

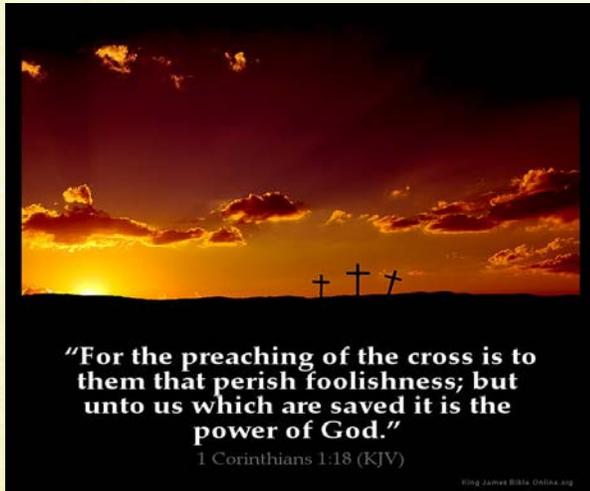


# THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE

## KCPC This Week

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

Week Ending, July 16, 2016



*"For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with words of eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.*

1 Cor. 1:17

### 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 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto:missmargaretbiggs@comcast.net)

Please read newest **'NEW HORIZONS'** on evangelism in the local congregation. Pray for our outreach efforts. Invite your friends and neighbors to our *Gospel of John* series.

**Home Fellowship this Lord's Day at 1pm:** Our home fellowship will be this week at the home of the Biggs Family in Round Hill. All are invited to come and join us! We will have smoked barbeque and hot dogs!

**Boardwalk Chapel Send Off this Lord's Day:** This Lord's Day after our worship of the triune God, we will prayerfully be sending off our young folks as they travel to New Jersey to witness to the power and grace of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ at Boardwalk Chapel.

**Locust Street Film Night's Summer Sci-Fi Fantasy Series continues in July this Friday:** We will be viewing and discussing the spectacular sci-fi classic **'Forbidden Planet'** (1956; Walter Pidgeon, Leslie Nielsen) for our next screening this Friday. Come and join us for the film that influenced the minds of both creators of Star Wars and Star Trek. **August: 'The Planet of the Apes'** (1968; Roddy McDowall, Charleton Heston).

**Men's and Boy's Breakfast for August:** Guest speaker **Dr. Steve Hake** from Patrick Henry College on the importance of discipleship. Make plans to join us! **No men's breakfast for the month of July.**

**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.**

*"To live on the promises of God is the only quiet life."*

- Matthew Mead

## From Your Pastor

### ***The Sum of the Christian Life: The Denial of Ourselves – John Calvin\****

We are not our own masters, but belong to God (Rom. 12:1-2; 1 Cor. 6:19): “*We are not our own*”- Let not our reason nor our will, therefore, sway our plans and deeds. We are not our own- Let us therefore not set it as our goal to seek what is expedient for us according to the flesh. We are not our own- Insofar as we can, *let us therefore forget ourselves and all that is ours...* “*We are God’s*”: Let us therefore live for him and die for him. We are God’s- Let his wisdom and will therefore rule all our actions. We are God’s- Let all the parts of our life accordingly strive toward him as our only lawful goal (Rom. 14:8; cf. 1 Cor. 6:19)...The sole haven of salvation is to be wise in nothing and to will nothing through ourselves but to follow the leading of the Lord alone” (III.7.1).

Self-denial through devotion to God: “...When Scripture bids us leave off self-concern, it not only erases from our minds the yearning to possess, the desire for power, and the favor of men, but it also up roots ambition and all craving for human glory and other more secret plagues” (III.7.11). Self-renunciation is according to Titus, chapter 2:11-14: “For, as Christ our Redeemer once appeared, so in his final coming he will show the fruit of the salvation brought forth by him.” “In this way he scatters all the allurements that becloud us and prevent us from aspiring as we ought to heavenly glory. Nay, he teaches us to travel as pilgrims in this world that our celestial heritage may not perish or pass away” (III.7.iii). Self-denial gives us the right attitude toward our fellow men (Phil. 2:3ff; cf. Rom. 12:10)- “The very vices that infest us we take pains to hide from others, while we flatter ourselves with the pretense that they are slight and insignificant, and even sometimes embrace them as virtues. If others manifest the same endowments we admire in ourselves, or even superior ones, we spitefully belittle and revile these gifts in order to avoid yielding place to such persons...thus, each individual, by flattering himself, bears a kind of Kingdom in his breast...there is no other remedy than to tear out from our inward parts this most deadly pestilence of love of strife and love of self, even as it is plucked out by Scriptural teaching...Let us then unremittingly by examining our faults, call ourselves back to humility...*You will never attain to true gentleness except by one path: a heart saturated with lowliness and with a reverence for others* (III.7.iv). Self-renunciation leads to proper helpfulness toward our neighbors- “Now in seeking to benefit one’s neighbor, how difficult it is to do one’s duty! Unless you give up all thought of self and, so to speak, get out of yourself, you will accomplish nothing here (1 Cor. 13:4-5)...[Scripture] warns that whatever benefits we obtain from the Lord have been entrusted to us on this condition: that they be applied to the common good of the church (cf. 1 Pet. 4:10; 1 Cor. 12:12ff)...providing for himself (a godly man) in no way other than to have his mind intent upon the common upbuilding of the church...We are the stewards of everything God has conferred on us by which we are able to help our neighbor, and are required to render account...”

