



THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE

KCPC This Week

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

Week Ending, April 30th, 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. Women are presently studying the **Book of Daniel**. Contact Margaret Biggs for more information, to order new book, or to join: missmargaretbiggs@comcast.net

Adult Sunday School-Assurance: How can I be assured that God loves me and walk joyfully in that truth? Special class on growing in assurance of faith this week.

Prayer Meeting/Question and Answer with Pastor Biggs: This Lord's Day at 5 pm you will

have an opportunity of bringing your questions about sermons and other Bible questions to ask and discuss. We will have our prayer meeting afterwards at 6 pm, praying for the evangelistic service and outreach opportunities this summer for our congregation. **For the prayer meeting, let all of our congregation come to pray expectantly for revival and further reformation!**

Deacon's Offering this Lord's Day: Let us give generously to our deacon's offering during morning worship this Lord's Day to help the needy in our community.

Evening Worship and Evangelistic Outreach Sermon Series this Summer!: The Gospel of John will be beginning this summer in June. This series will be designed with the primary goals of Christian edification and Gospel outreach in mind. Pray *expectantly* for this series to be fruitful, and that we will see new converts to Christ. Plan to attend, invite your friends and neighbors to come and hear the good news!

The Rev. Ben Hopp, OP Missionary to Haiti Visit: Pastor Ben will be our visitor on Lord's Day, June 5th. We will hear about the mission, what Christ is doing by His Spirit, and pray for the Hopp Family.

Locust Street Film Night for June: LSFN proudly presents our Summer Sci-fi-fantasy Series beginning with George Lucas' 'Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back' (1980) in June. Come join us for dinner, fun and discussion! For July: 'Forbidden Planet' (1956).

*"O LORD, make me know my end and what is the measure of my days;
let me know how fleeting I am!"*

- Psalm 39:4

From Your Pastor *An Infallible Assurance of God's Love*

Westminster Confession of Faith, chapter 18.2 *This certainty is not a bare conjectural and probable persuasion, grounded upon a fallible hope;(1) but an infallible assurance of faith, founded upon the divine truth of the promises of salvation,(2) the inward evidence of those graces unto which these promises are made,(3) the testimony of the Spirit of adoption witnessing with our spirits that we are the children of God:(4) which Spirit is the earnest of our inheritance, whereby we are sealed to the day of redemption.(5) (1)Heb. 6:11,19; (2)Heb. 6:17,18. (3)2 Pet. 1:4,5,10,11; 1 John 2:3; 1 John 3:14; 2 Cor. 1:12. (4)Rom. 8:15,16. (5)Eph. 1:13,14; Eph. 4:30; 2 Cor. 1:21,22.*

Three Important Aspects of Assurance of Faith: We can have as believers united to Jesus Christ an infallible assurance of faith because of three important things: (1) **Believing God's Promises in His Word:** The truth of God's Word, particularly the promises of God found in Holy Scripture. This is the infallible foundation for assurance of our faith. Simply put, we believe God's promises; we believe that God's Word is true. (2) **Believing Fruits are Produced:** There is evidence in possessing some fruits inwardly in the heart and conscience, and outward fruits that show forth that we are the sons of God. These marks of grace or good fruits should flow out of a sincere, regenerated heart ("You will know the tree by the fruit it bears..." - Matt. 7:16ff). A believer can know that they not only possess a desire to will to do good but they seek by faith with sincerity to do good in gratitude for what Christ has done (Phil. 2:12-13). (3) **Testimony of the Holy Spirit:** The Spirit of Sonship, or of Adoption testifies with our spirits, or our hearts that we are the children of God and we cry, "Abba, Father" (Rom. 8:15). The Spirit seals us unto the Day of Redemption, or gives us the assurance that we are truly possessed and loved by God the Father in Christ Jesus. This knowledge of God's love can lead to deep experiential joy, like being loved by a spouse, or basking in the love of a faithful Christian mother or father.

Do you know that God loves you? Meditate upon His promises to you in Christ. Think about how he loves His own dear children. Seek in light of these promises to be faithful and grateful in your service to Him, seeking to please Him sincerely from the heart. Ask God to fill you with His Word and Spirit so that you might more fully know of the God the Father's great, wide, deep, high, and broad love for you in Christ Jesus (Eph. 3:17-19). Ask the Holy Spirit to help you to have more joy as God has promised to you in Christ.

Meditate upon John 15:9-11 to ponder your assurance, and to seek prayerfully to reach full assurance of faith. Our Lord Jesus says: *As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.*

Our Lord Jesus desires us to know that He loves us as the Father has loved Him from all eternity. That is a great amount of love! This is the love that should motivate and fuel all of our obedience to Him. Christ teaches us to abide in His love (cf. Jude 20-21). But how? How does one specifically abide in Christ's love? Our Lord Jesus teaches us that we abide in Him by doing His commandments, and seeking to please Him by being sincerely obedient from our heart (see 1 John 2:3-5). And note that He teaches us that we might not only glorify Him, but that we would also very much enjoy Him: "*These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full*" (15:11).

In other words, as Christ is loved by the Father, and lives in obedience to Him because He desired to please Him above all else. So, in Christ, we can have the joy that He had by the Spirit, and through this also to enjoy His joy in full as we live in Christ by faith. We can see here the foundation of our assurance in knowing the love of God for us in Christ, the evidence of our assurance as we keep (imperfectly, yet sincerely) Christ's commandments from the heart, and come to possess a deeper and fuller *JOY* by His precious and beautiful Spirit. Believe God's promises, seek to abide in His love through obedience, and be full of His Spirit and joy! Praise God for assurance!

In Christ's love,
Pastor Biggs

"And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. Whoever says "I know him" but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may be sure that we are in him..."

- 1 John 2:3-5

THIS LORD'S DAY

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

Scripture Lesson: 1 Timothy 1:12-17
Scripture Texts: Acts 9

Theme of Sermon/Worship: Saul, the “chief of sinners”, a “blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent” of Christ’s Church receives mercy from Jesus Christ to display the perfect patience of God towards sinners that believe in Jesus for eternal life.

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

- * **Children:** Read Acts 7:58, 8:1a, 3, 9:1-31. What kind of man was Saul of Tarsus? What kind of man does he become through Christ’s power and grace? What hope does this give you?
 - * In Saul’s conversion to Christ, how do you see Psalm 36:9 pictured?
 - * Who was Saul persecuting? How does the Lord Jesus “master” this insolent opponent? How does this show the Lord Jesus’s power as king in subduing hearts?
 - * Read Westminster Shorter Catechism, Q&A 31: *What is effectual calling?* A. Effectual calling is the work of God’s Spirit, whereby, convincing us of our sin and misery, enlightening our minds in the knowledge of Christ, and renewing our wills, he doth persuade and enable us to embrace Jesus Christ, freely offered to us in the gospel.

Hymns

1. Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise - 38
2. We Sing The Glorious Conquest - 483
3. As Jacob With Travel Was Weary One Day - 245

“They feast on the abundance of your house, and you give them drink from the river of your delights. For with you is the fountain of life; in your light do we see light.”

- Psalm 36:8-9