

Opening address by br. T.W. Tamane on behalf of the convening church, the Free Reformed Church of Soshanguve North.

1. Opening of synod

Good evening all

On behalf of the convening church of Soshanguve North I herewith would like to extend a warm welcome to all delegates present.

On behalf of the convening church Soshanguve North I call the meeting to order. Our scripture reading will be from Psalm 133.

1 A SONG OF ASCENTS. OF DAVID. Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!

2 It is like the precious oil on the head, running down on the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down on the collar of his robes!

3 It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion! For there the LORD has commanded the blessing, life forevermore.

The Unity of Believers (vers 1)

This Psalm was a song during the time of the Old Testament when the people of Israel used to go to Jerusalem to pray there. The writer might have imagined them in his mind or saw them as they walked together in unity. He saw their unity as good and pleasant.

Brothers and sisters it is also good and pleasing that we have gathered here for prayer. As members from different churches we have gathered for prayer. This is something good and pleasing.

The blessing of the God (verses 2-3)

This unity is illustrated in two ways:

First we see the unity illustrated in verse 2. It is like oil on Aaron. This oil was the anointing oil which they used to anoint those who were priests. Anointing oil was mixed with some of the fragrances so that it smells good (Exodus 30:23-24, 30). The meaning of anointing oil is that it symbolizes the grace of God and the Holy Spirit. The grace of God was upon the man Aaron for him to become the priest and being anointed by the oil means that the Spirit of the LORD was upon him, just like the Spirit descended on our LORD Jesus Christ when he was baptized.

So the unity of believers results in the blessing of the LORD by his grace through the Holy Spirit. Individually being filled with the Spirit. The unity of believers is a blessing for individual members of our churches.

Secondly we see the blessing illustrated in verse 3. The blessing is illustrated as the dew on Mount Hermon. This mountain was one of the tallest mountain and it was the source of the river Jordan. So the writer of this Psalm may had pictured the dew flowing from Mount Hermon, the dew which fertilizes their vegetation. Dew flowing from Mount Hermon was a blessing for the people of Jerusalem.

Therefore dew here is a symbol of the LORD's blessing upon his people. A blessing for the entire nation. Therefore the unity of believers is a blessing for a community of believers. This is what our LORD Jesus Christ prayed for (John 17:21). He prayed for the unity of believers.

Brothers and sister the fact that we have gathered here it's a blessing for all our churches. The decisions that are going to be made, let's pray that they are going to be a blessing for the churches. Some church had been divided by doctrinal issues or moral issues like favoritism. Let's pray that we become united for the glory of God.

Amen

Let us sing hymn 142.

Let us pray.

- 1. On behalf of the convening church, I herewith declare Synod 2017 of the Free Reformed Churches in South Africa to be open..**