



THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE

KCPC This Week

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

Week Ending, June 11, 2016



*"...Our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction"
(1 Th. 1:5)*

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:
missmargaretbiggs@comcast.net

Evening Worship and Evangelistic Outreach Sermon Series this Lord's Day!: The Gospel

of John will be beginning this Lord's Day evening. 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

Locust Street Film Night for Friday, June 17th at 6 pm: 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).

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

Family Fellowship for June: Make plans for our monthly family fellowship for June 19th after worship. Details to be announced soon by deacons.

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.***

This week our quotations in *'Shepherd's Voice'* are from our forefather in the faith John Calvin on preaching and the Holy Spirit.

"Where preaching is, there God's voice rings in our ears."

- John Calvin, 'Sermons on Deuteronomy'

From Your Pastor
Richard Sibbes on ‘Preaching as the Wooing of the Spirit’

For Puritan divine Richard Sibbes (1577-1635, also known as the “*Sweet Dropper*” for His soul-ravishing Gospel preaching), the work of preaching was a very important and primary aspect of Christ’s ministry to his church. Preaching was a wooing of Christ the Bridegroom to His Bride through the preached word in the power of the Holy Spirit. God uses the word and Spirit together to reveal the beauty and glory of Christ. The word is the Spirit’s instrument, but the power of the word is always because of the Spirit. Preaching is an event of the Spirit of Christ as He works through His Word.

Believers should “entertain the Spirit” as he works through the word in preaching. Entertaining the Spirit was to gladly welcome Him without hindrance, to hear and receive from Jesus Christ. Believers must come to the preaching event of the ministry of the word and the Spirit with a prayerfully prepared faith. Believers come prayerfully prepared to expectantly receive from God Himself. Richard Sibbes taught that if believers will have the power and comfort of the Holy Spirit, then they must “*attend upon the Word*”. Godly preaching of the Word of God in the empowerment of the Holy Spirit was the primary means of the Spirit’s activity. Sibbes taught that ministers are Christ’s mouth. Christ speaks through the ministers, and “*they use all kind of means that Christ may be entertained into their hearts.*” The Spirit of God gives life, and is the “*soul of the word*” that Christ uses to knock at the doors of men’s hearts (cf. Rev. 3:20). Christ comes into the heart by the Spirit and “*it is a special entertainment that he looks for*” from his people so that their love and joy may grow, and the believer delight more deeply in Christ.” Jesus comes to the hearts of believers to spread his treasures in preaching, to “*enrich the heart with all grace and strength, to bear all afflictions, to encounter all dangers, to bring peace of consciences, and joy in the Holy Spirit.*”

Sibbes referred to faithful gospel preachers as “*friends of the Bridegroom*” and described their primary calling as a heavenly endeavor committed “*to bringing Christ and his Spouse together*”. Sibbes wrote that it is not sufficient to merely preach theological truths about the Person and Work of Jesus Christ, but that to truly preach is to “*break open the box [of perfumed ointment] that the fragrance may be perceived by all,*” and to make known these truths with an application of them to the use of God’s people, that they may see their interest or need of them in their daily lives. For Sibbes’ the primary goal of the preacher was to allure the sinner to the kindness of God in Christ (cf. Hosea 2:14). As he summarized it in his introduction to his devotional classic *A Bruised Reed*, “*The main scope of [preaching], is, to allure us to the entertainment of Christ’s mild, safe, wise, victorious government (“rule”), and to leave men naked of all pretences as to why they would not have Christ rule over them, when we see salvation not only strongly wrought, but sweetly dispensed in Him... (my emphasis).*”

Sibbes encouraged believers in the covenant, privileged to be regularly exposed to the ministry of the Word, to hear the ministerial voice as the very voice of Christ through his word. “*Let us think that God speaks to us in the ministry, that Christ comes to woo us, and win us thereby.*” Sibbes wrote that one of the main ends of the calling of the ministry is “*to lay open and unfold the unsearchable riches of Christ; to dig up the mine, thereby to draw the affections of those that belong to God to Christ.*” Sibbes taught that preachers should preach “*as if Christ Himself were here a-preaching*”. Sibbes taught that the Minister of the Word in the pulpit and the Spirit of God in the heart together bring the soul to faith in Christ and the pursuit of holiness.

Sibbes wrote: ...*Our best way (to fill our imaginations with truth) is to propound true objects of the mind to work upon, as:*
1. First and foremost to consider the greatness and goodness of Almighty God and his love to us in Christ. 2. To meditate upon the joys of heaven and the torments of hell. 3. To reflect upon the last and strict day of account when we shall stand before the Judgment Seat of Christ as stewards. 4. To see by God’s grace, the vanity of all earthly things. 5. To constantly remind ourselves of the uncertainty of our lives, etc. *From the meditation on these truths the soul will be prepared to have right conceits of things [proper priorities], and...[there] will arise true affections in the soul, true fear of God, true love and desire after the best things, etc.*

In Christ’s love,
Pastor Biggs

“When the Word is preached God approaches His people and gives them the very token of His presence....Whenever the Word is set before us, we ought to recognize that God is present and calling us.”

– John Calvin, ‘Commentary on Isaiah and Acts’

THIS LORD'S DAY

Sermon Series: “Acts of the Exalted Lord Jesus”

Title: “A Biblical-Theology of Preaching”

- Pastor Charles R. Biggs

Scripture Lesson: Romans 1:16-17; 10:13-18

Scripture Texts: Acts 2:14-41; 7:1-50; 13:16-52 (selected various verses)

Theme of Sermon/Worship: What is faithful, biblical preaching? What can the sermons in the Book of Acts teach us about the primary elements in and the effects of the preaching of the Word of God?

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

- * **Children:** Read Romans 10:13-18. What (3) three things do these verses teach you about the importance of preaching? Why is preaching important to God? What should you always bring to preaching?
- * Read (or scan) the sermons of Peter (Acts 2:14-41), Stephen (7:1-50), the Apostle Paul (13:16-52). What is the primary focus of all of these sermons? What are three elements similar to each of these sermons? What are 2 effects of these sermons?
- * The Spirit was poured out once and for all upon God's people on the Day of Pentecost. How should that be encouragement and hope in all faithful preaching? What does this teach you about the relationship between the word and the Spirit? What does this teach you about the Spirit's use of the word to glorify Christ and to extend His kingdom?
- * Are you regularly praying for the Ministry of the Word? If yes, enjoy the fruits! If no, please commit to this for God's glory, your own needs, and for the sake of your congregation!

Hymns

1. #101 Come Thou Almighty King
2. #383 Almighty God Your Word Is Cast
3. #146 Break Thou The Bread Of Life (Lord's Supper)

“The Lord gave the Holy Spirit [on Pentecost] once to His disciples in visible shape, that we may be assured that the Church will never lack His invisible and hidden grace.”

– John Calvin, ‘Commentary on Acts’