



THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE

KCPC This Week

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

Week Ending, June 25, 2016

KCPC ONLINE

www.ketocin.org

www.sermonaudio.com/kcpc



"... We believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will."

- Acts 15:11

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

Worship Service this Lord's Day Evening at 6 pm:

We continue our evangelistic outreach and sermon series from the Gospel of John this Lord's Day evening at 6 pm. Invite your friends and neighbors to join us. Sermon Title: *"Of the Father's Love Begotten"*

Fourth of July Outreach in Purcellville!

KCPC is going to have a float in the Purcellville Fourth of July parade on Monday, July 4th at noon. We invite all to participate in the parade. We will be tossing candy to the kids and handing out literature to the adults about KCPC, with special emphasis on the evening Gospel of John series and Locust St Film Night. To join, or for more info, contact Elder Weitz: weitz.rick@gmail.com

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, Charlton 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.*

*"Blessed are those whose way is blameless,
who walk in the law of the LORD!"*

- Psalm 119:1

From Your Pastor **Gentleness**

Jesus says: "...*Learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls*" (Matt. 11:29; cf. 1 Cor. 10:1).

We are called as Christians to be like Christ in our gentleness. To walk worthy of our calling as a follower of Jesus is to walk "with all humility and *gentleness, with patience*, bearing with one another in love..." (Eph. 4:2). Gentleness in tone and touch is a visible sign that one's heart is at rest and calm under the influence of Christ's grace. Christian gentleness along with holiness or Christ-likeness, may be a most influential ways of bringing change in our culture today. Imagine that we could as Christians say with King David "...*Your gentleness made me great*" (2 Sam. 22:35-36) in the midst of a hostile and rude culture.

Gentleness is a fruit of the spirit. The Spirit of God is pleased to rule over our hearts in such a way that our tongues may possess a gentle tone and our hands and bodies may be used as instruments of kindness with a gentle touch. One of my teachers used to speak of "*gentle-ing himself*" when he saw that his heart was upset or impassioned by sin or an aggravation of others. This teacher understood that lack of gentleness was a heart problem. It showed a lack of grace and a need for Christ. Sadly, in the church, we can forget to gentle ourselves. Sometimes when we argue (discuss?) theologically, we can forget gentleness. We can so desire that the truth be told, that we forget tone and touch in telling that truth. We forget to "*speak the truth in love*" even to one another (Eph. 4:15)!

Yet gentleness is one of the most important characteristics that should describe us in our engagement with one another, especially when we disagree. The Bible teaches us:

"The servant of the Lord must not be quarrelsome, but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil. Correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth..." (2 Tim. 2:24-25).

We see doctrinal positions and personal opinions publicly posted on Facebook and other social media. But what is revealed is often more than truth or a mere opinion. What we see are sinful dispositions and hearts that are in desperate need of *Christ-like gentleness*. Should we wonder by this kind of online behavior why many distance themselves from us and will not come to hear our Gospel? Beloved, let us pray for kindness, the ability to teach or persuade others patiently, and to correct *with gentleness*. For every public display of lack of gentleness that is tweeted and posted on social media, as Christians, let there also be a transparently honest and humble public display of repentance tweeted or posted.

We should remember that like a lot of things in this life, gentleness is "caught" not "taught". We can have an understanding of what gentleness is, and have an ability to define it, and even be dogmatic about what it's definition is :-) yet we learn it best from seeing it in others. We learn it by imitation. We learn it from being in communion with Christ and learning to be like Him. But gentleness cannot be learned while being rushed and in a hurry all the time. Gentleness cannot be learned in being concerned only about one's self. Gentleness cannot be learned while seeking to exert one's opinions without listening, or in seeking to be first (3 John 9). Gentleness cannot be learned as long as one would seek to be right all the time. As our forefather John Calvin wrote convictingly:

"You will never attain true gentleness except by one path: a heart imbued [saturated/permeated] with lowliness and with reverence for others."

Need gentleness? Embrace Christ, and let him gentle on you through His grace. Then by His Spirit, gentle yourself and go and be influential and effective in your gifts and calling in this world. Let's cultivate a culture of gentleness in our Christian congregations and in our larger community.

In Christ's love,
Pastor Biggs

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- John Calvin

THIS LORD'S DAY

Sermon Series: “Acts of the Exalted Lord Jesus”

Title: “The Council of Jerusalem”

- Pastor Charles R. Biggs

Scripture Lesson: Galatians 5:1-6; Acts 20:26-32

Scripture Text (s): Acts 15

Theme of Sermon/Worship: *The Council of Jerusalem teaches us that the risen-ascended Jesus Christ rules through His elders by His Spirit to guide the church according to the truth of the Gospel, and to guard the church from error.*

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

- * **Children:** Read Acts 15:1-2, 10-11 (then compare with Acts 13:39 and Galatians 5:1-6). Was the teaching that was threatening the congregation at Antioch *dangerous*? Why, or why not? What was at stake?
- * How does Acts 15 demonstrate Presbyterianism as the biblical form of church government? How might you gently argue from Acts 15 to emphasize the rule and ministerial power of elders to a Congregationalist friend and brother in Christ?
- * Read the **Westminster Confession of Faith, chapter 31:1-5** with your family. Why is the Council of Jerusalem called in Acts 15? What are the reasons for councils or assemblies according to the Westminster Confession? Have councils or assemblies in church history erred? How do we know if a council of the church is faithful in ruling for Christ and making His will known?



Hymns

1. 376 - Open Now They Gates of Beauty

2. 353 - I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord

3. 348 - Jesus, With Thy Church Abide

“So shall be my word that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.”

- Isaiah 55:11