

September 8, 2024

This Week: 9:30 a.m. Reading Service
6:30 p.m. Catechism Reading Service (LD51)

Next Week: 9:30 a.m. Catechism Reading Service (LD52)
6:30 p.m. Reading Service

Wednesday: 6:00 p.m. Church Picnic. Contact Mr. or Mrs. Kattenberg with any questions.

Friday: High School Youth Group Activity. 6:30-9:30 p.m. at the Doon sheter house. Corn maze to follow. Contact RuthAnne Van Veldhuizen at 712-451-9049 with any questions.

Collections: Today: 1st General Fund Next week: 1st General Fund
2nd Kingdom Boundaries 2nd Alpha Center

Call: Rev. Baan has declined our call. His letter will be read this morning

We Remember in Prayer:

-Our widows and lonely ones, our families, prodigal sons and daughters, and those with hidden crosses.

MEDITATIONS

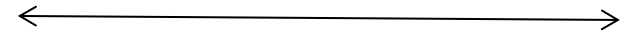
"I cried unto thee O Lord: I said, Thou art my refuge and my portion in the land of the living." Psalm 142:5

Young and old, big and small, we are all traveling toward a great, alldecisive, never-ending eternity. And while we are yet in the day of grace, it is very necessary to be taught and converted by God. Time is short, and in the grave there will be no more opportunity for turning or learning. We must be called from death unto life before we can call in truth unto God. But we must also learn to know God as our Judge, who will never abandon His justice but will maintain it to the glorification of His attributes and virtues.

We have torn ourselves away from God and sinned against Him, and now we lie under the curse of the law and the righteous judgment of God. By our acts of commission and omission we can never heal the breach we caused by our sins. And by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified before God. Only Christ, by His passive and active obedience, has quenched the wrath of God and removed the curse of the law. God can be a Refuge, our Refuge, and our Portion in the land of the living, only when the Spirit gives and applies that which Christ has merited and obtained. With less than that we cannot stand before God. but more is not needed.

May it become the greatest desire of our hearts! That which we lack can still be supplied out of free grace for Christ's sake as long as we are in the land of the living. May God for His own sake cause us to hasten and flee to Him for refuge! May the Spirit of God continue to strive with us until we have the assurance of which David speaks in this text!

~Rev. W.C. Lamain



Most Christian people, I suppose, are afflicted with some one persistent infirmity or sin against which they must be constantly on the guard. There is a point at which we are all weak and at which, without watchfulness, our spiritual defenses break down. In the life of each believer some sin stands out like the giant Goliath among the Philistine host. The dispositional infirmities which to some are a daily cross seldom trouble others. Where the one is weak, the other is strong. But no man is strong at every point of his nature, and the devil knows where the door is ajar. His snares are always set where our feet are apt to go astray.

Some choice Christian men and women are afflicted, for example, with unstable tempers. They sin impulsively with their lips. Angry words, like sparks, kindle fires which hurt both themselves and others. Their consequences may be very far-reaching and unpredictable. The Bible provides us with instances of meek and holy men who fell before ill-temper and before the ungoverned tongue, such as in the case of Moses's sin when he twice smote the rock at Rephadim.

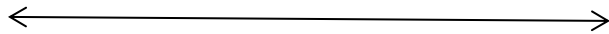
When, therefore, provocations, like thorns, appear in our pathway, and when, as a result, we are overcome by a hasty spirit and utter hasty words, let grace take over and let patience and forgiveness continue their perfect work. And if the struggle is sore and continuous, let us take comfort from God's promise – "He will subdue our iniquities, and cast all our sins into the depth of the sea." In the nature of things our temperamental lapses often happen in the presence of our fellow men.

Some may have heard the story of a good man who was once on his way to church. A great grief racked his mind. Tears of sorrow filled his eyes. His easily-ruffled temper was his persistent cross. Through the sudden clouds which so often descended on his spirit he could not detect the jewel of grace. That day, as he sat in church, the minister used an illustration. He spoke about the ark of God in the wilderness, and how it was covered with the skins of rams and of goats. The gold was there hidden and unseen beneath the unattractive coverings. And in the same way, added the preacher, a gracious soul may lie beneath the rough externals of temperamental infirmities. Only when our pilgrimage is over shall these be removed and we appear in the perfect likeness of Him Who loved us.

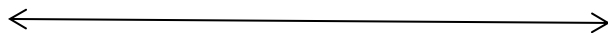
~Murdoch Campbell

Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed thereto according to thy word. Psalm 119:9.

The Scriptures would not be perfect if they did not give proper directions, warnings, and encouragement to young men. Their case is full of interest. By birth, their way is already defiled. They are inexperienced, self-confident, rash, and inconsiderate. The imagination of their heart is evil, Genesis 8:21. Their passions are strong and their principles weak; their lusts imperious and their self-knowledge very imperfect. Till taught from heaven, man is void of wisdom, his will is stubborn, and he is impatient of restraint. All rules not enforced by divine authority are too feeble to control the strong inclinations. Yet youth is the seed-time both for mature life and for eternity. In such circumstances, God's Word "is the only antidote by which we can protect ourselves against the corruption of our nature." One wrong step in youth is very apt to lead to another, and yet another till ruin comes like an armed man. Everyone ought to contribute all that is in his power to preserve young persons from the fatal effects of their own headstrong passions, of an ensnaring world, and of artful seducers; that they may not early contract bad habits. The excellencies of the Scripture for the young are many: 1. It is plain. 2. It is easily remembered. 3. It contains perfect rules, which need no amendment. 4. It gives good examples. It points to Joseph, Samuel, David, Solomon, and the young Hebrews in Babylon. It furnishes us one perfect example. He who became man for our salvation passed through this state of youth, undefiled, that he might, as it were, reclaim and consecrate it anew to God. 5. It holds up bad examples as warnings. To the end of time, Absalom will be a beacon to the wayward. 6. It presents the most powerful motives drawn from heaven, earth, and hell. 7. It encourages us to pray with hope for the influences of the Spirit. -William Swan Plumer



In order to enjoy the Word, we ought to continue to read it, and the way to obtain a spirit of prayer, is, to continue praying; for the less we read the Word of God, the less we desire to read it, and the less we pray, the less we desire to pray. -George Müller



The waters which broke down everything else bore up the ark. That which to unbelievers is a savour of death unto death is to the faithful a savour of life unto life. 2. The more the waters increased, the higher the ark was lifted up towards heaven. Thus sanctified afflictions are spiritual promotions; and as troubles abound consolations much more abound. -Matthew Henry

NETHERLANDS REFORMED CONGREGATION

Sioux Falls, SD



*Give unto the LORD the glory due unto
his name; worship the LORD in the
beauty of holiness. Psalm 29:2*

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