September 29, 2024

This Week: 9:30 a.m. Catechism Reading Service (LD1)

6:30 p.m. Reading Service

Preliminary meeting of classes after the morning service

Next Week: 9:30 a.m. Reading Service

6:30 p.m. Catechism Reading Service (LD2)

Classes after the morning service.

Wednesday: Afternoon Coffee Time for members 60 years and older hosted by the 12th grade class at 2:00 p.m. in the mini-gym at the NRC school.

Advance Notices:

October 30 7:00 p.m. Rev. Slingerland (Reformation Day Eve)

November 3 2:30 p.m. service with Rev Adams

November 27 7:00 p.m. Rev. Maljaars (Thanksgiving Eve)

December 1 2:30 p.m. service with Rev. Maljaars

-All the Lord willing-

New Publications: Paul magazine

Collections: Today: 1st General Fund Next week: 1st General Fund

2nd Israel Mission 2nd Hudson Taylor

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.

MEDITATIONS

"Come, ye children, hearken unto Me: I will teach you the fear of the LORD" (Psalm 34:11).

Come and listen! Children are here urged by David, the man after God's heart, to listen to the voice of the Lord. He is one who himself had received instruction from the Lord. He is one who himself has experienced what it is when God bestows mercy upon a sinner, such as we find in verse six of this psalm, "This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles."

David desired that also children would know who the Lord desires to be for them. David wants to make it known that young people also are welcome in His service. ... Our children must be taught and instructed regarding the fear of the Lord. They must

know what conversion is. They must know that they are in need of a new heart, and what the grace of Christ is. They must know that He will hear their prayer, and that the face of the Lord is against them that do evil (verse 17). They must know that the Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart, and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit (verse 19).

We are in the season of the year in which the work of schools, catechism classes, and societies is taking place. The good seed of God's Word is again being sown. This instruction begins in the home. Young and old are encouraged to seek the Lord while He is to be found. The times in which we live are dark times. The world increasingly exerts its influence upon our young people. As parents we are to walk before our children in these ways.

Come and listen! "Who is he that fears Jehovah, walking with Him day by day?" They only are blessed, they only shall experience peace. This does not mean that there are no troubles in the lives of God's children. This psalm states, "Many are the afflictions of the righteous." The baptismal form speaks of being "subject to all miseries," sickness, troubles, and cares. These are all the results of sin because of our disobedience in Paradise. We have sinned in Adam, and therefore death entered into the world. This is also seen today. By nature the fear of the Lord does not live in our hearts.

How is it with us? Do we continue to live without God? Do we actually not have any need for Him? Do we still serve ourselves? It is by the grace of the Holy Spirit that we may be born again and renewed. To miss God is to miss everything. Without the Lord we cannot continue to live. We must learn to know our sins, and that we have sinned against God. We must be made poor in spirit, dependent upon the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Come and listen! This is an encouragement for young people. They bear the sign and seal of God's covenant of grace. This will one day testify against us if we have gone our own way, disregarding the Word of God.

We also should come and listen so that our hearts might be filled with that same love for children which filled the heart of David. The same love filled Paul in his labors. It is the same love with which Christ was filled in order to seek and to save sinners.



Observe that the greatest calamities that can befall men will not bring them to repentance without the grace of God working with them. Those that are not made better by the judgments of God are always the worse for them. To be hardened in sin and enmity against God by His righteous judgments is a certain token of utter destruction.

~Matthew Henry

Jesus Christ is the Author and Finisher of faith, the first and the last in salvation. Well, therefore, do the Scriptures say much of him. If we would know God, we must know Jesus Christ whom he has sent. No man can come to the Father but by the Son. It is a great matter to view Christ aright. He is called by many and various names. He is said to be the Door, the Way, the Truth, and the Life. He is the Shepherd, Husband, Savior, and Mediator. Isaiah 9:6 says, His name shall be called Wonderful, or a Wonder. Let us dwell a little on this aspect of his character. It is wonderful. Before entering at length into this matter, it must be stated that the aid of the Holy Spirit is necessary to enable any man to see the wonders in Christ's character rightly. If the Holy Ghost does not give us spiritual vision, Christ will be to us as a root out of dry ground. Jesus Christ, then, is Wonderful:

He has, by his Sonship with God, all the perfections which we ascribe to the Father or the Spirit. He is infinite, eternal, and unchangeable in his being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth. He is everywhere present. He searches the heart. He is the Almighty. He has life in himself. He knows all things. He is called God, the true God, the mighty God, the Lord, the King of kings. By his own power, he opened the blind eyes, unstopped the deaf ears, healed the lepers, and raised the dead. The greatest wonder in the universe is God himself. Great is the mystery of godliness, God manifest in the flesh. Even Thomas, with all his unbelief, at last cried out, My Lord and my God. Christ, then, is Wonderful, as he is God.

Nor was his public teaching less admirable. Never man spake as this man. He had the Spirit of God, but not by measure. He preached to men in the last stages of moral corruption, with their passions heated by their sad social and political state. He warned men against pride, error, and wickedness of every kind. Earth has never seen such a preacher as Jesus, so plain, so benign, so mighty in word as well as in deed. Though possessed of miraculous power, he never used it to bring evil to any. "When reviled, he reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not." By practice as well as by precept, he taught the best lessons of meekness, humility, love to God, love to man, and forgiveness to foes.

If these things be so, why do not all men receive Christ? How can they reject him? If anything about him is more wonderful than anything else, it is his love and pity. True, he offers not present ease, or repose, or favor with men. But he promises crowns and kingdoms to all who receive his salvation. O let us receive him in all his fullness and in all his wonders. "If we be dead with him, we shall also live with him: if we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us."

~William Swan Plumer

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.