#### **Bearing the Cross: Part of Self-Denial.**

“...Each must bear his own cross” (Mt. 16:24). For whomever the Lord has adopted and deemed worthy of his fellowship ought to prepare themselves for a hard, toilsome, and unquiet life, crammed with very many and various kinds of evil (cf. Heb. 5:8)...Hence also in harsh and difficult conditions, regarded as adverse and evil, a great comfort comes to us: we share Christ’s sufferings in order that as he passed from a labyrinth of all evils into heavenly glory, we may in like manner be led through various tribulations to the same glory (Acts 14:22; Phil. 3:10-11)...By communion with Him the very sufferings themselves not only become blessed to us but also help much in promoting our salvation” (III.8.1). Paul says, “Tribulations produce patience; and patience, tried character” (Rom. 5:3-4)... “God has promised to be with believers in tribulation (2 Cor. 1:4) they experience to be true, while supported by his hand, they patiently endure—an endurance quite unattainable by their own effort...And it is of no slight importance for you to be cleansed of your blind love of self that you may be made more nearly aware of your incapacity; to feel your own incapacity that you may learn to distrust yourself; to distrust yourself that you may transfer your trust to God; to rest with a trustful heart in God that, relying upon his help, you may persevere unconquered to the end; to take your stand in his grace that you may comprehend the truth of his promises; to have unquestioned certainty of his promises that your hope may thereby be strengthened” (III.8.iii).

#### **Meditation on the Future Life**

“Whatever kind of tribulation presses upon us, we must ever look to this end: to accustom ourselves to contempt for the present life and to be aroused thereby to meditate upon the future life...To counter this evil the Lord instructs his followers in the vanity of the present life by continual proof of its miseries...how unstable and fleeting are all the goods that are subject to mortality...We conclude that in this life we are to seek and hope for nothing but struggle; when we think of our crown, we are to raise our eyes to heaven. For this we must believe: that the mind is never seriously aroused to desire and ponder the life to come unless it be previously imbued with contempt for the present life” (III.9.1). “...*If heaven is our homeland, what else is the earth but our place of exile?* If departure from the world is entry into life, what else is the world but a sepulchre? And what else is it for us to remain in life but to be immersed in death?...Therefore, if the earthly life be compared with the heavenly, it is doubtless to be at once despised and trampled under foot...[Our calling in this world] is like a sentry post at which the Lord has posted us, which we must hold until he recalls us” (III.9.iv). “If believer’s eyes are turned to the power of the resurrection, in their hearts the cross of Christ will at last triumph over the devil, flesh, sin, and wicked men” (III.9.vi).

\* Excerpts from Book III, chaps. 7-11 of “*Institutes of the Christian Religion*” by John Calvin

*“We must learn that the glory of God is to be preferred before all other things. It should be the highest of our thoughts and endeavors.”*

**– Ezekiel Hopkins**

# THIS LORD'S DAY

**Sermon Series: “Acts of the Exalted Lord Jesus”**

**Title: “The Corinthians”**

- Pastor Charles R. Biggs

**Scripture Lesson: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9; 6:9-11**

**Scripture Text (s): Acts 18:1-18**

**Theme of Sermon/Worship:** *The cross of Jesus Christ should be the foundation and constant focus in every congregation for Christian unity, sanctification, and loving witness to the world.*

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

- \* **Children:** Read Acts 18. Who are all the individuals mentioned in Acts 18:1-18? There are Priscilla and Aquila, Titius Justus, Crispus, Sosthenes? What are their significance at Corinth? Do you hear of them elsewhere in Holy Scripture?
- \* What is Paul's primary focus while at Corinth? (Hint: Acts 18:5). How long did he stay there? What was he doing while there at Corinth?
- \* From Paul's Epistle to the Corinthians, what kind of people were these? What characterized the church? Were these mature saints? What were their challenges? How might KCPC learn from them?

## Hymns

1. Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken - 345

2. For All the Saints - 358

3. Here, O My Lord, I See Thee Face to Face - 378

*Acts 17: “Engaging unbelieving culture should be primarily concerned with the honor and glory of God, the exposing of men's hearts, and the significance of the resurrection of Jesus.”* 1. Engaging unbelieving culture is committed to the honor and glory of God; 2. Engaging unbelieving culture is about connecting, but also correcting where truth is exchanged for a lie; 3. Engaging unbelieving culture is by confrontation that calls for repentance and faith in the resurrected Christ!