



THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE

KCPC This Week

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

Week Ending, July 30, 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: missmargaretbiggs@comcast.net

Please read newest **'NEW HORIZONS'** on evangelism in the local congregation.

Deacon's Offering on August 7: Pray about how you would like to give to the needy in our church and community.

New Members-the Elliott Family! We are delighted to be formally receiving the Elliott Family into membership on Lord's Day, August 7th during the morning worship. Welcome our new family, and be earnest to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Eph. 4:3).

Locust Street Film Night's Summer Sci-Fi Fantasy Series continues in August: *'The Planet of the Apes'* (1968; Roddy McDowall, Charlton Heston). Viewing and discussion, Fri., Aug. 19.

No Sunday School in August: We will take a break in August to give our teachers a break. We will resume our Sunday school classes on Sunday, September 11.

"Parables of Jesus" Mini-Series in August: We will pause from our Acts Sermon Series for a brief mini-series on the Parables of Jesus. We will plan to begin Act III of the *"Acts of the Exalted Jesus"* in September.

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.**

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN: 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.*

"If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water... Whoever drinks of the water that I will give Him will never be thirsty again."

- John 4

From Your Pastor **Preparing for Preaching and Worship**

Beloved of Christ at KCPC: Remember prayerfully to prepare for worship and to be ready to worship the Living God and to hear His Word as it is read and preached to you. **Our Larger Catechism instructs us helpfully: WLC 160 What is required of those that hear the word preached?** A. It is required of those that hear the word preached, that they attend upon it with diligence,(1) preparation,(2) and prayer;(3) examine what they hear by the scriptures;(4) receive the truth with faith,(5) love,(6) meekness,(7) and readiness of mind,(8) as the word of God;(9) meditate,(10) and confer of it;(11) hide it in their hearts,(12) and bring forth the fruit of it in their lives.(13) (1)Prov. 8:34 (2)1 Pet. 2:1,2; Luke 8:18 (3)Ps. 119:18; Eph. 6:18,19 (4)Acts 17:11 (5)Heb. 4:2 (6)2 Thess. 2:10 (7)James 1:21 (8)Acts 17:11 (9)1 Thess. 2:13 (10)Luke 9:44; Heb. 2:1 (11)Luke 24:14; Deut. 6:6,7 (12)Prov. 2:1; Ps. 119:11 (13)Luke 8:15; James 1:2

Pastor **Phil Ryken** says very insightfully: “Most churchgoers assume that the sermon starts when the pastor opens his mouth on Sunday. However, listening to a sermon actually starts the week before. It starts when we pray for the minister, asking God to bless the time he spends studying the Bible as he prepares to preach. In addition to helping the preaching, our prayers create in us a sense of expectancy for the ministry of God’s Word. This is one of the reasons that when it comes to preaching, congregations generally get what they pray for.”

Are you remembering to pray for the worship and preaching every week? This is so very important. Let me remind you to pray for the worship and preaching as if you were the one to lead worship and to preach! What needs more preparation the hard ground or the farmer who sows the seed? Listen to the wisdom of the great **Charles Spurgeon**:

“We are told men ought not to preach without preparation. Granted. But we add, men ought not to hear without preparation. Which, do you think needs the most preparation, the sower or the ground? I would have the sower come with clean hands, but I would have the ground well-plowed and harrowed, well-turned over, and the clods broken before the seed comes in. It seems to me that there is more preparation needed by the ground than by the sower, more by the hearer than by the preacher.”

Pastor Ken Ramey in *Expository Listening* (Kress Press, 2010) writes that Christians can better prepare themselves to hear God’s Word read and preached each Lord’s Day if they will seek to cultivate certain good habits each day (here are his helpful suggestions):

- Read and meditate upon God’s Word every day.
 - Pray often throughout the week.
 - Confess your sins daily before God.
 - Reduce your media intake.
- Plan ahead, and schedule your week around the ministry of the Word: try to be home on Saturday nights; be careful not to watch or listen to anything that might cause lingering distractions in your mind during worship; get things ready on Saturday to avoid the inevitable Sunday morning rush; get a good night’s sleep because you’ll be doing the hard work of listening; get a good breakfast that will hold you over until lunch; as you’re getting ready and traveling as a family to worship seek to sing and pray together; arrive for worship at least 10 minutes early to get everything done (even the unexpected things), and sit down ready to receive.
 - Be consistent in worship attendance.
- Go to worship with a humble, teachable, expectant heart (it is not the preacher who is on trial before you; you are on trial before God’s word as to whether you will hear and receive what is spoken if Biblical truth).
- Worship with all you heart: sing enthusiastically because you believe what you’re singing; follow along in Bible when read; listen attentively to prayers when prayed and respond with hearty “amen”; during the sermon follow along in the Bible; take notes).
 - Fight off distractions
- Listen with diligent discernment so that you can determine humbly if what you heard was biblical and presented Christ and His Gospel to you and your family.

Let’s remember to pray unceasingly for one another that we will prepare our hearts for worship, and particularly for hearing the Word of God preached, and expect great things from our Great and Faithful God! (1 Thess. 5:18; Ephesians 6:18-20; 3:20-21).

“Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit says the LORD!”

*“Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think,
according to the power at work within us...”*

– Ephesians 3:20

THIS LORD'S DAY

Sermon Series: "Acts of the Exalted Lord Jesus"

Title: "Last (ing) Words"

- Pastor Charles R. Biggs

Scripture Lesson: 2 Timothy 3:1-4:8

Scripture Text (s): Acts 20:17-38

Theme of Sermon/Worship: *The Lord's Servant, the Apostle Paul, begins his journey to Jerusalem carrying his cross, following (reenacting!) his Savior, but he leaves the church with lasting words to comfort, edify, encourage, and sanctify by God's gracious Spirit.*

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

- * **Children:** Read Acts 20:17-38. In the Apostle Paul's description of his ministry, how do you see Jesus Christ revealed in His work and character? How was the church of God obtained? (Hint: Acts 20:28).
- * List five Christ-like characteristics in the Apostle Paul's ministry. What are the aspects of the Apostle Paul's character that you want to see more in your life?
- * How might this passage help us to pray for our pastor, elders, and congregation? Who makes overseers, or pastors or elders? (Hint: Acts 20:28).
- * What does the Apostle Paul live for—what is the most important thing in his life? How about you?

Hymns

1. Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing - 457

2. Shine Thou Upon Us, Lord - 411

3. Lord, Speak to Me That I May Speak - 561

Acts 19: The fullness of the Spirit is given to all believers to make known Christ's power and riches in the church and to the world. 1) The fullness of the Spirit is given to all Christians when they are united to Jesus Christ; 2) The Spirit is given to make known the power and riches found in Christ alone; 3) The Spirit wars deeply against the deep structures of idolatry in our culture as we faithfully live out our lives in Him.