

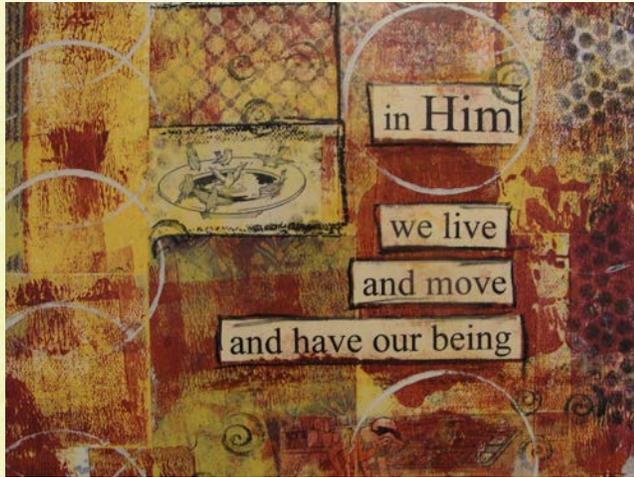


THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE

KCPC This Week

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

Week Ending, July 9, 2016



"In him we live and move and have our being"; as even some of your own poets have said, "For we are indeed his offspring."
- Acts 17:28

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. Pray for our outreach efforts. Invite your friends and

neighbors to our *Gospel of John* series.

Evening worship this Sunday evening at 6 pm: Join us for our evening worship and evangelistic series on the Gospel of John! This week: *"The LORD and the Lamb"*.

Locust Street Film Night's Summer Sci-Fi Fantasy Series continues in July: We will be viewing and discussing the spectacular sci-fi classic *'Forbidden Planet'* (1956; Walter Pidgeon, Leslie Nielsen) for our next screening. 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*.



"How good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity! It is like the precious oil (rain?) on the head, running down on the beard..." (Psa. 133:1-2)

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

- David Murray

From Your Pastor *“Seeking NOT to Sin”*

How should believers live seeking *not to sin*?

Let us have a deep hatred for our sins. We must have a deep hatred for our sins. We should begin by understanding that all of our sins are first a great offense against a Holy and Just and Kind King and Merciful Father. We offend God when we sin; we grieve God when we sin; we hurt Him in His Holy heart (Gen. 6:5ff). Let us hate sin because it offends and grieves our God. *This will help us seek not to sin.*

When we see our sins, let us ask forgiveness from God and deep repentance. Let us see our Advocate before God, Jesus the Righteous One (1 John 2:1b). Where we lack righteousness, Jesus is sufficient as Savior-Advocate (one who pleads our case before God by His blood), to cleanse us. He is also able by His Spirit to keep us from sinning. Jesus' death takes away our penalty for sin, but also grants us power over sin (1 John 1:7-9).

Live in God's grace and duty against sins. Go to worship, and hear preaching of God's Word, take part in the administration of His sacraments; these are all means of God's grace to communicate His love and power to you as you receive Christ by faith. Pray often all kinds of prayers for yourself and all people (Ephesians 6:18ff). *This will help us seek not to sin.*

Stay far from temptations. If you know something tempts you, or causes you to sin, seek to live far from it. Don't go near it, even if it is lawful in and of itself. If it causes you to sin and stumble in your walk, then avoid it with all of your heart. If you are tempted to seek satisfaction in something or someone other than God, make sure you don't fall into a temptation. *This will help us seek not to sin.*

Don't doubt and distrust God (Romans 4:18-21). Has God ever let you down? Has God ever been unfaithful to you? No, and He never will let you down or be unfaithful to you in Christ. Trust God's Word to you, believe His promises. Build yourself up in your most holy faith (Jude 24), seeking to believe what God says in true, particularly as He promises you that you may not sin. *This will help us seek not to sin.*

Be suspicious of carnal self-love. Watch your self-centeredness, and constant focus on yourself rather than on Christ. Be suspicious anytime you become self-aware and wonder why people are treating you in a certain way, or when you are too self-conscious about what others are saying, and you become overly defensive. Carnal self-love will focus you on yourself, rather than on Christ and your service to Him. *This will help us seek not to sin.*

Kill sin at the root. Know the master sin-roots. Master sins are ignorance of God's word in general and God's promises specifically. Unbelief, selfishness, pride, lust, hard-heartedness against God--All of these are master sin-roots that grow all kinds of dangerous and toxic weeds in your garden and the congregational garden of your local church. If you're not constantly weeding your garden, then the weeds are constantly growing! *This will help us seek not to sin.*

Keep your conversation and thoughts above focused on Christ (Colossians 3:1-4). You have been raised with Christ. Fix your mind on Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of your faith (Hebrews 12:1). Watch your negative and cynical and pessimistic conversations and thoughts that you have that are veiled and subtle unbelief against God's Word. Seek godly companions to talk about God's goodness and grace. *This will help us seek not to sin.*

Be watchful and prayerful at all times (Matt. 26:41). Apart from Christ you are dangerous; your heart is self-deceptive and evil by nature. You do not by nature know how to do anything but sin. You know this experientially in your own life, unless you have learned to self and to God (see 1 John 1:8ff). Remember the importance of asking God to search and know your heart, your thoughts, etc. (Psalm 139:23-24). *This will help us seek not to sin.*

Go to Him know, confess your sins, your carelessness, your lack of watchfulness and prayer. Confess to Christ if you have not tried living for Him as dead to sin and alive to God (Rom. 6:4-14). Confess to Jesus that you have not even tried to make it your spiritual aim not to sin if this be truth (cf. 2 Cor. 5:9). This in itself is a blatant denial of God's Word, and is usually fueled by one of the mother root-sins such as pride, unbelief and/or ignorance of the teaching of God's word. *This will help us seek not to sin.*

In Christ's love,

Pastor Biggs

“My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.”

(^{ESV} 1 John 2:1)

THIS LORD'S DAY

Sermon Series: "Acts of the Exalted Lord Jesus"

Title: "On Mars Hill"

- Pastor Charles R. Biggs

Scripture Lesson: Romans 1; 2 Timothy 2:24-26

Scripture Text (s): Acts 17:16-34

Theme of Sermon/Worship: *Engaging unbelieving culture should be primarily concerned with the honor and glory of God, the exposing of men's hearts, and the hope of the resurrection of Christ Jesus.*

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

* **Children:** Read Acts 17:2-4, 16-34. How does Paul argue or reason with the unbelieving, pagan Athenians contrasted to the Jews are God-fearing Gentiles? In what three ways do the people respond? (Hint: 17:32-34).

* Does Paul argue for *a god*, or the possibility that a god might exist, or does he argue for THE GOD that all men must believe in or perish? What does this teach you?

* What is Paul's starting point and what is he seeking to ultimately preach and make known? (Hint: 17:3, 18b, 32).

How does Paul particularly engage unbelieving culture, especially as he uses some of the Athenians' own writings/poems/pieces of art or culture?



Hymns

1. Before Jehovah's Awesome Throne - 65

2. God All Nature Sings Thy Glory - 122

3. Lord's Supper: As Jacob with Travel Was Weary One Day - 245

"Joy on the journey comes from complete dependence upon the Holy Spirit" (Acts 16)

1. Joy in dependence for direction; 2. Joy in dependence on conversions; 3. Joy in dependence in trials; 4. Joy in dependence upon God's promises in Christ!