



THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE

KCPC This Week

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

Week Ending, August 27, 2016



"Watch ye therefore, and pray always..."

– Luke 21:36a

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

"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.

Labor Day Family Camp at Machen Retreat Next Weekend: Make plans now to join Pastors Biggs and Flora on September 3-5. Should be a lot of good learning, fun and fellowship—sign up today! Please pray for refreshment and blessing from Christ's Spirit.

The *11th* Season of Locust Street Film Night begins in September: We begin the 11th season with Preston Sturges' *'Sullivan's Travels'* and Martin Rosen's animated classic interpretation of *'Watership Down'*.

Guest Preacher Next Weekend: We are grateful to have Rev. Steve Brown from Grace OPC in Vienna, Va. to minister God's Word to us next weekend while Pastor Biggs is out of town at Machen Retreat.

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.

KCPC Family Meeting: This Lord's Day, August 28th during the Sunday school hour. Make plans to attend.

Deacon's Offering on Sept. 4: Prayerfully consider how you might like to give to provide for others in our communion and community by giving

"...This is the one to whom I will look: he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at my word."

– Isaiah 66:2b

From Your Pastor

“Preservation and Perseverance”

Preservation from apostasy (falling away) and perseverance in our faith are blessed results of the priestly office and ongoing ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ for His own. To put it simply, Christ has done all that believers need to persevere in their faith, and He continually prays for us that our faith will not fail us (Rom. 8:34; Heb. 7:25; 2 Peter 1:3-4; cf. Luke 22:31-32). “*Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died- more than that, who was raised- who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us*” (Rom. 8:34). There is a “double bond” in our preservation and perseverance. Believers are preserved in their walk by God (or “*kept or guarded by faith*”, 1 Pet. 1:6). From Christ’s side working through His Spirit, He guards true believers by His power and grace, and from our side by our dependence upon His Spirit, our faith keeps us focused on Him (1 Pet. 1:3-9; cf. Heb. 12:1-2).

Though we are taught in Scripture that some who profess to know Christ, who are even members of His church will be tempted to fall away, and some will indeed fall away (see Matt. 24:10; 26:31; Mark 14-27, 29; Luke 8:13; Heb. 3:12). Nevertheless, true believers united to Jesus Christ, will never fall away. Why? We are clearly taught in Holy Scripture that God the Father has elected His own to eternal life (Eph. 1:3-14). God the Son has laid down His life for His own sheep, and no one can snatch them out of His hands (John 10:28-29). God the Holy Spirit has sealed the believer to ensure that they will continue to the end blameless (Eph. 1:13-14). True believers can be confident in the words and work of the triune God who has authored, accomplished, and applied their salvation. Our great hope and encouragement as believers is that the Lord Jesus will present believer blameless with great joy at the end of our pilgrimage (Jude 20-21).

All believers will persevere by faith based on three important truths: (1) The Father’s electing love and promises to the believer; God cannot change and will not change or ever forsake those whom He loves: “***Never will I leave you nor forsake you***” (Heb. 13:5). (2) Christ the Son has shed His precious blood to make us a “***people for His own possession who are zealous for good works***” (Tit. 2:14); we are recipients of His love and freed from our sins by His blood so that our sins will never overpower us completely (Rev. 1:5b-6). Christ lives to ever-intercede and pray for His own. He is able to keep His own by the power of “*an indestructible life*” (Heb. 7:24-26). (3) The Spirit has united us to Christ and nothing can break that bond and seal. In fact, He who began a good work will complete it (Phil. 1:6). In light of the triune God’s preservation, we can rest, but we also must persevere and strive with all of our strength (Phil. 2:12-13; 3:9-16; Heb. 10:22-12:15). The warnings against apostasy, particularly in Hebrews 6:4-6 are “Gospel warnings” to keep those who are in Christ, fearing God and desiring to do God’s will, to pray for hearing of the word (Heb. 2:1), to consider Christ by faith as our Savior and example and strength (Heb. 3:1), to be careful to grow into maturity, having had laid the foundation of basic doctrine (Heb. 5:13-6:3), to look to Christ as High Priest according to Melchizedek, and to know that we are forgiven by His blood (Heb. 8-10), to encourage and edify one another, particularly knowing the dangers of sinfulness and hard-heartedness, especially as we see the Day approaching (Heb. 3:12-13, 10:24-25). Let us rejoice in the *completed* work of Jesus Christ!

“Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen” (Jude 24-25)

In Christ’s Love,
Pastor Biggs

“True piety consists in a sincere feeling which loves God as Father as much as it fears and reverences Him as Lord, embraces His righteousness, and dreads offending Him worse than death.”

- John Calvin (Institutes of the Christian Religion)

THIS LORD'S DAY

Sermon Series: “Parables of Jesus”

Title: “Watchfulness”

- Pastor Charles R. Biggs

Scripture Lesson: Luke 13:22-30; 21:34-36

Scripture Text: Matthew 25:1-13

Theme of Sermon/Worship: Watchfulness should characterize every Christian.

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

- **Children:** Why are those awaiting the return of the Lord Jesus described as “virgins”? Give at least two reasons. Who is the Bridegroom? Why is he described in this way?
- What do the lamps and the oil represent for the virgins? Think thoughtfully on this. How does this reveal an ongoing need and/or dependence?
- What does it mean when the Bridegroom says: “*Truly, I say to you, I do not know you*” (Matt. 25:12)? Why is this in Scripture? What can this teach you?
- What are the blessings of being watchful? (cf. Matt. 25:13). Does Jesus warn of the importance of watchfulness elsewhere in Scripture?

Hymns

1. 376 - Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty

2. 156 - O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

3. 320 - Rejoice, All Ye Believers

“My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.”

- Psalm 73:26