

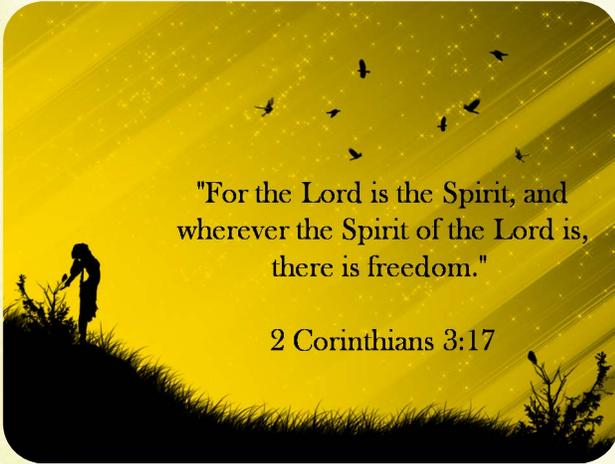


THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE

KCPC This Week

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

Week Ending, April 3rd, 2016



Upcoming Events- Lord willing!

Prepare for Worship: Your pastor and elders encourage you to spend time in prayer each Saturday evening, preparing your hearts for the Lord's Day, and praying for the worship of our God. Pray for the Holy Spirit's blessing on preaching of word and fellowship!

Deacon's Offering this Sunday, April 3rd: Prayerfully consider how you might contribute to the deacon's offering this Lord's Day to help the needy in our church and community.

Women's Bible Study: The study meets on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday nights at 7pm. All women are welcome to attend. **STARTING NEW BOOK ON DANIEL SOON.** Contact Margaret Biggs for more information, to order new book, or to join: missmargaretbiggs@comcast.net

***NEW EVENT* This Sunday at 5 pm: Question and Answer Time:** Pastor Biggs will be at church building for a question and answer time (this first Sunday event will be when we have our regularly scheduled prayer meetings at 6 pm). This is designed primarily as an opportunity for you to ask questions about sermons. Pastor Biggs will also be happy to take general Bible questions, questions about catechism, Sunday school teaching, or whatever pertains to biblical and theological learning and discipleship.

Prayer Meeting this Lord's Day at 6 pm: Come close the Lord's Day with our congregation as we gather to pray for the ministry of God's Word to cause our lives to bear much fruit.

KCPC Family Meeting on April 10th: Our next informal family meeting will be during Sunday School hour on April 10th. Bring your thoughts and questions to discuss.

KCPC ONLINE

www.ketocin.org
www.sermonaudio.com/kcpc

Locust Street Film Night for April: Come celebrate our 10th anniversary season on **April 15th at 6 pm.** We will be viewing and discussing Stanley Donen's **'Singin' in the Rain'** (1952).

Men's and Boy's Breakfast: Saturday, **April 16th from 8:30-10 am.** We will be praying, eating, and learning together. **New:** Special guest speakers coming soon...TBA.

Labor Day Family Camp at Machen Retreat: Make plans now to join Pastors Biggs and Flora for a wonderful time of teaching, prayer, fellowship, and refreshment on September 3-5. Theme: **Trinitarian Spirituality from the Gospel of John.**

"Christ the Mediator's unique task was so to restore sinners to God's grace as to make of the children of men, children of God; of the heirs of hell, heirs of the Heavenly Kingdom."

- John Calvin

From Your Pastor True Blessedness*

“Blessed are those who keep his testimonies, who seek him with their whole heart” - Psalm 119:2

“It is not those who just hear the Word of God who are blessed, but particularly those who do it (James 1:22: ***“Be doers of the word, and not hearers only...”***). Many have the word in their mind and memory, but not in their lives. The truly blessed men and women are those that consider it a great obligation to obey it. Our Lord Jesus says: ***“If you love me, you will keep my commandments”*** (John 14:15).

God takes into sweet fellowship and communion those who keep his Commandments. He will manifest himself in an intimate and gracious communion. The whole Trinity will come and dwell in his heart. Our Lord Jesus promises: ***“If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him”*** (John 14:23).

We might consider two ways to keep God's Commandments: Legal and Evangelical. By legal obedience, I mean keeping them in perfect, absolute obedience. If this were intended, *no one would be blessed*. The best of believers have failures in obedience. By evangelical obedience, I mean someone who in love and sincerity seeks to obey fully, but enjoys the gracious pardon for his failures. The Apostle John teaches this clearly: ***“My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world”*** (1 Jo. 2:1-2).

The apostles had many failures, yet Christ speaks of them to his Father as those who ***“have kept your word”*** (John 17:6). When the heart is sincere, God will pass by our failings.

You have heard of the steadfast and patience of Job in suffering (James 5:11), yes, and of his impatience too, even his cursing the day of his birth?! But the Spirit of God puts a finger up on the scar, and takes notice of what is good. So long as we bewail our sin, seek remission of sin, strive after perfection and conformity to Christ, and endeavor to keep close and sensitive to his commandments, though a naughty heart will carry us aside sometimes, we keep the testimonies of the Lord in a gospel sense, and can be included in the compass of David's blessed man.

If you bewail sin, seek pardon, and strive after perfection, this argues for sincerity and uprightness of heart and honors the gospel. We have arrived at David's blessed man if we esteem God's testimonies and desire them to be impressed upon our hearts, and expressed in our lives.” Let us pray for what Jesus teaches us in John 15:9-11:

“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.”

* Digested from Thomas Manton on Psalm 119.

In Christ's love,

Pastor Biggs

“Piety is that reverence or fear for God joined with love for Him which the knowledge of His benefits induces. For until men recognize that they owe everything to God, that they are nourished by His Fatherly care, that He is the Author of their every good...they will never yield Him willing service.”

- John Calvin

THIS LORD'S DAY

Sermon Series: “Acts of the Exalted Lord Jesus”

Title: “Freedom!”

- Pastor Charles R. Biggs

Scripture Lesson: 2 Corinthians 3:17-18; Galatians 5:1, 15:24
Scripture Texts: Acts 5:17-42

Theme of Sermon/Worship: God grants powerful freedom to His church by His Spirit so that we can glorify and serve Him in this fallen world full of sin and conflict.

Thoughts and Meditations for Preparing Your Heart and Family for Worship:

- * **Children:** Read Galatians 5:1, 16-25. From what specifically has Christ set believers free? What freedom do we have in our union with Christ?
- * **Read Acts 5:17-42.** How do these verses reveal the truths of 2 Timothy 2:8-13?
- * What are the implications for KCPC to be ready to “obey God rather than men” (Acts 5:29)?

Hymns

1. Rejoice, the Lord is King - 309
2. Love Divine, All Loves Excelling - 529
3. All to Jesus I Surrender - 562

*“Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead,
the offspring of David, as preached in my gospel,
for which I am suffering, bound with chains as a criminal.
But the word of God is not bound!”*

- 2 Timothy 2:8-9