

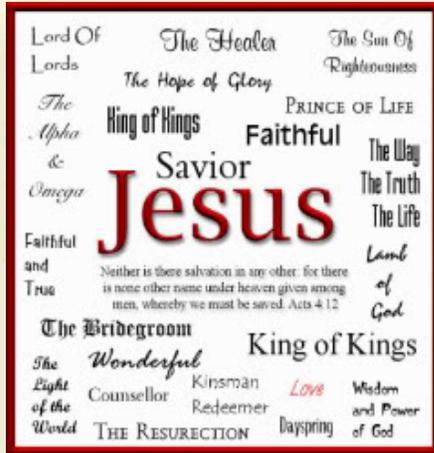


THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE

KCPC This Week

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

Week Ending, April 16th, 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!

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

KCPC ONLINE

www.ketocin.org

www.sermonaudio.com/kcpc

Locust Street Film Night this Friday: 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 this Saturday: April 16th from 8:30-10 am. We will be praying, eating, and learning together. **Special Guest:** Financial expert Mr. Dave Murray (elder at Hamilton Baptist Church) will be our special guest teaching us about being generous and faithful stewards of our money.

Church Fellowship Meal this Sunday: Join us after worship at the Turner's in Hamilton. [Please sign up to bring food](#) and pray for good weather and edifying, Christ-centered fellowship and conversation.

Upcoming Marriage Conference/Family Life: Family Life is doing two "Weekend to Remember" marriage conferences in Reston this spring - April 22-24 and May 20-22 (see fliers on table at building). Anyone can still register anytime this year under Kucks' family group name using "Kucks" to sign up. If five couples sign up, the sixth couple gets a free registration. Contact Mary K for more info: kucksfamily83@hotmail.com

The Annual Father-Daughter Dance: Saturday, April 23, 2016 from 6-8pm, Bethel Church, Leesburg, VA. The cost is \$30 for each couple and \$10 for each additional daughter. To register and for directions go to: <http://bethelpres.com/dance/>

"...We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth."

- 2 Thess. 2:13

From Your Pastor *A Study of the Shorter Catechism* *Benefits of Effectual Calling*

Question 32: WSC 32 What benefits do they that are effectually called partake of in this life? **Answer:** A. They that are effectually called do in this life partake of justification, (1) adoption, (2) and sanctification, and the several benefits which in this life do either accompany or flow from them. (3) (1) Rom. 8:30 (2) Eph. 1:5 (3) 1 Cor. 1:26,30

Scripture Memory: *“He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, whom God made our wisdom and our righteousness and sanctification and redemption”* (1 Cor. 1:30).

An Explanation: Glorious benefits are found in Christ Jesus! Jesus Christ is full of grace and truth: *“And from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace”* (John 1:16-17). Jesus is a Storehouse of benefits and blessings for the believer! Jesus is the True Treasury of God’s riches. *“His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness...”* (2 Pet. 1:3a). *“...To reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God’s mystery, which is Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge”* (Col. 2:2b-3). Although we are impoverished by nature, Jesus is rich! Although we are weak, Jesus gives strength! Although we are sinful, Jesus grants grace, abundant, wonderful grace for every need! *“For if many died through one man’s trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many.... Where sin increased, grace abounded all the more...”* (Eph. 1:15-23; 2 Cor. 8:9; Rom. 5:6-8, 5:15, 20).

When the Spirit unites us to Jesus Christ in our effectual calling, we are recipients of great and glorious blessings and benefits! What are the blessings and benefits of union with Christ which in this life either accompany or flow from them? Specifically, justification, adoption, and sanctification! Hallelujah, to the Lamb!

