

REFORMED CHURCH BELLVILLE : SUNDAY 13 MARCH 2011 EVENING SERVICE

Sing before: Psalm 121:1

Let us commence this meeting with God by declaring openly to one another and to God:

Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth. Beloved grace and peace be to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, through the mighty working of God the Holy Spirit.

Amen

Psalm of praise: Psalm 86:1

Prayer:

- **Doxology**
- **Worship**
- **Confession of sins**
- **Forgiveness**
- **Gratitude**
- **Prayer for the need of the congregation of the church, the authorities and the sinful world and appeal to God's promises**
- **General prayer**
- **Enlightenment from the Holy Spirit for the sake of the ministry of the Word.**

Amen

Psalm 19:4

Scripture reading: Deuteronomy 32

Scripture text: Deuteronomy 32:1-5; Catechism Sunday 3

1 "Give ear, O heavens, and I will speak; And hear, O earth, the words of my mouth.

2 Let my teaching drop as the rain, My speech distill as the dew, As raindrops on the tender herb, And as showers on the grass.

3 For I proclaim the name of the Lord: Ascribe greatness to our God.

4 He is the Rock, His work is perfect; For all His ways are justice, A God of truth and without injustice; Righteous and upright is He.

5 "They have corrupted themselves; They are not His children, Because of their blemish: A perverse and crooked generation.

Deuteronomy 32:1-5

This is Moses' parting sermon – his swansong.

At the foot of Mount Nebo the aging old leader spoke to the church people about everything important to God.

- Firstly he persuaded the people to always render the greatness to God. (v.3)
- Thereafter he pointed out to the people the justness and righteousness of the Lord (v.4)

Due to human nature it cannot be otherwise, mankind has to be continually reminded about his sin.
(v.5)

Should man not understand these matters, it is so that our sins will cause us to sink into self-sufficiency. This then causes man to not understand his guilt of sin – and in turn not render to the Lord the needed honour.

Therefore our confession is compiled in such a way that you first have to reach the point of honesty where you well understand your sins and wretchedness before understanding the grace of the Lord.

Everything – literary everything – deals with the honour of God the Lord.

- This is why the complete creation – the heaven and earth and everything thereon – was created. It has to honour Him.
- This also is why He made mankind. The purpose of our creation is to honour Him.

To reach the point of bowing to this principle you must become very small and very humble. On its own no person is there!

- We want rights and we want honour, distinction, status and matters like that.
- Also we do not want to easily bow to somebody and be the least.
- The normal human, rather than bowing in total dependency to God, seeks hidden worship in the recognition he gets.

It is also a fact that people are regarding themselves as more and more advanced – and together with that, question and even reject the revelation of God.

- That is indeed exactly what the satan had in mind when he assured Eve that, should they rebel against His commandments, they would become equal to God.
- Since the Fall that matter stuck to all mankind.

That is why the aged Moses said to the children:

For I proclaim the name of the Lord: Ascribe greatness to our God.

He realized how this matter was developing with the rebellious church-people.

- He felt in his bones that they easily followed any god, as long as it is not the Lord!
- Therefore he exclaimed: **Ascribe greatness to our God!**

Never forget that we are created to the image of God.

- Our bodies are temples of God.
- This is in order for us to be able to honour Him with body and soul.

We will be able to comply to our calling of glorifying God when we see how many cracks there are in these temples, through which the Lord has to be glorified, so that continual restoration could be done.

- Differently put: When we realize our sinful decay, then we can come to conversion and live to the glorification of God.
- The powerful work of God the Holy Spirit must never be underestimated. God is within His workings – thus also within the workings of His Spirit – limitless. He can cause any sinner, through conversion, to rise from his inability

The believers experience two births. That night the Lord told Nicodemus:

John 3:5 Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.

- The fact is that we are born in sin from the body of a human.
- But the fact is that there is also a second birth: A birth through the Spirit of God –regeneration when the Holy Spirit changes us.

Because this process leads you from a physical life into a spiritual life it is called rebirth.

John 3:6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

You would be able to describe this whole process in easy terms by saying that somebody is either reborn and forever happy about it, or he is not reborn and eternally unhappy.

A congregation that is honest in its faith will continually carry each other in prayer to the working of God the Holy Spirit.

- In prayer we ask the Holy Spirit to daily carry every member of the congregation into a new life of faith.
- And it goes without saying that this new life daily unfolds fully in our lives.

Do you still remember what the Lord said long ago to His church people?

1 "Give ear, O heavens, and I will speak; And hear, O earth, the words of my mouth.

2 Let my teaching drop as the rain, My speech distill as the dew, As raindrops on the tender herb, And as showers on the grass.

3 For I proclaim the name of the Lord: Ascribe greatness to our God.

4 He is the Rock, His work is perfect; For all His ways are justice, A God of truth and without injustice; Righteous and upright is He.

5 "They have corrupted themselves; They are not His children, Because of their blemish: A perverse and crooked generation.

Deuteronomy 32:1-5

Such sinners can only seek and find their happiness in the Lord their Creator and Savior.

Come, let us together see what our confession teaches about this in the Heidelberg Catechism Sunday 3:

Q. 6.

Did God then create man so wicked and perverse?

A.

By no means; but God created man good, (a) and after his own image, (b)

in true righteousness and holiness, that he might rightly know God his Creator, heartily love him and live with him in eternal happiness to glorify and praise him. (c)

(a)

Gen.1:31 And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

(b)

Gen.1:26 And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

Gen.1:27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

(c)

Col.3:9 Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds;

Col.3:10 And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:

Eph.4:23 And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;

Eph.4:24 And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

2 Cor.3:18 But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.

Q. 7.

Whence then proceeds this depravity of human nature?

A.

From the fall and disobedience of our first parents, Adam and Eve, in Paradise; (a)
hence our nature is become so corrupt, that we are all conceived and born in sin. (b)

(a)

Genesis 3.

Rom.5:12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

Rom.5:18 Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life.

Rom.5:19 For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.

(b)

Ps.51:5 Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.

Gen.5:3 And Adam lived an hundred and thirty years, and begat a son in his own likeness, after his image; and called his name Seth:

Q. 8.

Are we then so corrupt that we are wholly incapable of doing any good, and inclined to all wickedness?

A.

Indeed we are; (a)

except we are regenerated by the Spirit of God. (b)

(a)

Gen.8:21 The imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth;

John 3:6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

Gen.6:5 And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

Job 14:4 Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? not one.

Job 15:14 What is man, that he should be clean? and he which is born of a woman, that he should be righteous?

Job 15:16 How much more abominable and filthy is man, which drinketh iniquity like water?

Job 15:35 They conceive mischief, and bring forth vanity, and their belly prepareth deceit.

Isa.53:6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

(b)

John 3:3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

John 3:5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

1 Cor.12:3 Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost.

2 Cor.3:5 Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God;

Amen.

Closing prayer.

Closing Psalm: Scripture Versification 14-3:3

The Lord bless and keep you, the Lord make his face shine on you, the Lord turn His countenance to you and give peace.

Amen

Dr MJ Du Plessis

Reformed Church Bellville

13 March 2011

Scripture Modern King James Version