



THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE

KCPC This Week

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

Week Ending April 1st, 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 1st and 3rd Tuesday at 7pm, studying C.S. Lewis' *The Weight of Glory*. Contact Margaret Biggs at missmargaretbiggs@comcast.net for details. Daytime study meets 2nd and 4th Tuesdays from 12-2, studying *A Woman's Wisdom: How the Book of Proverbs Speaks to Everything*. Contact Joanie Leake at j2leake@gmail.com.

Men's and Boy's Breakfast: On Saturday, April 22nd at 8:30am, join us as we share in food, fellowship, and a study of J. C. Ryle's "Thoughts for Young Men."

Deacon's Offering: An offering for the Deacon's Fund will be taken this Lord's Day, April 2.

New Members: Praise God for Kathryn and Wayne Curles' professions of faith! They will be received as communicant members this Sunday, April 2nd.

Young Adult Fellowship: Food and fellowship for the young (and young at heart!) this Sunday at 1 p.m. at the Weitz home in Round Hill (20 Walraven Way). Please let Kathy Weitz know you are coming and if you need a ride: weitz.kathy@gmail.com.

Prayer Meeting this Sunday: We have the privilege of gathering for prayer and fellowship this Lord's Day, April 2 at 6pm; come early at 5pm for Q&A with Pastor Biggs.

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

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, see mcheyne.info for a bible reading plan and readscripture.org for overviews of sections in the Bible.

Catechism Memorization: Your pastor and elders encourage everyone to memorize and/or review the Shorter Catechism. Enjoy Pastor Biggs' ongoing commentary in the Shepherd's Voice and online: <http://www.ketocin.org/resources/westminster-shorter-catechism-study>

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.

*"I will sing to the LORD, for He has triumphed gloriously...
The LORD is my strength and my song, and He has become my salvation;
this is my God, and I will praise Him, my father's God, and I will exalt Him."*

-Exodus 15:2

From Your Pastor
“Seasons Under Heaven”

*“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:
a time to be born, and a time to die...” (Eccl. 3:1-2a)*

There are two seasons that we have absolutely no control over: birth and death. That we are born and that we die are two experiential realities. Birth is a joyous season: we laugh, we celebrate. Death is often a very sad season: there is confusion, mourning, separation, loneliness, and fear. Why is there death? Though it is a “normal” season under the heavens, it is far from normal; it is quite unnatural. We must never say death is just “part of life”. Not true! God is life. He created us for life. Death doesn’t “fit” our design, because we were made for life with God. Then you ask: “Why do we die?” “Why do I fear death so much and want to avoid thinking about it?”

The Bible teaches that all men and women (1) possess eternity in our hearts (Ecc. 3:11-14), (2) were created upright and to be like God (Ecc. 7:29) and (3) are mad in our present state (Ecc. 9:3). How can all three things be true of mankind? Well, think of these three things in your own experience. You long for things to be right, just, and fair; for new beginnings, new hope, new starts. We are not satisfied here in this world. As Aurelius Augustine said, “Our hearts are restless until they find their rest in God.” We long for a new and better world! Eternity is in our hearts, yet we do not find it here. No matter how hard we try, we are simply “not there yet”. We were created to live upright but something has gone wrong. You can’t free yourself from doing things you don’t want to do. Over and over, you keep bringing heartache and sadness into your life and the lives of others. We are walking contradictions: we know that we are not what we should be (“upright”), and we continue making the same mistakes, year after year (this is “madness”).

Let us admit it. We know what to do (because it is written on our hearts), yet we do not do it (Rom. 2:14-16). Jesus said that those who live like this are slaves and only He can set us free: “If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed!” (John 8:36). Christ has come down to live “under heaven” in our nature, to experience mourning and dancing; to experience both birth and death...and through His atoning, substitutionary death, to make us right with God. He has come to make us upright again before Him, to cure us of self-centered madness, so that we will realize our mission in life to glorify God and enjoy Him forever, and to live for all eternity in a new and better world. The Gospel-good news of Jesus Christ, and the reason why we can mourn with hope, and laugh while we weep at a funeral of a loved one is because Christ, through His death and resurrection, has turned death into a doorway to eternal life—a perfect season that will never end. Jesus came to live a perfect life of obedience for all who believe; we get His perfect record of righteousness. Jesus came to die as a curse for sin in place of all who believe; our sins are imputed to Him.

What must you do to be saved from this madness? “For as by man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead” (1 Cor. 15:21). “He who knew no sin became sin for us, so that we might be the righteousness of God in Christ” (2 Cor. 5:21). Believe upon the Lord Jesus Christ who sympathizes with sinners. In this season of your life, salvation could come through faith in Jesus Christ. Then, laugh and dance even while you mourn, because now you mourn with hope that only God can give. Live knowing eternity is yours in Christ Jesus, and that the madness in you is being cured, and you are forgiven of all your sins. Are you being made upright again? Are you right with God? Do you know He loves you? Receive the Lord Jesus Christ!

“We have not the Holy Spirit immediately from God, but we have Him as sanctifying Christ first [not from sin, but consecrating him as man to the Father’s will], and then us, and whatsoever the Holy Spirit does in us, He does the same in Christ first, and He does it in us, because of Christ.”

-Richard Sibbes

THIS LORD'S DAY

Sermon

“The Preeminent Jesus Christ”

- Pastor Charles R. Biggs

Scripture Lesson: John 1:1-4, 14; Hebrews 1:1-13

Scripture Text: Colossians 1:15-23

Theme of Sermon/Worship: *Jesus Christ is the Preeminent One of all creation and redemption, the image of God with the fullness of God for the reconciliation and remaking of sinners in His likeness.*

Hymns

Rejoice, The Lord Is King, 310

O Splendor Of God's Glory Bright, 58

At The Lamb's High Feast We Sing, 420

Questions

- Read Col. 1:15-23. Jesus is the “image of God” (Col. 1:15). How does this help you to better understand Genesis 1:26-28 and the creation of man? How might this help you to understand how devastatingly far mankind has fallen from God into sin?
- Does “Firstborn of creation” (1:15b) mean “first-created” as Arians teach?
- Does anything exist, material or immaterial, that was not created by Jesus Christ?
- What is the ultimate purpose for creation and history? How does the church hold a special place in the heart of God and history?
- Where do believers find all the fullness of God that they we need? (cf. Eph. 3:17-19).

*“Your way was through the sea, your path through the great waters;
yet your footprints were unseen.”*

-Psalm 77:19