

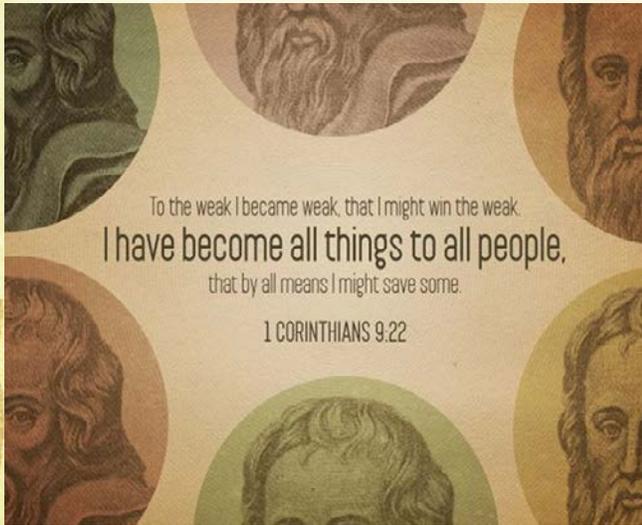


# THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE

## KCPC This Week

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

Week Ending, November 5, 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 the preaching of the Word and our fellowship!

**Women's Bible Studies:** Evening study meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday nights at 7pm, studying the Book of Daniel. For more information contact Margaret Biggs at [missmargaretbiggs@comcast.net](mailto:missmargaretbiggs@comcast.net). Daytime study meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:J2Leake@gmail.com). All women are invited to attend either or both!

## Set clocks back one hour this Saturday!

**Deacon's Offering this Lord's Day:** The deacon's will be taking up their monthly offering this Lord's Day during worship. Consider how you might show generosity to those in need in our community and neighborhood.

**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). For more info on video: <http://opc.org/feature.html>

**Sunday School Classes—Autumn 2016:** The adults are studying "Church History 101: Highlights from Twenty Centuries" taught by your elders. New Members' class begins this Lord's Day.

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

**OPC Special Committee on Marriage and Sexuality:** A new webpage is now posted on [OPC.ORG](http://OPC.ORG) on the lower right hand corner under the title *"Marriage, Sexuality & Faithful Witness"* or <http://www.opc.org/msfw.html>

*"God the great Creator of all things doth uphold, direct, dispose, and govern all creatures, actions, and things, from the greatest even to the least, by His most wise and holy providence, according to His infallible foreknowledge, and the free and immutable counsel of His own will, to the praise of the glory of His wisdom, power, justice, goodness, and mercy."*

— Westminster Confession, 5.1

## *From Your Pastor*

### *All the Righteousness We Will Ever Need!*

In the Reformation, Martin Luther learned that all the righteousness he would ever need would be given to Him in Christ; for every need, for every perfect requirement of God, Christ was the help, the hope, and the perfect provision of the righteousness of God the Father to believing sinners.

The false teaching of thinking one could cooperate with God's grace to bring about the righteousness God required was nothing new to the Medieval church and time of the Reformation. You may recall that in the time of Jesus' ministry, many of the Pharisees and teachers of the Law opposed Jesus vehemently because he disagreed with their teaching of salvation by cooperation with God's grace. Essentially, the Pharisees taught that man could cooperate with God within the covenant, and eventually do enough good works to merit their salvation and hope before God (Rom. 10:1-3; cf. Phil. 3:7-14). Contrastly, Jesus taught that God required personal perfection to the Law (Matthew 5:48; cf. Gal. 3:10-13; Rom. 10:5) so that those who had ears to hear would come to the end of their self-righteousness and repent and find their only hope of righteousness in His merit—in his personal and perfect law-keeping for them, received by faith alone (Rom. 10:4; Gal. 3:19, 25-29).

During the Medieval period, again the Pharisaical teaching of attempting to cooperate within the visible Church to attain enough merits to achieve a righteousness before God was taught and believed by many. This error sadly eclipsed the true, saving and wonderful Gospel of Jesus. This robbed God of the glory due to Him alone! (cf. Rom. 3:27). When God called Martin Luther, he was a spiritually struggling monk who was attempting to achieve this perfect righteousness that God required of him. Luther was trying to cooperate by faith with God's grace to be saved. However, he realized because of the depth of his sins and the perfect righteousness of God there was no hope or spiritual comfort in this teaching. This was no good news at all! Luther struggled with his works before God, realizing they were not always done with the right motives and pure faith, and if God was to judge His works according to His perfect standard of righteousness, then only damnation and judgment awaited Him.

By God's good grace, Luther had a friend within the Augustinian cloister by the name of Johann von Staupitz that shared the Gospel with Martin Luther. This is what Staupitz told Luther to seek to comfort him with Gospel tidings: *"Why do you torment yourself with all these speculations and these high thoughts of your works before God? Look at the wounds of Jesus Christ, to the blood that he has shed for you: it is there that the grace of God will appear to you. Instead of torturing yourself on account of your sins, throw yourself in your Redeemer's arms. Trust in him- - in the righteousness and merits of his life- -in the atonement of his death. Do not shrink back; God is not angry with you, it is you who are angry with God. Listen to the Son of God not your own thoughts; meditate on His Word to you. Jesus became man to give you the assurance of divine favor. He says to you: You are my sheep; you hear my voice; no man shall pluck you out of my strong hand."* —John Staupitz to Martin Luther, ca. 1509.

Beloved of God, and to all sinners who feel the heavy weight of your sins, and the hopelessness of your condition before a holy God: All are justified or declared righteous before God because of Christ's merits given to us as a free gift (Rom. 3:23-28)! Let us live as loved and forgiven people this day, confident in God's grace, not in our works. Let God's grace and love toward wicked and undeserving sinners such as ourselves humble us, and let us live gratefully and obediently unto Him! (Rom. 3:27, 31). Let us remember as God's people that all the righteousness we will ever need is given to us in Christ. For every need we have, for every perfect requirement of God, Christ is our help, our hope, and the perfect provision of righteousness from God the Father to believing sinners. Let us humbly rejoice!

In Christ's love,  
Pastor Biggs

*"... Whatever gain I had,  
I counted as loss for the sake of Christ."  
- Philippians 3:7*

# THIS LORD'S DAY

**Sermon:**



***“What Then is to be Done?”***

- Pastor Charles R. Biggs

**Scripture Lesson: 1 Timothy 1:5; Galatians 2:11-14; 6:14-16; 1  
Corinthians 9:19-23**

**Scripture Text: Acts 21:17-36**

**Theme of Sermon/Worship: Our privilege and duty before God our Father is to do what is right and loving, but we must always leave the results to Him.**

**Questions for family worship and/or devotion to prepare hearts for worship or to review sermon**

- **Children:** Our Puritan forefathers taught believers to *“mind your duty not your circumstances”*. What wisdom were they seeking to communicate? How does this help you in decision making? What is your “chief end” in decision making and living?
- **Read 1 Corinthians 9:19-23.** How is Paul’s heart revealed in this passage? How might this passage help us to better understand Paul’s love in following James’ counsel in Acts 21?
- What teaching of about God and Scripture can bring truth to bear upon us so that we might be able to leave all the results of our good decisions to God?
- How does this passage in Acts 21 reveal to us the dangers of false rumors concerning God’s servants, and the wickedness of gossip and tale-bearing?

## **Hymns**

**1. God, My King, Thy Might Confessing #5**

**2. Father, I Know That All My Life #559**

**3. O Word of God Incarnate #140**

***“...Not I, but the grace of God that is with me.”***

- 1 Corinthians 15:10