

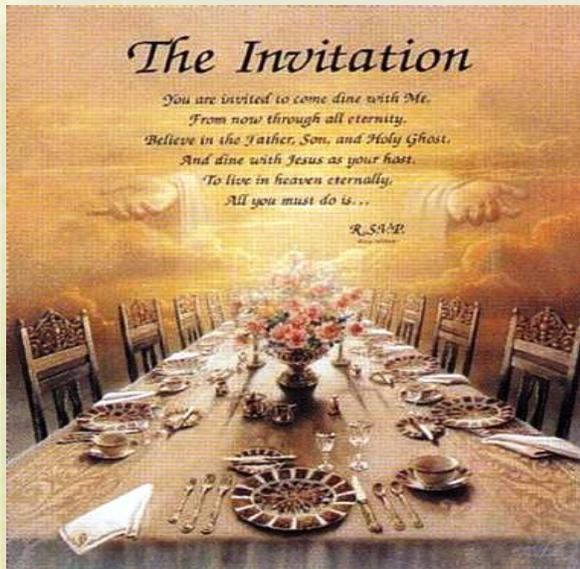


# THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE

## KCPC This Week

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

Week Ending, August 13, 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 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)

**"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.

**No Evening Worship this Lord's Day, Aug. 14.** Please pray for Pastor Biggs as travels after worship this Sunday to Grand Rapids, MI for an intensive week-long class on Reformed Spirituality starting Monday morning.

**Locust Street Film Night's Summer Sci-Fi Fantasy Series concludes on Fri. August 19<sup>th</sup>:** *'The Planet of the Apes'* (1968; Roddy McDowall, Charleton Heston). **Coming Soon** in the Autumn: Preston Sturges' *'Sullivan's Travels'* and Martin Rosen's animated classic interpretation of *'Watership Down'*.

**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.

**Men's and Boy's Breakfast on August 20:** Guest speaker **Dr. Steve Hake** from Patrick Henry College on the importance of discipleship. Make plans to join us! Coming soon: PHC president Jack Haye and other special guests!

**KCPC Family Meeting:** August 28<sup>th</sup> during the Sunday school hour. Make plans to attend.

**REGISTRATION NOW OPEN: Labor Day Family Camp at Machen Retreat:** Make plans now to join Pastors Biggs and Flora on September 3-5.

*"Hope strengthens faith, that it may not waver in God's promises, or begin to doubt concerning their truth. Hope refreshes faith, that it may not become weary."*

- John Calvin (Institutes of the Christian Religion)

## ***From Your Pastor*** ***“Making Disciples”***

***“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age” (Matt. 28:18-20).***

The resurrected-ascended Christ is the King of His Church. The Father has entrusted all of His authority to His Beloved Son (Matt. 28:18; cf. John 5:22). The Lord Jesus Christ is pleased to make disciples of His people primarily through and in His church as we have been learning in our series on the Book of Acts. In that discipleship, making disciples includes the oversight of pastors and elders and the means of grace (Eph. 4:11-16; Acts 20:27-32). We see this particularly in Jesus giving instructions to His apostle-elders as the foundation of the church here in Matthew’s Gospel (Eph. 2:20), and giving them two specific commands of making disciples by having them baptized and teaching them everything that He has commanded.

What is a disciple? Very simply, a disciple is a learner of Jesus and His kingdom. A disciple is a follower of Jesus Christ who professes Jesus Christ as a member of His kingdom (Matt. 10:24; Luke 6:40; Acts 9:19, 26; 11:26; 13:52; 14:21-22; 20:30; 21:4). A disciple is one who has been converted by Christ’s Spirit and desires to mature in Christ. A disciple is one who is seeking to deny himself, picking up his cross, and following Jesus each day. A disciple of Jesus is one who listens, learns, and follows the Lord Jesus through the Spirit and the Word.

Primary discipleship takes place through preaching, teaching, catechism, confessing and professing the faith publicly, sacraments, prayer, and fellowship in the local church. In other words, you cannot have a true disciple of Christ who is not also a member of Christ’s visible church (cf. Acts 9:26; Heb. 13:7, 17; 1 John 2:19). Other opportunities of making disciples can and should take place in families through the heads of households and in times of family worship, as well as in groups within the church gathering for study and edification, like in Bible studies, prayer meetings, small groups. Making disciples can and should take place one on one in other communities, but involvement in the local church should be the primary goal of being a disciple and of making disciples. We desire to learn and grow as individual Christians, but we learn to be nurtured primarily in the local church.

As our forefather John Calvin explained biblically concerning discipleship in the visible church as the “mother of believers”:  
***“...Let us learn even from the simple title ‘mother’ how useful, indeed how necessary, it is that we should know her. For there is no other way to enter into life unless this mother conceive us in her womb, give us birth, nourish us at her breast, and lastly, unless she keep us under her care and guidance until, putting off mortal flesh, we become like the angels (Matt. 22:30). Our weakness does not allow us to be dismissed from her school until we have been pupils all our lives”***  
(Institutes of the Christian Religion, 4.1.4).

Are you a member in good standing in the local church? Do you have the privilege of being discipled by pastors and elders to be Christ’s means of maturing you in Christ? (Eph. 4:11-16; Acts 20:28-32). If you are being discipled in this way, do you also seek discipleship in fellowship with other Christians as you should? If you are being discipled, have you sought to more formally disciple others in your local congregation, or in another community of which you are a part? You ought to prayerfully ask yourself, others who know you, or your elders where you might better and more faithfully serve the Lord Jesus Christ as a disciple in making disciples.

In Christ’s Love,

Pastor Biggs

***“Hope is nothing else than the expectation of those things which faith has believed to have been truly promised by God. Thus, faith believes God to be true, hope awaits the time when his truth shall be manifested...”***

- John Calvin (Institutes of the Christian Religion)

# THIS LORD'S DAY

## Sermon Series: "Parables of Jesus"

### Title: "A Wedding Feast"

- Pastor Charles R. Biggs

**Scripture Lesson: Luke 14:12-24; Revelation 19:6-9**

**Scripture Text: Matthew 22:1-14**

**Theme of Sermon/Worship:** The glorious king has sent invitations to the wedding feast of his beloved Son. But who has responded to His gracious invitation?

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

- **Children:** Read Matthew 22:1-14. Who is the feast for? What kind of feast is it? What are two things this might teach you about the kingdom?
  - Who are invited to the feast? Are you invited? Have you RSVP'd?
- Why would any bondsman/servant deny the king's wish? (v. 3); Or refuse the king's kindness? (v. 5); Or have the audacity of harming the king's servants for inviting them for the blessing of a feast? (v. 6)
- What does the wedding garment represent (vv. 11-12)? The righteousness needed for the feast in justification (foundational righteousness)? Or the righteousness needed for the feast in sanctification (works of the righteous person performed by grace and faith, cf. Rev. 14:13; 17:14; 19:14).

### Hymns

1. Jesus Paid It All #308

2. Come Ye Sinners, Poor and Wretched #472

3. Come, For The Feast Is Spread #480

*"...Faith believes that God is our Father, hope anticipates that he will ever show himself to be a Father toward us; faith believes that eternal life has been given to us, hope anticipates that it will soon be revealed; faith is the foundation upon which hope rests, hope nourishes and sustains faith.*

– John Calvin (Institutes of the Christian Religion)