



THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE

KCPC This Week

"Knowing the love of Christ together with all the saints." - Eph. 3:18-19

Week Ending, November 22nd, 2014



"Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"

Upcoming Events- Lord willing!

Prepare for Worship!: Your pastors and elders encourage you to spend time in prayer each Saturday evening, preparing your hearts and praying for the worship of our God. Please remember the importance of prayer for our worship services, and especially the need for the Spirit's work in preaching. Pray that we would come with expectant hearts to hear what the LORD would say to us! (Hab. 2:1-3).

Sunday School on The Beauty & Glory of Christian Living!: This week Elder Mitch Turner teaches us how to glorify God in living through sickness and death.

Women's Bible Study: The study meets on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday nights at 7pm. All women are welcome to attend. Contact Stacy Halley for more information.

Thank Offering 2014: We will be taking up our Thank Offering on Lord's Day, Nov. 30th during our morning worship service. Please see fliers in bulletins to pray about how much you would like to give this year.

Locust Street Film Night: Friday evening, **December 12th** at 7 pm. We will be viewing and discussing Vincent Minelli's glorious Technicolor classic musical *'Meet Me in St. Louis'* with Judy Garland!

KCPC Booktable Sale! Take advantage of the wonderful books on the KCPC Booktable and reduce the price of the books you would like to purchase by 20% for a limited time. Consider getting some of your holiday gifts in this way—these books are hand-picked and recommended highly by your pastors!

Men's and Boy's Breakfast: Saturday, Dec. 13th from 8:30-10 am.

"The Awe and Joy of Christmas": Our sermon series for Advent and Christmas will be from Matthew's Gospel. This mini-series will begin on Dec. 7th in morning worship. Pray for the power of the Holy Spirit in the preaching! Invite your friends to experience this special series. Minor Prophets coming in 2015, Lord willing.

Coming Soon for Christmas! Caroling in our neighborhood on Sunday evening, Dec. 14th and our Christmas Eve worship with Potomac Hills PCA in Leesburg.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING: A PSALM FOR GIVING THANKS. Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth! ² Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into his presence with singing! ³ Know that the LORD, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. ⁴ Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name! ⁵ For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations. - ^{ESV} **Psalm 100**

"The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all."

-^{ESV} 2 Corinthians 13:14

From Your Pastors

The Spirit of Holiness

"...Even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him..." - ^{ESV} Ephesians 1:4

When the Eternal Son of God, the One who is eternally begotten, not made, who is very God of very God, became man, he took to Himself our nature, conceived by the Holy Spirit, from the substance of Mary (Luke 1:31-35). It is hard for us to understand, but the Scriptures teach that the Lord Jesus Christ, the only Redeemer of God's people, became man, and so was, and continues to be, God and man in two distinct natures (human and divine), and one Person forever (see Shorter Catechism, Q&A 21). This means that while the Eternal Son did not change in His Being or substance or power as God in the Incarnation (Heb. 1:1-3), by assuming our nature into permanent hypostatic (personal) union with Himself, He did become something He was not before, namely man (Heb. 2:14-18; 4:16-18). As our Redeemer, Jesus Christ serves as our Mediator, and we must seek to honor the One Person, and acknowledge properly and biblically the two natures of Christ.

In considering the Spirit of Holiness, we will focus on the human nature of Christ today. What was done by the human nature was done by the one Person, so that we understand that God does not die, yet He who was God did die, *as man*. Jesus was God-Man. How does the Spirit's work on Jesus Christ, God-Man, help us understand our holiness before God that we find in Him?

"The Lord Christ, as man, did and was to exercise all grace by the rational faculties and powers of His soul, His understanding, will, and affections; for He acted grace as a man...His divine nature was not unto Him in the place of a soul, nor did [the divine nature] immediately operate the things He performed, as some of old vainly imagined; but being a perfect man, His rational soul was in Him the immediate principle of all His moral operations, even as ours in us... [Christ's] growth in grace and wisdom was the peculiar work of the Holy Spirit; for as the faculties of His mind were enlarged by degrees and strengthened, so the Holy Spirit filled them up with grace for actual obedience" (John Owen, Works, 3:169-170). "Whatsoever Christ did as man, He did by the Spirit" (R. Sibbes, Works, 1:102).

