



# THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE

## KCPC This Week

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

Week Ending, April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2015



### Upcoming Events- Lord willing!

**Prepare for Worship!:** Your elders encourage you to spend time in prayer each Saturday evening, preparing your hearts and praying for the worship of our God.

**Adult Sunday School:** Your pastor and elders will continue to teach through *'Ordinary'* by Michael Horton this week, and coming soon we will be teaching a 12-15 week class on **The Triune God**.

**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.

**Baptism of Our Covenant Children:** By God's grace, we will participate in two baptism services in April. **Calvin Lewis Gray** on **April 12** and **Genevieve Gerda Nastaran Greendyk** on **April 19**, both in morning worship services. Hallelujah to God for answered prayers in growing in our church in grace—and in numbers!! God is faithful. We will have a special sermon on baptism on Lord's Day, April 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Evening Worship Service this Lord's Day at 6 pm!** Come and close the Lord's Day together with worship and fellowship meal.

**Men's and Boy's Breakfast on Saturday, April 18th:** Come and join us for our monthly breakfast, fellowship and prayer meeting from 8:30-10 am. **Topic: Watchfulness in the Christian Life.**

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

**Locust Street Film Night:** We will take a short break in March, and will plan our next film night on **April 17** at 7 pm. We will enjoy viewing and discussing the film noir classic *'Touch of Evil'* with Orson Welles and Charlton Heston.

**KCPC Book Table- This Week's Featured Book:** A sweet, must-have book that will fill engage your mind and warm your heart for Jesus! *'The Love of Christ'* by **Richard Sibbes** is a devotional classic to move you to greater love and appreciation for Christ your Bridegroom! **On sale this week: \$5**

*What is a sacrament? A. A sacrament is an holy ordinance instituted by Christ in his church, to signify, seal, and exhibit unto those that are within the covenant of grace, the benefits of his mediation, to strengthen and increase their faith, and all other graces; to oblige them to obedience; to testify and cherish their love and communion one with another; and to distinguish them from those that are without."*

*– Larger Catechism, Q&A 165*

## *From Your Pastor*

### *A Study of the Shorter Catechism*

#### **Question: How did God create man?**

**Answer:** God created man male and female, after his own image, in knowledge, righteousness, and holiness, with dominion over the creatures

**Scripture memory:** *"God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion... over all the earth... So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female..."Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over..." – Genesis 1:26-28*  
(Also see Col. 3:10; Eph. 4:24).

#### **An explanation:**

Man was the climax and great masterpiece of God's creation work. As Image-Bearer of the Triune God, man was a mirror reflection of God's glory on earth (J. Calvin). Man was created to be a covenant creature completely dependent upon God and His Word. Man was made to be God's vice-gerent (or vice-regent) over creation to serve God as a Servant-Son over the whole earth, having rule or dominion as prophet, priest and king before the face of God.

As the Westminster Larger Catechism, Question 17 summarizes the Biblical teaching: *"After God had made all other creatures, he created man male and female; formed the body of the man of the dust of the ground, and the woman of the rib of the man, endued them with living, reasonable and immortal souls;(Gen. 2:7; Job 35:11) made them after his own image, in knowledge, righteousness, and holiness;(Col. 3:10; Eph. 4:24) having the law of God written in their hearts,(Rom. 2:14-15) and power to fulfil it,(Eccl. 7:29) and dominion over the creatures; yet subject to fall."*

Man was made in God's image, both male and female. God's image and likeness means that man had God's knowledge, righteousness, and holiness, with dominion over the creatures. Man and woman were to subdue the creation in their proper roles under God's Covenant Lordship, filling the earth with more image bearers ("godly offspring", Mal. 2:15), and glorifying God and enjoying their service to Him as their Heavenly Father. Man and woman were to serve God with perfect knowledge of God in their understandings, righteousness in their wills, and holiness in their affections.

Man in His rebellion against God caused sin and death to come into the world (Rom. 5:12), terribly marring and deforming the image of God, and giving himself over to slavery to satan (Eph. 2:1-3). This terrible rebellion and fall into sin caused man's mind to be darkened in His knowledge of God (Rom. 1:18ff), and sinful in His will and disposition towards God and others (Eph. 4:18-22). Although man was made a little lower than the angels, and was created to be confirmed in righteousness and holiness, and crowned with glory and honor (Psa. 8), because of man's sin, this glory and honor was not fully realized.

