



# THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE

## KCPC This Week

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

**Week Ending February 25th, 2017**



### **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 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday nights at 7pm, studying *The Weight of Glory* by C.S. Lewis. Contact Margaret Biggs at [missmargaretbiggs@comcast.net](mailto:missmargaretbiggs@comcast.net) for details. Daytime study meets on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays from 12-2, studying *A Woman's Wisdom: How the Book of Proverbs Speaks to Everything*. Contact Joanie Leake at [j2leake@gmail.com](mailto:j2leake@gmail.com).

**Men's and Boy's Breakfast:** Join us for food, fellowship, and discussion of J. C. Ryle's 'Thoughts for Young Men' at 8:30am Saturday, February 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Evangelism Seminar:** We are privileged to have evangelist Steve Doe with us during our Sunday school hour on Lord's Day, March 5<sup>th</sup>. He will share a presentation for all ages tailored toward helping us reach our community in and around Purcellville.

**New Members!** We are grateful to receive Micah and Abby Esmond as members on Lord's Day, March 12<sup>th</sup> in the morning worship service.

**Upcoming Sermon Series:** We will consider Paul's Letter to the Colossians together after the completion of Acts, and 1 Samuel after pastor's sabbatical this summer.

**Locust Street Film Night:** Join us Friday, March 17<sup>th</sup> (6pm for dinner, film at 7 pm) as we view and discuss Orson Welles' famous "Citizen Kane" (1941). Arguably the greatest and most influential of all films, there are lots of contemporary issues to discuss here!

**Latin Camp:** Dr. David Noe, OP elder and Professor of Classics at Calvin College, is organizing a Latin camp this summer at Machen Retreat and Conference Center July 31 - August 5 for students ages 14 -18. For details: <http://www.latinperdiem.com/tusculum17/>

**Congregational Memory Verses 2017:** Our memory verses for this year as a congregation will be Numbers 23:19 and John 14:13-14. Meditate on these promises of God for us as His people!

**Reading Bible this Year:** For help in reading through the Bible this year for yourself and/or with family, go to [mcheyne.info](http://mcheyne.info) for Roberty Murray M'Cheyne's bible reading plan and [readscripture.org](http://readscripture.org) for brief, Christ-centered overviews of sections in the Bible.

**Catechism Memorization:** Your pastor and elders encourage everyone to memorize and/or review the Shorter Catechism this year. Enjoy Pastor Biggs' commentary on the Shorter Catechism in the "From Your Pastor" section of the Shepherd's Voice.

**Boardwalk Chapel Evangelism Trip:** Make plans now for July 29-Aug. 5. Pastors Flora, Brooking, Biggs and Proctor are taking a group this year. Contact Pastor Biggs by March 31st if you have questions or plan to go.

*"The first lesson in the school of Christ: Christ's cross.  
Deny yourself, take it up, and follow Him, and glory with the martyrs in Christ Jesus."*

**- Samuel Ward**

*From Your Pastor*

**A Study of the Shorter Catechism: A Gracious and Holy God**

**Question 43:** *What is the preface to the ten commandments?* **Answer:** *The preface to the ten commandments is in these words, I am the Lord thy God which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage (Exod. 20:2).*

**Question 44:** *What doth the preface to the ten commandments teach us?* **Answer:** *The preface to the ten commandments teacheth us, That because God is the Lord, and our God, and Redeemer, therefore we are bound to keep all his commandments (Luke 1:74,75; 1 Pet. 1:15-19).*

**Memory Verses:** *"...That we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all our days" (Luke 1:74-75).*

**An Explanation:** Zechariah's song of praise in Luke 1:74-75 summarizes how we are to think of and live out our lives before God as His beloved children: in fearless, courageous, and holy obedience to His commands. Why? Because He is Lord and King, and in Jesus Christ, Redeemer and Father! Before revealing the Ten Commandments in Exodus 20, God reveals His saving love, grace, and power for believers, so that we might remember that we need these gifts from His Spirit in order to live the holy and righteous lives He has called us to in Christ. Without grace, no sinner could ever please God and perfectly keep God's commandments in thoughts, words, and/or deeds. The Law revealed in the Ten Commandments is a revelation of the character and will of God, and as His creatures, we should all seek to honor Him by glorifying and enjoying Him through obedience. Because of our sinfulness, we need God's effectual call by His Spirit to make us alive and bring us into the light, granting us His immeasurable power so that we might desire to obey and enjoy Him! In the preface to the Ten Commandments, we see, as Dr. Joel Beeke has written, that in the time of the law there is grace; in the time of grace, there is law. In justification, law and grace are opposed; in sanctification, law and grace are friends (Rom. 8:1-4). God teaches believers that our deliverance is all because of His grace—nothing that we have done, merited, or earned: "I am the LORD your God, who brought you...out of the house of slavery" (Ex. 20:2). Salvation is a deliverance from slavery, not merely the real, physical bondage of Egypt, but the spiritual bondage and oppression of sin and the evil one. Once delivered, believers are brought into a state of grace (Col. 1:13-14) so that we are obligated (privileged!) to live holy and righteous lives before God and the world. This way of freedom, holiness, and righteousness in Christ is particularly revealed in the Ten Commandments.

As we go through the Ten Commandments in the next few questions from the Shorter Catechism, let us keep in mind an illustration: the Law of God can be likened to an enchanted mirror which we can see both *in* and *through*. We look *through* the mirror to see the perfect character of our God. We look *in* the mirror and see the reflection of our lives in light of His righteousness. We look *through* and see a gracious and forgiving God who provides all the power we need to live holy lives. We look *in* and see ourselves and where we need to repent of our sins and seek Christ. We look *through* the mirror to behold the happy and joyful life we were created to live, and *in* the mirror to behold both our progress in living before Christ Jesus and the ongoing need of repentance and forgiveness in Him!

**Prayer:** *Father God, thank you that you have delivered me from slavery and bondage to sin and Satan. Let me live before you all the days of my life in holiness and righteousness, serving you without fear.*

*"Why is it thought incredible by any of you that God raises the dead?"*

**-Acts 26:8**

# THIS LORD'S DAY

## Sermon

### *“Dangerous Voyage”* - Pastor Charles R. Biggs

**Scripture Lesson: Mark 4:35-41; Psalm 77:11-20**

**Scripture Text: Acts 27-28 (various verses)**

**Theme of Sermon/Worship: *God's servant embarks on a dangerous voyage, entrusting Himself to God's faithful providence and promise!***

## Hymns

1. O God, Our Help in Ages Past, 30
2. God Moves in a Mysterious Way, 128
3. Amazing Grace, 460

## Questions

- Read Acts 27-28. How can the Apostle Paul confidently and boldly by faith sail to Rome knowing that God will see him to his destination? List various ways that God is particularly present in Paul's dangerous voyage. What does this teach you?
- Meditate on these two chapters, then thoughtfully ask: 1) Though we don't always feel God's presence, or see Him near us, how can we be encouraged that He is indeed with us? 2) Why do you think Dr. Luke put all these details of Paul's (and his!) voyage to Rome? Couldn't he have just written that they had a difficult and dangerous journey, eventually reaching Rome?
- Though we do not desire to practice allegory, how might Acts 27-28 give a typical picture of the Christian life?

*"Five times I received at the hands of the Jewish the forty lashes less one. Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I was adrift at sea; on frequent journeys, and danger from rivers, danger from robbers, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brothers; in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure. And apart from other things, there is the daily pressure on me of my anxiety for all the churches."*