



THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE

KCPC This Week

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

Week Ending, August 6, 2016



"...Her sins, which are many, are forgiven- for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little, loves little"
(Luke 7:47)

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

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

"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.

New Members: The Elliott Family! We are delighted to be formally receiving the Elliott Family into membership this Lord's Day, August 7th during the morning worship.

Boardwalk Chapel Presentation: Our young folks who ministered last week at Board Walk Chapel will testify about the grace of God in Christ this Sunday from 9:30-10:15 am.

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. 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!

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

"If you will know and learn anything with profit, love to be yourself unknown and to be counted for nothing... To account nothing of one's self, and to think always kindly and highly of others, this is great and perfect wisdom."

- Thomas a Kempis (*Imitation of Christ*, 2.3-4).

From Your Pastor “Forgiven Much”

“Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven- for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little, loves little.” (ESV Luke 7:47)

If we are ever to love Christ and others as we should, if we are ever to repent daily in a manner consistent with our sinfulness, we need to learn to estimate ourselves rightly before God. As we understand the great love and mercy and forgiveness of God in Jesus Christ, so we learn how much we are forgiven of our sins in Him and for His sake, and we learn how to love. In our passage from Luke 7 (vv. 36-50), we see Jesus as the Savior of sinners, seeking and saving the lost. Jesus accepts an invitation to go to a Pharisee’s house to reveal his dire need of a Savior from sinful self-righteousness.

A notoriously sinful woman (probably a prostitute) enters into Simon the Pharisee’s home, rushing toward the only person who can and will forgive her, and makes her humble submission to Jesus, showing her faith and love for Christ in her actions. This sinful woman knows that her only hope is found in the mercy of Jesus Christ. Simon the Pharisee is unaware of His own need of the righteousness of God found in Christ alone (cf. Rom. 3:21-26). Simon compares himself with this notoriously sinful woman to puff himself up, and to find through comparison with another sinner a (self!) righteousness of his own making. This is how sinners often can deceive themselves. Rather than compare our hearts and thoughts with the perfect righteousness of God revealed in His holy law, we merely compare ourselves to sinners who are worse sinners than ourselves in our own estimation!

***...Come, ye weary, heavy laden,/Bruised and broken by the fall;/If you tarry till you're better,
You will never come at all:/Not the righteous,/Not the righteous,/Not the righteous,/Sinners Jesus came to
call...***

Yet because of this woman’s humility and right estimation of herself before a holy Christ, her “many sins” are forgiven by Jesus because she recognizes her sinfulness and comes to Jesus for help. The woman is not seeking to compare herself with other sinners who may be more wicked than her. Her attitude is not critical as Simon’s. Rather, she is concerned first with her own heart before God. This demonstrates true faith and repentance in Jesus Christ! Simon the Pharisee understands that the woman is showing great love for her debt being forgiven, but he doesn’t understand his own debt to God as a Law-breaker- -that he too, is a debtor with a large debt. Because of his pride, Simon doesn’t feel the weight of his need for Jesus. Simon doesn’t rightly estimate the greatness of his debt before God.



***...Let not conscience make you linger,/Nor of fitness fondly dream;/All the fitness he requireth/Is to feel your
need of him;/This he gives you,/This he gives you,/This he gives you;/'Tis the Spirit's rising beam.***

***Jesus is not teaching that we are saved and forgiven by our love, but that our love shows that we have truly
been saved and we understand how much we have been forgiven!***

Jesus says: “...***He who is forgiven little, loves little,***” (v. 47) implying that we must have a right estimation of ourselves before God and understand the great debt from which we have been relieved in Christ. All are forgiven much in Christ, not all understand that they are forgiven much. Those who understand that they have been forgiven much, love learn to love much!

In Christ’s Love,
Pastor Biggs

***“He only is truly great, who has great love. He is truly great who deems himself small, and counts all
height of honor as nothing. He is the truly wise man, who counts all earthly things as dung that he may
win Christ. And he is the truly learned man, who does the will of God, and forsakes his own will.”***

– Thomas a Kempis (*Imitation of Christ*, 3.6)

THIS LORD'S DAY

Sermon Series: "Parables of Jesus"

Title: "Mercy"

- Pastor Charles R. Biggs

Scripture Lesson: Ephesians 4:32-5:1; Matthew 5:7; Philemon 17-19

Scripture Text: Matthew 18:21-35

Theme of Sermon/Worship: Believers have received much mercy from God and are called to demonstrate such mercy to others.

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

- **Children:** Read Matthew 18:21-35. How many times does Jesus want us to forgive others? Who do you need to forgive today? How will you have the grace and power to do this from the heart?
- In Jesus' parable, what are the chief character traits of the king toward his servants? How are you like the king? How are you like the servants?
- Have you ever forgiven someone on the surface, but not truly from the heart? What made you realize that from the heart you were being unforgiving and unmerciful.
- List 5 specific ways God has shown you mercy in Christ by His grace this week? Was it hard for you to come up with the 5, or had you been meditating upon His mercy and grace?

Hymns

1. 82 - Great God of Wonders

2. 537 - How Blest Is He Whose Trespass

3. 469 - How Sweet and Awesome is the Place

"For verily it is not deep words that make a man holy and upright; it is a good life which makes a man dear to God. I had rather feel contrition than be skillful in the definition thereof... Vanity of vanities, all is vanity, save to love God, and Him only to serve. That is the highest wisdom, to cast the world behind us, and to reach forward to the heavenly Kingdom." – Thomas a Kempis (*Imitation of Christ*, 1.3)