

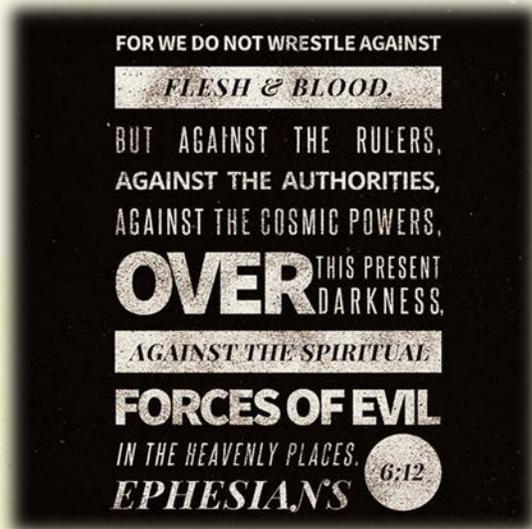


THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE

KCPC This Week

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

Week Ending, May 21st, 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

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!

KCPC ONLINE

www.ketocin.org

www.sermonaudio.com/kcpc

www.opc.org

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.

Men's Breakfast in June: Join us for food, fellowship and prayer on **June 18th** from 8:30-10 am. **Guest speaker Dr. Michael Kucks** who will be speaking on the Christian's vocation.

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).

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.*

"For God alone, O my soul, wait in silence, for my hope is from him. He only is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken."

- Psalm 62:5-6

From Your Pastor *“Our Adoption in Christ”*

What wondrous grace that the Father has lavished on believers that we should be called the children of God and that is what we are! (1 Jo. 3:1). The Apostle John makes clear that it is an “*out of this world*” truth that sinners are not only righteous by God through a legal declaration of righteousness before God’s throne, but we are also legally adopted into the family as God’s children. Our adoption changes our relationship to God so that He is no longer merely our Creator, and because of the fall, He is no longer our Judge, but He is now our Heavenly Father, and we cry out: “*Abba, Father*” (Rom. 8:15).

The Father has wondrously elected believers to be in union with Christ and to receive His adoption as sons, as heirs of His many and unfathomable blessings in the Heavenly Places (Eph. 1:3-4; cf. Gal. 4:6). In the fullness of the times, Christ came to redeem us under the condemnation of the law so that we might receive the adoption as sons (Gal. 4:6; Rom. 8:15). Christ, our elder brother was sanctified, and sanctifies us so that we can be sons of God who take upon ourselves a family resemblance (Heb. 2:9-11). God is now our Father, and now we are no longer citizens merely of this world, but we await the full realization of the Heavenly world to come (Rom. 8:17-25; cf. Phil 3:20-21).

In light of our adoption, though we formerly walked as those who loved the world, with the desires of the flesh, the eyes, and the pride of life (1 Jo. 2:15-17), we no longer love the world in this way because the world is passing away and we desire to do the will of our Heavenly Father (1 Jo. 2:17). In fact, because we are heirs with Christ and take upon ourselves a family resemblance, knowing that one day we shall like Him, we also purify ourselves as He is pure from worldly and sinful influences in our lives (1 Jo. 3:2-3; cf. Titus 2:11-14). We know as adopted children that the Spirit has sealed us unto the Day of Redemption (Eph. 1:13; 4:30; 2 Cor. 1:22), and we also have the Holy Spirit who testifies and witnesses with our spirits that we are sons of God (Rom. 8:15, 25-26). This is the glorious Spirit who even intercedes for us to help us in our prayers and our relationship with God! Though we have these glorious blessings now, we suffer in Christ, and we await the full realization and revelation of our adoption as sons that is the resurrection and glorification of our bodies (Rom. 8:17-25). This is the hope we do not see, but we wait for it patiently, and so our future is glorious and brings great joy and peace to us now.

As adopted sons in Christ we know that we possess the encouraging word of our Heavenly Father through our labors: “*Well down my good and faithful servant*” (cf. Heb. 6:10-12). We know that we have in our union with Christ the Father’s blessed affirmation saying: “*This is my Beloved...with whom I am well pleased.*” This should change how we view ourselves, and make us as believers—and children of God—to want to live faithfully pleasing God as our kind king and father (2 Cor. 5:9). We are part of a new family in Christ and as the Lord Jesus taught, we are to love one another as Christ has loved us (John 15:9-16). In fact, as the Father has loved Christ, so Christ has loved His own in this same way and this is the motivation for doing His commandments with eager joy (John 15:12ff). The Apostle John writes in 1 John 3-4 that one cannot hate his brother and be a true Christian. In fact, we cannot say we love God whom we haven’t seen if we don’t love our brother who we do see (1 Jo. 3:11-18). And so, in our new family, adopted as children of God, we are to “*not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth*” (1 Jo. 3:18). Love will characterize the children of God as we love one another (1 Jo. 4:7-21). *We love because He first loved us* (1 Jo. 4:19). Let us rejoice, and live as God’s beloved children!

In Christ’s love,
Pastor Biggs

“See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him.”

- **ESV 1 John 3:1**

THIS LORD'S DAY

Sermon Series: “Acts of the Exalted Lord Jesus”
Title: “The Master versus the Magicians”
- Pastor Charles R. Biggs

Scripture Lesson: Exodus 8:19; Ephesians 6:10-20
Scripture Texts: Acts 8; 13; 19 (various verses)

Theme of Sermon/Worship: The risen-ascended Lord Jesus Christ is Sovereign Lord and Master over the dark and evil principalities and powers of this present age. As believers, we walk in His power and victory over darkness.

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

* **Children:** Ever get spooked or scared of dark powers, demons, or the devil's threats? Meditate on the reality that you're children of God in Christ, no one can separate you from His love, and safe in His loving arms, you are more than a conquerors! (Rom. 8:31-39; Isa. 40:11).

* **Read Acts 8.** Was Simon the magician a true Christian? (Hint: Luke 8:12-13). What could it mean that he “Simon...believed” (Acts 8:13). Does Simon possess “fruits in keeping with true repentance and saving faith”? Why, or why not?

* Compare and contrast the two magicians **Simon and Elymas** Acts 8:18-23 and 13:8-11. What do they both desire the most? How can you gain wisdom as to the devil's designs through these two sorcerers interests and desires (cf. 2 Cor. 2:11).

“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.”

- Ephesians 6:10-13

“And a number of those who had practiced magic arts brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all. And they counted the value of them and found it came to fifty thousand pieces of silver. So the word of the Lord continued to increase and prevail mightily.”

- Acts 19:19-20