



# THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE

## KCPC This Week

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

**Week Ending, May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2015**



### **Upcoming Events- Lord willing!**

**Prepare for Worship!:** We encourage you to spend time in prayer each Saturday evening, preparing your hearts and praying for the worship of our God. Our KCPC weekly newsletter *The Shepherd's Voice* can be a helpful guide for your time of prayer. *Remember on Sunday mornings to seek to use prelude time before worship to enter God's presence with honor and respect and great awe!*

**Adult Sunday School:** Beginning this Lord's Day, the pastor and elders will be teaching a 12-15 week class on *The Triune God* soon. **Goal of class:** To help us to read our Bibles with a better understanding of each Person of the Triune God, and to have communion with each person in worship and prayer.

**New Members!** We are thankful to receive **Dr. Mike and Mary Kucks** into membership at KCPC during the morning worship service this Lord's Day, May 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Locust Street Film Night:** Friday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7 pm we will be viewing and discussing Charles Laughton's *'Night of the Hunter'*! One of LSFN's favorite films to watch and discuss.

**Men's and Boy's Breakfast:** Saturday morning, May 23<sup>rd</sup> from 8:30-10 am. Come and join us!

**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.

### **KCPC Online!**

Don't forget *'The Shepherd's Voice'* and many other helpful resources are available online at

[www.ketocin.org/resources](http://www.ketocin.org/resources)

**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.

**Coming Soon- Preaching Sermon Series:** In morning services beginning Summer 2015: *'The Book of the Twelve'* (or the **Minor Prophets**); in the evening services beginning soon: *'The Pastoral Epistles'* (2 **Timothy**). Pray that God would prepare our hearts for these upcoming sermon series.

*One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his temple.*

**-Psalm 27:4 ESV**

## *From Your Pastor* *A Study of the Shorter Catechism*

### Question: What is Sin?

**Answer: Sin is any want of conformity unto, or transgression of, the law of God. (1 John 3:4)**

**Scripture memory:** “Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness.” (1 Jo. 3:4).

**An explanation:** Sin is described in so many descriptively deplorable ways in Holy Scripture. Sin is lawlessness (1 Jo. 3:4); sin is disease; sin is an enslaving master (John 8:34); sin is poison (Num. 21:8); sin is like leprosy; sin is evil; sin is a formidable foe against righteousness (Rom. 7:7ff); sin is a reproach to people (Prov. 14:34); sin is constantly threatening mankind (Gen. 4:7; Rom. 7:18-20); sin brings God’s wrath and condemnation upon it (Rom. 5:13); sin brings death (Rom. 6:23). God hates sin (Jer. 44:4; Zech. 8:17).

Everyone in this world does it, and has been tainted by it, but no one knows how to really define what it is. Unless the Holy Spirit regenerates the sinful heart, a person will not even take much notice of it, let alone seek to define it. The Confession teaches us that sin is defined not first in relation to one another as creatures, but is defined in our relation to God the Creator! **“Sin is any want of conformity unto, or transgression of, the law of God”** means that God makes clear what His perfect righteousness is, and what He demands of every human being in His Most Holy Law, and sin is that which does not conform to this righteous law, and would transgress against it. God defines what righteousness is by His very own character, as the Perfectly, Holy and Righteous God. When a human being does not live up to this righteousness, and actually transgresses God’s righteous law, he is guilty of sin, and without grace and hope in a Mediator, will be condemned and eternally damned under God’s just judgment (Matt. 5:17-20; 7:23).

***The evil of sin is not first in what it does to mankind (although this is unimaginably and heartbreakingly evil!);  
the evil of sin is that it has the proud audacity to offend a Holy and Kind Creator and God.***

The Law of God is “the commands and rules flowing from God’s sovereignty, whereby His will is manifested, and the creature bound to obedience” (J. Flavel). We should remember that God condescended to clearly reveal His will, His righteous commands and law to Adam in the beginning, has written that law on all men’s consciences (Rom. 2:14-16), and has clearly revealed them in His Word. All creatures are to give perfect conformity (Matt. 5:48; Mark 12:30) to God’s Law from the heart, and evidenced in their lives. When we sin, we transgress this Law. The Law is not sin (Rom. 7:7), it reveals sin (Gal. 3:21-24). The Law is good (Rom. 7:12), but it is powerless to change sinful hearts and give them the ability to keep it. That is why Romans 8:3-4 is such glorious news!

***“For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.”***

Thanks be to God for sending His Son, the sinless Lamb of God, Holy, Harmless, Undeified by sin (Heb. 7:26), to be our sin-bearer (2 Cor. 5:17-21). God the Father condemned sin in the flesh in Jesus Christ on the cross. The crucifixion of Jesus is where the evil of sin is manifested! Jesus underwent death, the terrors of his conscience, and the torments of hell under God’s wrath in order for us to be able to live by His Spirit, and so to be justified by faith alone through the righteousness of Christ alone (Rom. 3:21-26), and sanctified by faith in Christ as we seek to live God’s law out of love and gratitude in our union with Him.

**A Prayer:** Dear Father, in Jesus’ Name, let me be further rid of sin and conformed more in the image of my Savior, your Beloved Son. Lord, let me be freed from both the penalty and the power of sin. Let me love what you love, O LORD, and hate sin as you hate it! Thank you, Jesus, that you have redeemed me from all lawlessness (Tit. 2:14). Amen.

**In Christ’s love,  
Pastor Biggs**

# THIS LORD'S DAY

**Sermon Title: “*Truly...the Son of God!*”**

– Pastor Charles R. Biggs

**Theme of Sermon:** In the crucifixion death of Jesus we behold the final sacrifice in God's Holy Temple to take away sins. In Jesus's death, God turns off the lights in the cosmos, turns His face of favor away from His Son, turns attention from the old temple to His new one in Christ, and turns unbelieving hearts towards Him! Behold, God's new and holy temple in Jesus that gives us access to the Father and makes plenty of room for Gentiles to come in and worship Him!

**Scripture Lesson: Psalm 22; Philippians 2:5-8**

**Scripture Text: Mark 15:33-41**

## Questions for Family Discussion/ Thoughtful Meditation:

- \* **Read Mark 15:1-33-41:** Why is there darkness between 12 noon and 3 pm? What is the significance of this? How is darkness an important image in the Old Covenant Prophetic Literature?
- \* What does it mean that Jesus quotes Psalm 22: “*My God, My God...?*” How did God forsake His Son?
- \* What is significant about the centurion's confession? Trace all the confessions of Jesus in the Gospel of Mark, what does this one particularly teach us?
- \* **Children:** What is the significance of the women who are standing by in Mark 15:40? Why does Mark include this?

## **How does the Gospel of Grace work on us?**

“This great secret of God's eternal love to us in Christ is hidden in his breast, and does not appear to us, until in the use of means God by His Spirit reveals it to us; the Spirit allows much life and a sense of God's love into the soul, as draws the soul to Christ, from whom it draws much virtue and power as changes the frame of it, and quickens it to duty, which duties are not the grounds of our state in grace, but issue, springing from a good state before; and thus far they help us in judging our condition before God, that though they be not rested in, yet as streams they lead us to the Spring-head of grace from whence they arise” (Works, Vol. I:137).

- Richard Sibbes

*“The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers. Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins.”*

- <sup>ESV</sup> 1 Peter 4:7-8