Justification: God legally declares us as righteous in Christ, imputing our sins to Christ, and imputing Christ’s righteousness to believers by faith alone apart from works (Rom. 4:5, 8, 11-12, 16). There is no condemnation for us in Christ Jesus! (Rom. 8:1). We are declared righteous by Christ’s blood (Rom. 3:24-26). Our consciences no longer condemn us (1 Jo. 3:20). We are reconciled to God, and we have peace in our union with Jesus (Rom. 5:1). We have confidence for the day of judgement because of God’s love for us in Christ (1 Jo. 4:17-18). What a benefit to know that God has legally declared you righteous in Christ—there is no condemnation, no judgment awaiting you! We will face the Judgment Seat of Christ clothed in the perfect righteousness of Christ, and though our every word, thought and action has been tainted with sin, the Lamb without blemish has loved us and given Himself for us! (Gal. 2:20; 2 Cor. 5:14-15). We are spotless in Him! We can rejoice with the Psalmist: *“...Blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin.”*

Adoption: God legally declares us righteous before Him, but also (very importantly!) legally adopts us into His family, giving us His name, granting us privileges of children, and granting us a rich and eternal inheritance in Him, and with Him (The Westminster Confession was the first confession of faith to formally make the proper biblical distinction between justification and adoption). Our adoption is because of the Father’s love from before the foundation of the world (Eph. 1:4-6), it is because of the Son’s redemptive work in willingly coming as our big brother to redeem us and to obtain for us the Spirit of Sonship (Gal. 4:4-7), and it is the Spirit’s work to seal and further reveal this reality to our hearts (Rom. 8:15-16, 26; cf. Eph. 3:16-19). We are called heirs of God, and His dearly and beloved children. *“What manner of love has God the Father bestowed upon us that we are called the children of God, and that is what we are!”* (1 Jo. 3:1-2). We can call on God as our Father: *“Abba, Father!”* because we have received the Spirit of Sonship (Rom. 8:15; Gal. 4:6). We are heirs of all that is His! We have a big brother who gave Himself for our redemption so that we could take on a family resemblance (Heb. 2:11-18). What joy should characterize us as God’s children, because one day we will be like Him fully (1 Jo. 3:2-3; Rom. 8:23).

Sanctification: We are resurrected by the Spirit and set free from slavery to sin and self to live the life that God has created us to live: *“For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his... So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus... For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace”* (Rom. 6:5, 11, 14). We are free from our sins so that we can live for Him: *“For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery”* (Gal. 5:1). We are given a faith in our effectual calling that is a working faith that works through love (Gal. 5:6). In fact, we are created in Christ or good works: *“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them”* (Eph. 2:10; 2 Thess. 2:13).

A Prayer: Thank you, kind king for your amazing love and benefits for sinners in Christ!

In Christ’s love,
Pastor Biggs

“For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love.”

- Galatians 5:6

THIS LORD'S DAY

Sermon Series: “Acts of the Exalted Lord Jesus”

Title: “Stephen”

- Pastor Charles R. Biggs

Scripture Lesson: Psalm 78:1-8

Scripture Texts: Acts 7

Theme of Sermon/Worship: Stephen was a Spirit-filled man concerned with the glory of God who was privileged to become the first martyr of the Christian Church. We observe the truth and power of the Gospel in Stephen's life: He died so that others might live.

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

* **Children:** How does Stephen specifically reveal a holy life in his words and deeds? In what ways would you like to be more like Stephen?

* How are Stephen's experiences like Jesus Christ?

* The Spirit works in both a common grace way of a general call of the Gospel, as well in a special way of effectual calling that results in union with Christ. How do you see specifically the general call of the Gospel and the sinful reaction to that call in Acts 7?

* What is the subject of Stephen's Gospel presentation? What is his focus? From this chapter, how would you argue biblically for the Church being the True Israel of God (cf. Gal. 6:16). What are the “three points” of his sermon? ;-)

Hymns

1. 19 - Thee, We Adore, Eternal Lord

2. 706 - Jesus Lives and So Shall I

3. 573 - Am I Soldier of the Cross?

'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'

- Matt 25:40