everlasting peace. O consider how many young people are hurried into eternity before they know and lay these things to heart! Believe it, friends, there is no heaven without Christ, no interest in Christ without faith, and no faith without knowledge. May therefore "the earth be filled with the knowledge of Christ, as the waters cover the sea!"

Rev. John Willison (1680-1750)

Concerning the promises of the covenant, Boston says,

"Christ's promises in his testament are to mankind-sinners, as the promise to Canaan was to the Israelites in Egypt, indefinitely, those not excepted whose carcasses fell in the wilderness, Ex. 6:6 "Say unto the children of Israel, I am the Lord." ver. 8, "And I will bring you in unto the land concerning the which I did swear." Thus was there a promise left them of entering into the rest of Canaan: and those who believed it, got the possession accordingly; those who believed not, did lose it. And they fell short of it, not because it was not left to them; but because, though it was yet left to them, as well as to those that entered, yet they believed it not. So says the apostle, "They could not enter in because of unbelief," Heb 3: 19 And this was no imputation on the faithfulness of God: for even in

promises, as well as in covenants, there is a necessity of a mutual consent unto the same thing; the party to whom the promise is made, his acceptance thereof being necessary to complete the obligation on the promiser to make it effectual."

I hope that we can follow Boston's reasoning because it is of utmost importance if we are to understand the form for the administration of baptism. God's promises were offered to all Israel. Boston says that those who fell in the wilderness had not been excluded from God's promise concerning Canaan; rather, they did not enter because of their unbelief. ~Rev. C Harinck

Come, sinners all, both young and old,
Give heed to what we've often told:
Call on God's name, while He is near,
Forsake the world, and sin do fear.
Seek Him in truth, and ye will live,
Abundant mercy He will give.
Our life is short, while time is brief,
Our day of death comes as a thief.
How blest are they, with grace Divine
Who hear God's voice: Come, thou art Mine.
Oh, sinners, hear the gospel sound:
Seek Jesus, He can still be found!

NOTES

Netherlands Reformed Congregation

Sioux Falls, SD



I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust.

Psalm 91:2

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