

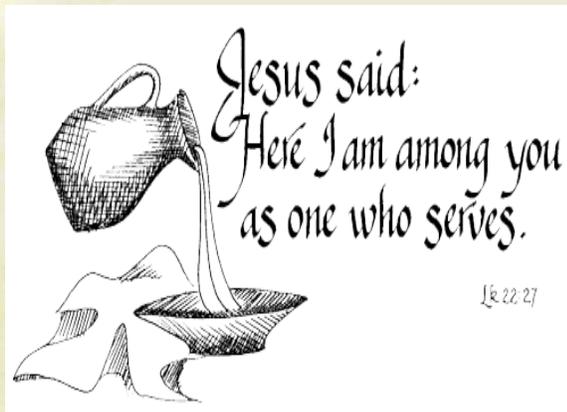


THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE

KCPC This Week

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

Week Ending, April 9th, 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!

YMSCF: Young Married, Single, and College Fellowship will meet at the Weitz home in Round Hill this Lord's Day after worship at 1 pm. Please RSVP Kathy Weitz at weitz.kathy@gmail.com if you plan to attend.

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 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. **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.

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

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*.

"Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

- 1 Peter 5:5b

From Your Pastor
A Study of the Shorter Catechism
Effectual Calling

Question 31: What is effectual calling?

Answer: Effectual calling is the work of God's Spirit, (1) whereby, convincing us of our sin and misery, (2) enlightening our minds in the knowledge of Christ, (3) and renewing our wills, (4) he doth persuade and enable us to embrace Jesus Christ, freely offered to us in the gospel. (5) (1) 2 Tim 1:9; 2 Thess. 2:13,14 (2) Acts 2:37 (3) Acts 26:18 (4) Ezek. 36:26,27 (5) John 6:44,45; Phil. 2:13

Scripture Memory: "*And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified*" (Romans 8:30).

An Explanation: God calls sinners to Himself with a general call as well as a specifically *effectual* call. Both are the works of God's Spirit. The general call is a work of God's Spirit in the sphere of common grace and this call can be resisted by sinners (Acts 5:33; 7:51-54). The effectual call is a work of God's Spirit in the sphere of special grace that always results in powerfully making dead and sinful hearts alive (Ezek. 36:26-27; Eph. 2:4-6), and beginning the work of restoring the image of God in man in the sinner's union with Christ (Col. 3:10; Acts 2:37-39). Effectual calling can be illustrated in Jesus' raising Lazarus from the dead. Until Jesus called Lazarus, he was dead and unable to respond to Jesus' call. Once Jesus called Him, the dead Lazarus could *not* resist (cf. John 6:44), for the Spirit had made Him alive, and thus He willingly responded to His master's voice (John 11:40-43; cf. John 10:4).

God the Father particularly calls sinners by the Spirit through the Gospel (Rom. 1:16; 2 Th. 2:13-14). As the Apostle Paul testifies of the power of God through the Gospel: "... *Who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began...*" (2 Tim. 1:9). Effectual calling is a work of God's Spirit that is not because of our works, but because of God's "*own purpose and grace*" in Christ Jesus. The effectual call is completely the initiating and sovereign work of God, but sinners truly respond to this call. Note four things that the Spirit of God does in this work of effectual calling.

The Spirit convinces sinners of our sin and misery (John 16:8-11). We are convicted of our sins, and realize our need for a Savior (Acts 2:37: "*What shall we do?*"). **The Spirit enlightens our minds** (Acts 26:18; 1 Cor. 2:10,12; Eph. 1:17,18). The natural man does not understand the things of God; the unregenerate sinner is blinded to the glory of God and "*darkened in their understanding*" (Eph. 4:18). The enlightening work of the Spirit is described in this way: "... *To open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me*" (Acts 26:18; cf. 2 Cor. 4:6). **The Spirit renews our wills** (Ezek. 11:19; Phil. 2:13; Deut. 30:6; Ezek. 37:27). By nature our wills are in bondage and slavery to sin and Satan (Eph. 2:1-3; Rom. 6:16-18). The Spirit frees our wills by His power, so that we will freely choose the grace held out to us in the Gospel of Jesus (Phil. 2:13: "... *To will and to work for His good pleasure*"). The Spirit works powerfully in granting us freedom and we respond with the obedience of faith and repentance (Rom. 1:5; 16:26; cf. Acts 5:31-32): "*But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness*" (Rom. 6:17-18). **The Spirit persuades and enables us to embrace Jesus Christ offered in the Gospel.** This is real Holy-Spiritual power! The apostle describes it as "... *The immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might...*" (Eph. 1:19). (John 6:44,45; Ps. 110:3; John 6:37; Rom. 6:16-18).

A Prayer: Father, you predestined me from the foundation of the world. You sent your beloved Son to accomplish my redemption through His blood. In real history, you come by your Spirit to apply that completed redemption on my behalf and effectually call me to yourself by your Sovereign power. Let me live in your love, and dependent upon your power. Amen.

In Christ's love,
Pastor Biggs

"We must obey God rather than men. The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins."

- Acts 5:29-31

THIS LORD'S DAY

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

Scripture Lesson: 1 Cor. 2:1-5, 3:5-7; Phil. 1:1; 1 Tim. 3:8-13
Scripture Texts: Acts 6:1-7

Theme of Sermon/Worship: God lovingly appoints (and anoints!) servants for His church with different priorities and privileges so that His people will grow spiritually and in numbers.

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

- * **Children:** Read Acts 5:41-42. Did the persecution and pain inflicted on the apostles stop them from carrying out God’s will? Why, or why not?
- * **Read Acts 6:1-7.** How is God’s love revealed for His church in these verses? How do the apostle-elders respond to the congregation’s need? What was to be the primary mission and aim of the apostle-elders (Hint: v. 4)?
- * What qualifications did the seven men need to have to “serve tables” as God’s appointed servants? What office in the church do we see here in an early form? (cf. 1 Tim. 3). Who chooses the servants? Who appoints them to service?

Hymns

1. Christ Is Made The Sure Foundation #342
2. Exalt The Lord, His Praise Proclaim #12
3. Let Thy Blood In Mercy Poured #429

“But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.”

- James 3:17-18