

July 7, 2024

This Week: 9:30 a.m. Rev. Vergunst
– Confession of Faith and Baptism
6:30 p.m. Rev. Vergunst

Next Week: 9:30 a.m. Reading Service
6:30 p.m. Catechism Reading Service (LD46)

Advance Notices:

- July 28** 2:30 service with Rev. Evers
- August 11 and 18** services with Rev. Sonneveld

-All the Lord willing-

Collections: Today: 1st General Fund Next week: 1st General Fund
2nd Local Iowa Flood Relief 2nd Alpha Center

We Remember in Prayer:

- All the people in Iowa and our areas in the devastating losses of their homes and businesses, especially for comfort in all the difficulties.
- For the Rock Valley church and other churches as they continue to try to clean to be able to worship together again.
- Our widows and lonely ones, prodigal sons and daughters, and those with hidden crosses.

MEDITATIONS

External morality is not heart-purity. A person may be clothed with great moral virtues, such as justice, charity, prudence, and temperance—and yet go to Hell.

We must not rest in mere outward morality. A swine may be washed—yet be a swine still. Morality does but wash a man, grace changes him. Morality may shine in the eyes of the world—but it differs as much from purity, as a pebble differs from a diamond! Morality is but strewing flowers on a dead corpse!

A man who is but highly moral, is but a tame devil! How many have made 'morality' their savior! Morality will damn, as well as vice! A boat may be sunk with gold, as well as with dung!

The moral person, though he will not commit gross sins—yet he is not sensible of heart sins. He is not troubled for unbelief, hardness of heart, vanity of thoughts. He abhors gross-sins, not gospel-sins. The snake has a fine appearance, but has a deadly sting! Just

so, the moral man is fair to look on, but has a secret antipathy against the holy ways of God.

Morality is not to be rested in. The heart must be pure. God would have Aaron wash the inner parts of the sacrifice. Leviticus 9:14 Morality does but wash the outside—the inside must be washed. "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God." Matthew 5:8

"From that time forth began Jesus to show unto His disciples, how that He must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders, and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and raised again the third day." Matthew 16:21

The way of Christ is a way of suffering, but the way of God's children is also a way of suffering and carrying their cross. How clearly we find that at the end of Matthew 16. Christ has spoken of the necessity of His suffering.

However, there is no room for that way in the hearts of His disciples. Simon Peter comes strongly against this and says that this will not happen.

Then the Lord Jesus says if any man wants to become a disciple and come after Him, then he will have to deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Him. The life of a disciple is not a life of self-glorification, but of self-denial. In the school of Christ we have to learn to die unto self and sin. Our flesh must be crucified.

By nature we don't want that and we come against that way. We are blind and are hostile against the way of suffering. We don't want that cross. When that disease came into our life, then our flesh was crucified. When we couldn't get the job we were looking for, or perhaps we cannot sell our house.

The Lord has taught His disciples: Thy will be done, but we want to do our own will. We have a heart that is inclined to all evil. Why can we not overcome that sin in our life and have a closer walk with the Lord? Why did the Lord deem all these troubles necessary? To keep us from boasting and getting puffed up.

With all former experiences we can become rich in ourselves, and that is not the way of the Lord. The way of the Lord is a way of cross bearing. A cross is heavy. Can we carry that? The Lord knows how much we can carry. To follow him is the best way. He knows what is best for us. That way leads to eternal life.

~ Rev. J.B. Zippro

"The glorious Gospel is not a human plan for reaching up to God, but a Divine plan for God reaching down to man."

~ John Calvin

Every person upon earth is either a subject of King Jesus or of the devil, the prince of darkness. No matter who you are individually, you are truly a subject of one of these two kingdoms. You are neither neutral nor a subject of both kingdoms simultaneously. Therefore, to which kingdom do you presently belong? If you choose the devil to be your king and to be subject to him—to do his will, to indulge in your lusts, to wallow in your sins as a swine in the mire, to seek those things which are upon earth, to satisfy your lusts, as well as for leisure and entertainment—so let it be. Enjoy it to the fullest as long as you have the opportunity. Someone may think, “This is stated too blatantly. Christ must be our King. Even if we seek our own pleasure, conform to the will of Satan, and live a distinctly worldly life, the devil is not therefore our king.” “Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?” (Rom. 6:16)

Therefore, if in truth you neither wish the devil to be your king nor to have your portion with him in outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth (Mat. 25:30), then resolutely, without reservation, and without recantation resign from his service, and with all your heart bid the devil’s kingdom farewell, forsake all sin and the lusts of the flesh, and enter into the kingdom of the Lord Jesus. Consider whether, for the sake of the Lord Jesus, you are willing to part with all your fleshly thoughts and lusts, all your worldly pleasure, your friends, and your life. Consider whether you would be willing to follow Him in hunger, nakedness, and shame, being steadfast unto death—and be obedient to Him in all things. If your heart has been illuminated, and in the presence of God you can truthfully answer in the affirmative, come to a full resolution and turn to this King. Bow before Him, offer yourself to Him, enter into covenant with Him, and thus become His subject. -Wilhelmus a’ Brakel

Unto thee will I cry, O LORD my rock; be not silent to me: Lest, if thou be silent to me, I become like them that go down into the pit. Ps 28:1.

When we pray aright we will be concerned to get an answer in peace. Whoever leaves his prayer, as the ostrich leaves her egg in the sand, and cares no more for it, does not pray at all. When Elijah prayed for rain, he sent his servant to “look toward the sea,” to see if it was coming. Scott: “While others are troubling their fellow creatures with unavailing complaints; believers should, under distresses, cry the more earnestly to ‘the Rock of their salvation:’ and they should not rest till they have received some satisfactory token that their prayers are heard; for if the Lord could refuse to answer them, their case would resemble that of those who have perished in their sins, to whose agonizing cries no gracious answer will be made forever.” Men can be in no worse state than to be where prayer is not heard. -William Plumer

NETHERLANDS REFORMED CONGREGATION

Sioux Falls, SD



*O LORD, how manifold are thy works! in
wisdom hast thou made them all: the
earth is full of thy riches.
Psalm 104:24*

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