



THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE

KCPC This Week

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

Week Ending, October 29, 2016



Happy 499th Anniversary of the Reformation of the 16th Century!

John Calvin writing the 'Institutes of the Christian Religion', ca. 1535 (above)

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 the preaching of the Word and our fellowship!

Women's Bible Studies: Evening study meets on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday nights at 7pm, studying the Book of Daniel. For more information contact Margaret Biggs at missmargaretbiggs@comcast.net. Daytime study meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays from 1-3, studying *A Woman's Wisdom: How the Book of Proverbs Speaks to Everything*. Contact Joanie

Leake for more information at J2Leake@gmail.com. All women are invited to attend either or both!

Men's and Boy's Breakfast this Saturday: Come join us for fellowship, prayer, good food and much learning from 8:30-10 am. **Guest speaker: President Jack Hays, Patrick Henry College.**

Reformation Day Service 2016 at Bethel OPC (Leesburg): Join us on Sunday evening, October 30, as we celebrate with other OP congregations the 499th anniversary of the Reformation. Dinner at 6 pm, Worship service at 7 pm. Pastors Hammond, Proctor, VanDelden, and Biggs will be speaking on the Proper Use of the Law in the Christian Life. If you plan to attend the **dinner;** would you please RSVP at administrator@bethelpres.com.

Evening Prayer Meeting, Nov. 6 at 6 pm: Join us as a congregation for corporate prayer for spiritual life and growth through the preaching and teaching of the Word, and for a fellowship meal to follow.

Thank Offering: Please be praying about how you would like to give to our Christian Education and missionaries in the OPC. Theme: "Abounding in Hope" (Rom. 15:13).

Sunday School Classes—Autumn 2016: The adults are studying "Church History 101: Highlights from Twenty Centuries" taught by your elders. New Members' class begins on Nov. 6.

Coming Soon—Morning Sermon Series: The next morning worship sermon series will be 1 Samuel.

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."

- Romans 1:16-17

From Your Pastor

The “Solas” of the Reformation

499th Anniversary of the Reformation of the 16th Century

This month we have the privilege of celebrating the 499th anniversary of the Reformation of the Sixteenth Century. October 31st is the occasion when many Reformed congregations gratefully remember the Spirit of God’s work through Martin Luther in nailing his 95 *Theses* on the church door at Wittenberg Germany that was the means through which God brought a fresh recovery of His Gospel to His church. The Reformation was one of the greatest revivals in the history of the church. As heirs of this reformation and revival, and as those thankful for the knowledge of the Gospel of grace, there are five fruits that are worth memorizing and remembering each year at this time. These five fruits of the Reformation are five “solas” or “alones” that are important for us never to forget. These “solas” highlight God’s absolute mercy and passionate grace for His dear, lost and helpless children who He has rescued through the Person and Work of Jesus Christ. The ‘solas’ are ‘*Sola Scriptura*’ (Scripture Alone), ‘*Sola Fide*’ (Faith Alone), ‘*Sola Gratia*’ (Grace Alone), ‘*Solus Christus*’ (Christ Alone), and ‘*Soli Deo Gloria*’ (To God be Glory Alone!). Let’s look briefly at each of these:

Sola Scriptura: Scripture alone stresses that the God-breathed-out, inerrant Word of God is foundational and sufficient for all life and godliness (2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:3-4). Biblical creeds and confessions are helpful aids to God’s people, and we embrace tradition insofar as it is taught in Scripture. Scripture alone means that the last word and final authority for matters of life and doctrine are to be found in the Holy Scriptures. Scripture is to be preached by the power of the Holy Spirit as a primary means of saving and sanctifying sinners (2 Tim. 4:1ff).

Sola Fide: Faith is a gift of God, an instrument whereby believers receive as a gift all of the perfect righteousness that we need to stand before a holy God. The righteousness God requires is the righteousness found in Christ (Rom. 3:24-26, 4:5; 2 Cor. 5:21). Faith alone stresses that Christ does all the work that is required for one to be saved, and we receive this as a gift. We are not saved through faith and our works, but through Christ’s works alone received by faith. However, it is important to note that while we are saved by faith alone, we are saved not by a faith that is alone; it is a working faith that responds to God’s grace with obedience (Eph. 2:8-10).

Sola Gratia. Grace alone teaches that we are not saved in our cooperating with God in salvation. We are utterly helpless and unable to do anything good before God in our sinfulness (Rom. 3:23). Apart from Christ we can do nothing (John 15:5) and without the gracious, initiating, powerful work of God through His Spirit drawing us no one can be saved (Matt. 11:25-27; Tit. 3:4-7; John 6:37, 44). Our salvation is from beginning to end because of God’s mercy, not because of anything God might foresee in us (Rom. 9). We are saved by grace through faith, not of works, so that no one can boast (Eph. 2:8-9).

Solus Christus. Christ alone emphasizes that there is one mediator between God and man, the man Christ Jesus (1 Tim. 2:5). Christ has done all for us that we could never do, nor would want to do in our sinful fallenness. Christ is to be glorified and thanked for His good works *for us*. Christ is to have our ultimate focus and gratitude (Heb. 12:1-2) because of all He has done for us in His life, death, resurrection, and ascension to God’s right hand. While others may place undue and unbiblical emphasis on saints, Mary, and even angels, our hearts are centered on Christ alone as our loving Savior, Bridegroom, and friend.

Soli Deo Gloria. All that has been achieved for our salvation is to bring glory, honor and praise to the Triune God alone! (Rom. 11:33-36; Rev. 4:11; 5:9-11). We were made for His pleasure, and now live for His glory in gratitude for what He has accomplished for us in Christ.

As a congregation, let us memorize these five ‘Solas’ of the Reformation, and reaffirm them, and unashamedly make them known as God’s pilgrim people on the way to the Heavenly City.

In Christ’s love,
Pastor Biggs

“Or do you presume on the riches of His kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God’s kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?”

- Romans 2:4

THIS LORD'S DAY

Sermon

“Justified by Faith”

- Pastor Charles R. Biggs

Scripture Lesson: Galatians 2:15-21; 3:19-26

Scripture Text: Romans 3:21-31

Theme of Sermon/Worship: God the Father has graciously provided a perfect righteousness for His people in Jesus Christ. This righteousness is received by faith alone through the Spirit.

Hymns

1. 520 - Jesus Thy Blood and Righteousness

2. 499 - Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me

3. 253 - There is a Fountain Filled With Blood

...For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,²⁴ and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,²⁵ whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins.²⁶ It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.”

- **ESV Romans 3:23-26**

“We maintain, that of what description soever any man’s works may be, he is regarded as righteous before God, simply on the footing of gratuitous mercy; because God, without any respect to works, freely adopts him in Christ, by imputing the righteousness of Christ to him, as if it were his own. This we call the righteousness of faith...”

- **John Calvin**