



# THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE

## KCPC This Week

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

**Week Ending, February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2015**



"Do you see these great buildings? There will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down."

– Jesus, Mark 14:2

### **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 (Mark 4). Pray that we would come with expectant hearts to hear what the LORD would say to us! (Hab. 2:1-3).

**Adult Sunday School class on 'Ordinary' continues this week:** Our Sunday school class begins at 9:30am. The adults are studying a new series based on Michael Horton's book "*Ordinary*". This week: "*Ambition: How Vice*

*Became a Virtue*".

**New Member!** The elders will be receiving **Josiah DeGraaf** into membership at KCPC during our morning worship service this Lord's Day. Let us thank God for continuing to build His congregation here in Purcellville.

**Titus 2 Seminar this Saturday!** Women of KCPC please consider taking your girls to the seminar on '*Beauty: God's Gift, God's Glory*' on **Feb. 21, 12:30-5 pm** in Vienna, VA. For more info, or if you plan to attend, email Margaret Biggs at [missmargaretbiggs@comcast.net](mailto:missmargaretbiggs@comcast.net). Highly recommended for your women and girls!!

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

**Shorter Catechism Memorization for KCPC in 2015:** See pg. 3, '*From Your Pastors*' Section. Let's seek to memorize the Shorter Catechism together as a congregation, and if you already have, go back over it for spiritual review.

**KCPC Book Table- Featured Books:** For the upcoming Easter season, and also books that would complement the present sermon series on Gospel of Mark: '*The Shadow of the Cross: Studies in Self-Denial*' by Walter Chantry; '*The Cross He Bore: Mediations on the Sufferings of the Redeemer*' by Frederick Leahy; '*Jesus on Trial*' by James Boice and Phil Ryken. **New this Week:** Two nice affordable journals for sermon-note-taking, and Keller on Marriage at a deep discounted price.

*"If we are believers, the Holy Spirit establishes communion between us and the other two Persons of the Trinity. It is as if He captures us and lifts us up to know the Father and the Son's love for us. The Holy Spirit lifts us to see by faith the crucified and resurrected Jesus seated in glory."*

*- Richard Sibbes*

## *From Your Pastors*

### *A Study of the Shorter Catechism*

**Question: Are there more Gods than one?**

**Answer: There is but one only, the living and true God.**

**Scripture memory:** “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.” – Deut. 6:4; “But the LORD is the true God; he is the living God and the everlasting King.” – Jer. 10:10a

**An explanation:** There is only one, living and true God. The Scriptures teach us that God is one (Deut. 6:4). The Christian Faith is monotheistic which means that we believe in one God (“mono” = one; “Theos” = God). We confess that this one God is revealed in three Persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, but He is One God (the Father is God, the Son is God, the Spirit is God).

One purpose of the Bible’s emphasis on the one, true and living God is to instruct and warn sinful man against idolatry and pagan polytheism, or the belief in many gods (1 Cor. 8:4-6; Psalm 96:4-5). The Holy Scriptures teach that the gods of the pagan peoples are “worthless” (they cannot save; they cannot speak because they are often merely dead pieces of wood or metal; they are powerless to help anyone because they are dead and lifeless, Psa. 96:5; Jer. 10:5). Idols have no real existence (1 Cor. 8:4), and therefore we confess:

***“...There is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist”*** (1 Cor. 8:6).

Yet fallen man makes idols, and worships and serves false gods, even though the True God has made Himself clearly known (Rom. 1:19-25). Romans 1 teaches us that at the heart of idolatrous unbelief are a refusal to see the evidence of the True God in creation, a warped foolishness in blind unrepentance, and a desire to exchange the truth of God that is revealed for a lie, to ***worship and serve the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever!*** (Rom. 1:25).

As Christians, we should rejoice that God has fully revealed Himself as the One and Only, True and Living God! In God’s merciful kindness, God Himself took upon Himself our nature in the Lord Jesus Christ, to clearly reveal the existence and nature of the One True God. Jesus teaches ***“I and my Father are one”*** and ***“If you have seen me, you have seen the Father”*** (John 10:30; 14:9), and ***“...This is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent”*** (John 17:3).

God reveals His lavish love for sinners who will repent and turn from their idolatry to serve the Living God. Christians are described in the Bible in this way: ***“...You turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come”*** (1 Thess. 1:9-10). We must keep ourselves from idols, dearly Beloved. *What we are tempted to live for, serve, dream about, and adore too much will be our temptation to idolatry. Let us love God first above all things in Christ Jesus, and be thankful.* Let us worship and serve Him alone because of the love, mercy, compassion and forgiveness He has offered idolaters, and how He has saved us from His coming wrath upon all disobedience. ***“Little children, keep yourselves from idols”*** (1 John 5:21).

**A prayer:** Thank you, dear Father, You who are the Only God, the True and Living God, for saving me from idolatry, and your righteous judgment that will fall upon all idolaters (1 Cor. 6:9; Rev. 21:8). Thank you, dear God, for your mercy to me in Jesus Christ, and your unfailing, undying patience with me, even as I live for you, and realize sometimes that I still love created things too much. Grant me a deeper repentance and true mourning for the way I love the things you have given me, more than the fact that you have given yourself to me in Christ! Let my heart find its rest in you alone. Amen.

**In Christ’s love,  
Pastors Biggs and Halley**

*“Wherever the indwelling Spirit is, He gradually transforms the soul to be holy and gracious like Himself.”*

**- Richard Sibbes**

# THIS LORD'S DAY

**Sermon Title: “*The Apocalypse,*” or  
“*How to Live Faithfully in Tribulation*”**  
– Pastor Charles R. Biggs

**Theme of Sermon:** Jesus reveals to His disciples the coming desolation of God’s temple and how to live watchful and dependent upon God in the midst of tribulation.

**Scripture Lesson: Matthew 23:37-39; Luke 21:34-36**  
**Scripture Text: Mark 13:1-13**

## Questions for Family Discussion/ Thoughtful Mediation:

- \* **Read Mark 13.** What is Jesus’ main purpose in teaching His disciples all the interesting things found in Mark 13? Draw from the scriptures to give your answers.
- \* **Children:** What is a temple? What is its purpose? What particularly did God’s temple in the Old Covenant, and at the time of Jesus teach to God’s people?
- \* Try to count the number of imperatives that Jesus gives in Mark 13, and see if that reveals to you the Lord Jesus’ heart and purpose in His extended teaching in the chapter.
- \* What are the “*these things*” that the disciples ask about in Mark 13:1-4?
- \* How is Mark 13 a “tale of two temples”? (Hint: John 1:14; 2:19-22; Mark 14:58; 15:29)

“Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” The Jews then said, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?” ***But he was speaking about the temple of his body.*** When therefore he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the Scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.”

- <sup>ESV</sup> **John 2:19-22**

“Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.”

- <sup>ESV</sup> **1 Corinthians 6:19-20**

“*The LORD says to my Lord: “Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool.” ...The LORD has sworn and will not change his mind, “You are a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.” The Lord is at your right hand; he will shatter kings on the day of his wrath...”*

– **Psalm 110:1, 4-5**