The Spirit of God that Jesus received from the Father is the same Spirit that the Father and the Son have sent to be within His people. What the Holy Spirit helped Jesus to do: live by faith, resist temptation, endure by grace, be a faithful servant, be comforted in affliction, etc. is what the Spirit still does for God's people united to Jesus. The ministry of the Holy Spirit upon Jesus Christ has tremendous implications for believers' holiness in Christ (Psa. 133; Isa. 61:1ff). Jesus *is* our sanctification (1 Cor. 1:30). As theologian Mark Jones writes: "Jesus Christ, in His human nature, is the holiest man ever to have lived on earth. He exercised faith, hope, and love in a manner so extraordinary that if there were millions of worlds of loving creatures, they would not have, combined together, the same degree of love that was in the heart of our Savior. These graces bestowed upon Jesus did not remain on Him alone, but trickled down, as oil on His forehead, to His bride." Jesus as exalted King poured out His Spirit upon His people (Acts 2:33).

Whatever grace we received for our holiness first belonged to our Savior who is "**full of grace**" (John 1:16). To be holy is both to look at Christ's substitutionary work for us in reconciliation, but it is also to labor after conformity to His image because of, and in dependence upon His grace in Christ (Rom. 8:29; Eph. 1:4). Although Christ was sinless and needed no grace as sinners need grace, nevertheless, Christ Jesus lived by faith in his estate of humiliation. Christ is the holiest man who ever lived and the greatest "believer" (or man of faith) ever to have lived (Heb. 12:2). There has never been, nor will there ever be, a more perfect example of living by faith than Jesus. By faith, He believed the word and promises of God. If Christ had not had faith, His people would remain in their unbelief; if Christ had not been vindicated (1 Tim. 3:16), adopted (Psa. 2:7; Rom. 1:4), sanctified (Rom. 6:9-10; John 17:19), and glorified (1 Cor. 15:35-49), His elect would not receive these blessings!

There is no grace we received by the Spirit that was not first present in Christ Himself, particularly the grace of faith. The Holy Spirit bestows all the blessings of Christ upon the members of His church only because they were first bestowed on Christ. Richard Sibbes wrote: "*We have not the Holy Spirit immediately from God, but we have Him as sanctifying Christ first [not from sin, but consecrating him as man to the Father's will], and then us, and whatsoever the Holy Spirit does in us, He does the same in Christ first, and He does it in us, because of Christ.*"

The life of holiness is the life of faith. The way we begin the Christian life with faith is the way we continue in the Christian life until we get to heaven and faith becomes sight. Those who belong to Christ are as dependent upon the Spirit for their holiness as they are dependent upon air to breathe. Just as Christ lived by faith and depended upon the grace of the Holy Spirit to work on His human nature, so we are likewise to live by faith and depend upon the Holy Spirit to enable us to love God with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength. **To be continued....***

**In Christ's Love,
Pastors Biggs and Halley**

"Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing."

- ^{ESV} Acts 2:33

THIS LORD'S DAY

Sermon Title: "Blind Beggars All!"
– Pastor Charles R. Biggs

Scripture Lesson: Habakkuk 2:1-4; Ephesians 1:15-23

Scripture Text: Mark 10:46-52

Theme of Worship Service: A true disciple must be given eyes to see by faith.

Questions to Discuss with Family and in Fellowship:

- * **Children: Read Mark 10:46-52.** How are you blind to spiritual things by nature? What makes you realize you cannot see? How are you still blind at times and in need of healing?
- * Read Ephesians 1:15-23; 3:14-21. What does Paul pray for the saints? Why do we need help in seeing even after we become Christians?
- * How does this passage reveals Jesus' kindness and compassion? How does this passage fulfill Joel 2:32?

Freedom from Slavery through Meditation/Contemplation!

GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST!

"When Divine wisdom, goodness, love, grace and mercy in the Triune God set themselves to work, what will they not accomplish!? *"God so loved the world!" "God commends His love toward us!" "Great love has no man than this!" "Riches of Grace!" "Exceeding greatness of Power!"* In these God will be admired and glorified for all eternity! Let us contemplate and meditate upon these glorious riches in Christ Jesus so that we may grow up into the image of God in Christ (2 Cor. 3:18). I we concentrate on these things, we will entertain our souls with delight! Think about the Eternal Counsel of God, the Person of Christ, His Mediation and Grace, the promises of the Gospel, the evil and wrath we have been freed from, the glory purchased for us, the privileges like adoption that we have as heirs in the family, the consolations and joys of the Holy Spirit, the communion with God we have in Jesus! Here is our treasure even now, our inheritance to encourage us for hard times here and now. Were our mind fixed on these things as they ought, how would the glory of them cast out our cares, subdue our fears, sweeten our afflictions and persecutions, and take our affections off the fading, perishing things of this world, and make us in every condition rejoice in the hope of the glory that shall be revealed!" – John Owen, *Comm. on Hebrews, Vol. III, pg. 313.*

"Son of man, can these bones live?" And I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophesy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. LORD."

– Ezek. 37:3-5