

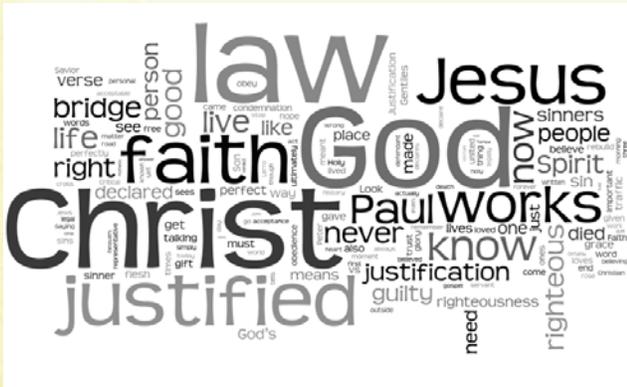


THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE

KCPC This Week

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

Week Ending, June 4, 2016



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

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

Deacon's Offering this Lord's Day: Let us give generously and gratefully this Lord's Day as we have an opportunity of helping those in physical need! What a great privilege!

Evening Worship and Evangelistic Outreach Sermon Series this Summer!: The Gospel of

The Rev. Ben Hopp, OP Missionary to Haiti

Visit: Pastor Ben will be our visitor on this 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.*

"True Christian Joy is a God-centered, God-glorifying, God-given sense of God's love for us in Christ Jesus."

- David Murray

From Your Pastor

A Study of the Shorter Catechism: Justification

Question 33: What is justification?

Answer: Justification is an act of God's free grace, wherein he pardoneth all our sins, (1) and accepteth us as righteous in his sight, (2) only for the righteousness of Christ imputed to us, (3) and received by faith alone. (4)
(1)Rom. 3:24,25; Rom. 4:6-8 (2)2 Cor. 5:19,21 (3)Rom. 5:17-19 (4)Gal. 2:16; Phil. 3:9

An Explanation: God is holy. Man is sinful. God's perfect righteousness demands of mankind perpetual, personal, and perfect righteousness in order to be saved and dwell in His most glorious presence (Matt. 5:48). How can there be any hope then? All sinners know how to say: "*Nobody's perfect!*" How then can a sinful man or woman, who has continually offended God in word, thought and deed (Rom. 3:9-22), ever hope to dwell in God's presence with joy?! (cf. Psa. 16:9-11). **How can a sinful man or woman be made right before a holy and perfectly righteous God?!**

The wonderful news of God's justifying the sinner is that the holy and just God that **requires and demands** perpetual, personal, and perfect righteousness in order to be saved and to dwell in His presence is also the one who **provides** this perpetual, personal, and perfect righteousness for all who believe in the active and passive obedience of Christ Jesus. Christ has graciously obeyed perpetually, personally, and perfectly on our behalf (this is His **active** obedience that is imputed to us as our own righteousness, Matt. 5:17; Rom. 8:2-4; John 17:4) and Christ has laid down His life as a propitiation for our sins becoming a curse for us under the wrath of God (this is His **passive** obedience that satisfies the justice of God for our sins, Rom. 3:25-26; Gal. 3:13). God is perfectly just in upholding His perfect righteousness revealed in the holy and good requirements of His Law, but He is also the justifier of all who believe in Christ Jesus (Rom. 3:24-25).

It should be understood that justification is the opposite of condemnation (cf. Rom. 8:1, 33-34). Justification is God "*for us*" in the most glorious way! (Rom. 8:31-34). To be justified by God through the perfect righteousness found in Christ is to no longer be condemned, but freed from the guilt of breaking God's Law as sinners (Acts 13:38-39; cf. Gal. 2:4; 5:1, 13; 2 Cor. 3:17). In the act of justification, God legally declares believers 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). Our faith that receives this gift of grace is also a gift from God (Eph. 2:6-9). Faith is never a work, only an instrument given by God that receives all the righteousness and perfection one needs in Christ. Now 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**" (Psalm 32:2). Further, our justification by faith alone in Christ alone because of grace alone also begins God's work of sanctification in believers whereby He renews us in His image (Eph. 4:19-24; Col. 3:10; also see Westminster Shorter Catechism, Q&A 35). Though our sanctification can never precede our once-and-for-all justification, our sanctification must follow if we are truly justified. Justification and sanctification, though they must be distinguished from one another (one is an **act** of God, one is a **work** of God, cf. WSC, Q&A 33, 35; WCF, chaps. 11, 13), they must never be separated from one another (see Romans 8:29-30). In Christ, we have all of our righteousness, sanctification and redemption (1 Cor. 1:30).

A Prayer: Holy and Just and Gracious Father full of steadfast love and mercy for sinners in Christ, thank you for declaring me righteous because of the beautiful and glorious righteousness of Jesus Christ! Thank you that in Him I find all the righteousness that I need to live before you, to dwell in your presence, and to thrive in joy in this life and in the life to come. How eager I am to dwell with you in glory because of the grace that I have received in Christ here and now in my union with Christ! Amen and amen.

In Christ's love,
Pastor Biggs

"[Sinners] are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus..."

- Romans 3:24

THIS LORD'S DAY

Sermon Series: “Acts of the Exalted Lord Jesus”

Title: “Justified by Faith”

- Pastor Charles R. Biggs

Scripture Lesson: Romans 3:19-26, 31; 8:1-8; Hebrews 7:19

Scripture Texts: Acts Acts 13:16-52 (various verses)

Theme of Sermon/Worship: Believers are justified by faith alone in Christ alone *apart from works*. We are freed from the law as a Covenant of Works to live for Christ by the law as a promise of the Covenant of Grace.

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

* **Children: Read Acts 13:16-43.** What is the “good news” or “Gospel” that God has promised to both Old and New Testament people? (see Acts 13:32). Summarize the Gospel in your own words. Do you believe this Gospel message? Remember, beloved covenant children, as our Lord Jesus said: “*You must be born again!*” (John 3:3). Faith not only acknowledges the Gospel mentally or intellectually, but gives full assent to it, and rests all one’s hope upon it, trusting in the Lord Jesus for all that you need for life and godliness. Are you trusting in Christ alone for your salvation?

* In Acts 13:38-39, the Apostle Paul says that Christ frees all believers from “everything from which you could not be freed by the law of Moses”. Why could sinners not be freed by the law of Moses? Isn’t the Law “holy, righteous, and good” (Rom. 7:12)?! How specifically does Christ set you free?

* As a family discuss this: From what 5 things does Christ specifically set you free?

Hymns

1. 474 - Blow Ye the Trumpet Blow

2. 473 - Jesus Sinners Doth Receive

3. 520 - Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness

*...[Christ] was delivered up for our trespasses,
and raised for our justification.”*

- Romans 4:25