



THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE

KCPC This Week

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

Week Ending, March 5th, 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 word and fellowship!

***NEW EVENT* This Sunday at 5 pm: Question and Answer Time:** Pastor Biggs will be at church building on **first Sunday evenings of the month at 5 pm** 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. **Please join him at 5 pm on the first of each month.**

Good Friday Service: KCPC will be hosting a joint worship and fellowship with Potomac Hills PCA on **Friday, March 25th at 7 pm.**

Locust Street Film Night for March: Come celebrate our 10th anniversary season on **March 18th at 6 pm.** We will be viewing and discussing Carl Theodore Dreyer's masterpiece **ORDET** (1955)! <https://www.facebook.com/LSFilmNight/>

Deacon's Offering on March 6th: Prayerfully consider how you might contribute to the deacon's offering this Lord's Day to help the needy in our church and community.

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 fruit.

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

Men's and Boy's Breakfast: Saturday, **March 19th from 8:30-10 am.** We will be praying, eating, and discussing together how to keep the Lord's Day *holy*.

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.***

KCPC ONLINE

www.ketocin.org

www.sermonaudio.com/kcpc

"Christ first restores our relationship to God, then renews us after God's image, and finally preserves for us our heavenly inheritance... We are called, justified, sanctified, and glorified. All this is from God, in Christ, through the power and working of the Holy Spirit."

- Herman Bavinck

From Your Pastor

A Study on the Shorter Catechism

WSC Question 30, Part 2: How does the Spirit apply to us the redemption purchased by Christ? **A. The Spirit applieth to us the redemption purchased by Christ, by working faith in us, and thereby uniting us to Christ in our effectual calling.**



Union with Christ*

An Explanation: “Uniting us to Christ...” Union with Christ is the fount from which all blessings of eternity and time flow forth by the Holy Spirit (Eph. 1:3-14). Christ is the Reservoir of all blessing from the Father through the Spirit (1 Cor. 1:9). Believers have union and communion with Christ in grace and glory (WLC, 65-66). **What are the practical implications of our union?** 1. **The church has union with Christ in the Father’s eternal election.** This is a union that precedes our birth and conversion, back into the eternal electing mercies of God. Union with Christ includes union in eternity, in history in the fullness of the times, and the Spirit’s union in the application of our salvation. This covenant theology recognizes that union with Christ is not merely a present experience, but an eternal reality in the plan of God. A covenant of grace was made with Christ as the Second Adam, and all the elect in Him as His seed (Heb. 13:20-21). 2. **The church has union with Christ in the Son’s incarnation.** No higher honor was given to humanity than when God the Son took our nature into permanent union with God. The purpose of Christ’s incarnation is particularly His priestly office and work to make propitiation for His people, and intercede for them (Heb. 1:1-2; 2:17; 7:25). The incarnation forms a necessary link with Christ, so that we might have His righteousness to us. Christ joins with us in our nature and this incarnational union makes possible all of the righteousness that He earned and will give to us as we receive it by faith. Only those who are sanctified in Christ can all ourselves “brethren” of God’s Son (Heb. 2:11). This is important as part of God’s promise of being “with us”; the incarnational union impresses upon us that **He is not merely God for us, but God with us.** 3. **The church has union with Christ in His death, resurrection, and ascension.** This is particularly Paul’s theme in his writings (Rom. 6-8). We died with Christ on the cross, were buried with Him, rose from the dead with Him, seated with Him in Heavenly Places, etc (Col. 3:1-4; Gal. 2:20). All of the believer’s experiences of saving faith flow from his union with Christ in these great, redemptive-historical events. Whatever Christ did and received, belong to us as God’s children. As believers, we should count all of these blessings as our own possessions. This union with Christ is an abiding reality that believers must live out of by faith. In 2 Corinthians 5:14-15: **“One died for all, then all died, therefore we should live not for ourselves, but for Him who died and has risen from the dead.”** Christians died with Christ 2000 years ago with Christ on the cross, but we experientially live this out being transformed in time by God’s Spirit. 4. **The church has union with Christ in the Spirit’s works of personal salvation.** The Spirit establishes a vital union with Christ through effectual calling and regeneration. We are in space and time united to Jesus Christ. In Romans 8:30, Paul wrote: **Romans 8:30** “*And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.*” Freedom from condemnation belongs to those who are “in Christ Jesus” (Romans 8). The Spirit of Life liberates us from sin to live for Christ. 5. **Communion with God in love flows out of union.** Spirit, faith, and love are the three “chains of union” (William Ames). The Spirit from God to unites us; faith from us to unite us; love to give ourselves wholly to Christ as His Beloved. All that Christ has or has done is ours by faith in Christ Jesus. The Christian is a fruitful branch, an eating and drinking guest at the banquet, a beloved bride, clothed in His righteousness and glory. All these will be realized at the Consummation of all things, and we will live blessedly (Rev. 19:7ff; 21:1ff)! We shall have total, unhindered, intimacy with Christ in heaven for all eternity! We shall realize fully the Lord’s love for His bride!

* Compiled from Dr. J. R. Beeke’s lectures on soteriology.

A Prayer: Thank you, dear Jesus, that you loved me and gave yourself for me. I am grateful to confess: “I am crucified with Christ...and the life I live now, I live by faith in the Son of God” (Gal. 2:20).

In Christ’s love,
Pastor Biggs

“The one basic note or chord that runs through [the Veda of the Brahmans, the Purana of Vishnu, the Qur’an of the Muslims] is salvation by works. [These Holy Books] all teach that salvation must be bought and that your own works and merits must be the purchase price. Our own Bible, ‘our’ sacred book from the East, is from start to finish a protest against this doctrine... [proclaiming to Hindus, Buddhists, Muslims] that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.”

- Max Muller (Univ. of Oxford, 1901)

THIS LORD'S DAY

Sermon Series: “Acts of the Exalted Lord Jesus”
Title: “The Beautiful Savior”
- Pastor Charles R. Biggs

Scripture Lesson: Isaiah 53:4-6; 1 Peter 2:21-25
Scripture Text: Acts 3:1-4:22

Theme of Sermon/Worship: Who can make us well? Who can fully heal us? Where should we go to find this? What is His Name?

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

- * **Children:** Describe how sin is revealed as sickness in Scripture. Particularly note how Jesus and the apostles' healings point to a deeper healing that is needed.
- * How can God use weakness and sickness to bring us to the end of ourselves and in God's good providence and common grace be prepared to hear the Gospel?
- * Does God guarantee our healing today in Christ? What are the benefits of NOT being healed sometimes?
- * **Read Acts 3:8:** What Old Covenant fulfillment is this? Doesn't just reading this healing make you want to get up and leap rejoicing with the man??! Hallelujah!!

Hymns

1. Praise To The Lord, The Almighty - 53
2. My Faith Has found A Resting Place - 468
3. Thou Dost Reign On High - 241

*“The benefits of the Gospel [justification, reconciliation, redemption, adoption, sanctification] are ‘in Christ’.
They do not exist apart from Him. They are ‘ours’ only ‘in Him’.”*
- Sinclair Ferguson