In God's good and gracious plan of redemption, the Eternal Son of God took upon Himself a human nature, yet without sin, to perfectly attain this glory and honor through obedience to God's Word (Heb. 2:6-18). Jesus Christ succeeded perfectly in keeping God's holy commandments, where Adam failed. Jesus is the image of the invisible God; He is the perfect and righteous Servant-Son, the Second Adam, the Prophet, Priest and King, who was crowned with glory and honor in His resurrection and exaltation, who remakes and reforms sinners through the powerful work of the Holy Spirit.

**A prayer:** Father, thank you for not leaving us in our sins under the penalty of the death and the curse. Thank you for sending Jesus Christ to redeem mankind. Grant us righteousness, holiness, and dominion as we serve you as your sons in Jesus. Let us put on the new man, created in Christ Jesus in righteousness and true holiness (Eph. 4:24).

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

***What is Baptism?*** *A. Baptism is a sacrament of the New Testament, wherein Christ hath ordained the washing with water in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, to be a sign and seal of ingrafting into himself, of remission of sins by his blood, and regeneration by his Spirit; of adoption, and resurrection unto everlasting life; and whereby the parties baptized are solemnly admitted into the visible church, and enter into an open and professed engagement to be wholly and only the Lord's. – Larger Catechism, Q&A 165*

# THIS LORD'S DAY

**Sermon Title: "Father Abraham"**

***A Sermon on the Glad Occasion of God's Gift of Covenant Children to Our  
Congregation***

– Pastor Charles R. Biggs

**Theme of Sermon:** The Covenant of Grace offers promises for us and our children in Christ Jesus. Although there be differing administrations of this one Covenant of Grace, there are the same promises and privileges for us and for our children as the True children of Abraham in Christ.

**Scripture Lesson: Acts 2:36-39; Col. 2:11-12; Rom. 2:28-29**

**Scripture Text: Genesis 17:1-14**

## **Questions for Family Discussion/ Thoughtful Meditation:**

\* **Read Genesis 17:1-14.** How does God reveal His love and condescending mercies toward Abraham and His people?

\* Read Genesis 17:9-14; then compare with Colossians 2:11-12, Romans 2:25-29, and Romans 4:1-12. What was the inward reality of the outward sign of circumcision? How does the outward sign point to both Jesus's Person and His Work for sinners?

\* **Children:** Abraham's seed or offspring is promised to be recipients of God's lavish, covenant promises. Who is Abraham's seed or offspring? (Now read Galatians 3:16 to see if you got it right. Now read Galatians 3:26-29 to understand the implications of this, and Galatians 6:14-16 to behold the glory of this!).

## ***How is our baptism to be improved by us?***

A. The needful but much neglected duty of improving our baptism, is to be performed by us all our life long, especially in the time of temptation, and when we are present at the administration of it to others;(1) by serious and thankful consideration of the nature of it, and of the ends for which Christ instituted it, the privileges and benefits conferred and sealed thereby, and our solemn vow made therein;(2) by being humbled for our sinful defilement, our falling short of, and walking contrary to, the grace of baptism, and our engagements;(3) by growing up to assurance of pardon of sin, and of all other blessings sealed to us in that sacrament;(4) by drawing strength from the death and resurrection of Christ, into whom we are baptized, for the mortifying of sin, and quickening of grace;(5) and by endeavouring to live by faith,(6) to have our conversation in holiness and righteousness,(7) as those that have therein given up their names to Christ;(8) and to walk in brotherly love, as being baptized by the same Spirit into one body.(9) (1)Col. 2:11,12; Rom. 6:4,6,11 (2)Rom. 6:3-5 (3)1 Cor. 1:11-13; Rom. 6:2,3 (4)Rom. 4:11,12; 1 et. 3:21 (5)Rom. 6:3-5 (6)Gal. 3:26,27 (7)Rom. 6:22 (8)Acts 2:38 (9)1 Cor. 12:13,25,26,27

- **Westminster Larger Catechism Q&A 167**

***"For who hopes for what he sees?"***

- **Romans 8:24b**