



THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE

KCPC This Week

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

Week Ending, March 7th, 2015



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

- Mark 13:2 (Siege of Jerusalem)

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).

Congregational Family Meeting this Lord's Day: Join us for an informal congregational family meeting to discuss our 2015 budget on Lord's Day, **March 8th at 9:30 am** during our Sunday school time.

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.

Evening Worship this Lord's Day at 6 pm: Come close the Lord's Day as a congregation, and join us for worship, sermon series on 1 Timothy, and a wonderful fellowship meal.

Baptism of Andrew David Vermette: Covenant Child Andrew David Vermette will be baptized next week, **March 15th** during the morning worship service.

Men and Boys Breakfast: This study doesn't separate the men from the boys, it seeks to build them both up in their most holy faith and encourage them in the love of Jesus! Come on Saturday morning, **March 14th from 8:30-10 am.**

Good Friday Service: Friday, **April 3rd** at 7 pm we will have our annual Good Friday worship and celebration here at KCPC in Purcellville with our sister church Potomac Hills PCA. More details coming.

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

Shorter Catechism Memorization for KCPC in 2015: See pg. 3, 'From Your Pastor' Section. Let's seek to memorize the Shorter Catechism together as a congregation.

KCPC Book Table- Featured Books: This week we have some new Banner of Truth Titles and two new devotionals: '*Voices from the Past*'- the best devotional I have ever used—wonderful wisdom and insights into Scripture. Run to get yourself a copy at a deep discounted price! A new fantastic children's morning and evening devotional "*Morning Bells and Little Pillows*"! This one is full of sweet grace and truth, very Christ-focused, and warm-hearted, and written Frances Havergal with short hymns for morning and evening. A favorite in my family!

"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."

- *ESV* 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

From Your Pastor

A Study of the Shorter Catechism

Question: What are the decrees of God?

Answer: The decrees of God are, his eternal purpose, according to the counsel of his will, whereby, for his own glory, he hath foreordained whatsoever comes to pass.

Scripture memory: ^{ESV} **Ephesians 1:4** "...Even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him..."; **Romans 9:22-23:** "What if God, desiring to show his wrath and to make known his power, has endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, in order to make known the riches of his glory for vessels of mercy, which he has prepared beforehand for glory..."

An explanation: God has an eternal and unchangeable decree or purpose for Himself, for His people, and all creation. This goal or purpose is for the "**praise of His Glory**" in Christ Jesus (Eph. 1:6,12,14). The Eternal, Blessed, Bountiful and Boundless God, without the counsel or aid of anyone else, according to His perfect counsel and will, has appointed and determined all of history "*according to the counsel of His will*" or for His mere good pleasure (Eph. 1:9-10).

Whatever we read has happened in history, whatever happens in the outworking of history in our lives, and whatever comes to pass in the future, has been planned and appointed by God (not merely allowed!), who is infinitely, eternally, unchangeably, wise, holy, just, good, and true. Let us think on these things, and adjust our thoughts and reflections accordingly (Phil. 4:8; Rom. 11:34, 12:2), especially when we read about the "messiness" of history, see the sinfulness of sin, and watch and read the daily news! We will not necessarily understand everything about God, and He has certainly not revealed everything about Himself and His purposes (Job 42), but what God has revealed is sufficient and clear enough to instruct us, and should be humbly received by faith (Deut. 29:29).

One of the most horrifying, yet graciously satisfying, and God-glorifying events in history was the rejection, betrayal, suffering, and crucifixion of the Blessed and Perfect Lord Jesus Christ, who was the only man who ever lived perfectly before God, and therefore deserved a perfect and blessed life (Psa. 1). Yet all manner of evil, humiliation, and affliction was laid on Him by His God and Heavenly Father, our God and Heavenly Father. It was the will of the LORD, according to His predetermined counsel and will to crush the Lord Jesus **for us**, and to appoint (not merely allow) the Gentiles and the Jews to gather together and humiliate Him **for us**, to spit upon Him **for us**, to mock Him **for us**, to torture Him **for us**, and to crucify Him **for us** (Acts 4:27-28; Isa. 53:10; 2 Cor. 5:21). God predestined this for the "praise of God's glorious grace" so that His right judgment, justice and punishment against sin might be gloriously upheld, and His mercy and grace to sinners might be made available to all who repent and believe (Rom. 3:23-26).

A prayer: I thank you dear God, and acknowledge that you have chosen some to everlasting life and happy bliss in Christ, not because of any good, or faith you foresaw in them, but granting them faith, righteous standing and real holiness according to your good pleasure (Matt. 11:25-26; 2 Thes. 2:13; Eph. 1:4). Although I don't fully understand, I also acknowledge that you have been pleased to pass by, or pass over some who are not your elect, leaving them to perish in their sins to the praise of your glorious wrath and infinite justice (Rom. 9:21-22). I acknowledge you as the Blessed Potter, and I am mere clay, but thank you for giving your Son, so that whoever believes in Him might not perish but have everlasting life, and call you "Father". Help me to give heed to making my calling and election sure (2 Pet. 1:10-11).

**In Christ's love,
Pastor Biggs**

"So then it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy. For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, "For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I might show my power in you, and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth." So then he has mercy on whomever he wills, and he hardens whomever he wills."

- ^{ESV} **Romans 9:16-18**

THIS LORD'S DAY

Sermon Title: *"The Apocalypse", Part 2* or *"Beware the Abomination of Desolation!"*

– Pastor Charles R. Biggs

Theme of Sermon: Jesus graciously and pastorally reveals God's plans for the future. Let the Christian understand. The Lord's people must be characterized by waiting wisely and watchfully in this present age.

Scripture Lesson: Daniel 9:16-27; 1 Peter 4:7

Scripture Text: Mark 13:14-23

Questions for Family Discussion/ Thoughtful Mediation:

- * **Read Mark 13.** An important key verse of Mark 13 is verse 4: *"Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign when all these things are about to be accomplished?"* The disciples are asking specifically about the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem (13:1-3), but Jesus not only gives them warnings about this event, but also connects it with the end of this present age, and the coming of the Son of Man. How are these two events connected? (Hint: Mark 13:24).
- * **Children:** What is a good definition of history? How does God relate to history in your mind? How can we be comforted by Jesus telling us some of the future as God's people in Mark 13?
- * What is the *"Abomination of Desolation"* referred to in Mark 13:14? Give answers from the Old Testament.
- * How do you specifically see in Mark 13 Jesus' pastoral concern for His people to be waiting wisely and watchfully for Him in this present age?
- * How is Mark 13 a "tale of two temples"? (Hint: John 1:14; 2:19-22; Mark 14:58; 15:29)

"Jesus [said], "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."

- ESV John 2:19-22