



THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE

KCPC This Week

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

Week Ending May 20th, 2017

And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets He explained to them what was said in

all of Scripture

concerning Himself.



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: The daytime study meets 2nd & 4th Tuesdays 12:30-2:30pm, studying the book of Ruth with Paul Miller's interactive study "A Loving Life". Contact Joanie Leake at j2leake@gmail.com for details. The evening study meets 1st & 3rd Tuesdays 7-9pm (taking a break in June & July). A study of biblical friendship with Ed Welch's "Side by Side" will begin in August. For more information, contact Margaret Biggs at missmargaretbiggs@comcast.net.

Locust Street Film Night: Join us Friday, May 19th at 6pm for dinner and 7pm for a viewing and discussion of *"The Red Turtle"* ('La Tortue Rouge', 2016).

May Home Fellowship: The monthly fellowship meal will be hosted this Sunday afternoon by the Turner family at their home in Hamilton, VA. Please bring your lawn chairs so that we can enjoy the beautiful weather together!

Pastor Biggs' Sabbatical: From May 29th to July 23rd Pastor Biggs will be completing his seminary degree and being refreshed by God's grace and will be unavailable during this time. Please seek an elder's help if it is needed.

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!

Boardwalk Chapel Evangelism Trip: Begin praying and preparing now for July 29-Aug. 5. Pastors Flora, Brooking, Biggs and Proctor are taking a group this year. Be on the lookout for an email from Pastor Flora with details on the preparatory meetings.

"God has stooped so low, He has condescended to enter into terms of covenant with us. Now, the foundation of this covenant is, that God will be our God, and give us grace and glory, and all good in Christ, the mediator of a new covenant. Christ is the foundation of the covenant, the mediator of the covenant, a friend to both: to God as God, to man as man, God and man in Himself and by office. His office to procure love and agreement between God and man."

-Richard Sibbes

From Your Pastor

“The Spirituality of Jonathan Edwards (Part 1)”

Rev. Charles R. Biggs

Our godly forefather, Jonathan Edwards, wrote his classic *The Religious Affections* to both define and defend genuine revival and the true, Holy-Spiritual wrought spirituality that should flow from it. What are the characteristics of a true and genuine spirituality that Edwards listed that must be present in true conversion, and that believers can expect in the Christian life? I have listed them below, adding scripture references, and my own pastoral comments. Edwards' 12 points on genuine spirituality can be helpful in urging us on to high aspirations in our spirituality, as well as to also help us to exam ourselves to reach assurance in our faith (cf. 2 Peter 1:3-11; 2 Cor. 13:5). Let me encourage you to take each of these before the Throne of Grace, and be honest with Christ from your heart. God desires and delights in “truth in the inward being. Whatever need we have, He provides a Mediator for us full of grace (Psa. 51:6; cf. John 1:14b; Heb. 4:16).

1. **The Indwelling of the Spirit:** “Be filled with the Spirit”. All genuine spirituality or revival (personally or corporately in a congregation) begins with God; He alone is sovereign and grants the Spirit according to His good pleasure (Luke 11:13; John 6:37, 44; Acts 16:14b). The faith that the Spirit gives the elect in regeneration is “an ardent (enthusiastic!) thing,” says Edwards (Eph. 2:8-10). The greatest gift Jesus gives to believers is His Holy Spirit. Edwards wrote that “the sum of the blessings that Christ bought by what He did and suffered in the work of redemption” are found in the gift of the Spirit. Father, grant that I truly know you through Jesus Christ, and give me your Holy Spirit as you have promised (John 14:21, 23; 16:13-14; Acts 2:33-36).
2. **True Love for God:** “Do you love me?” Genuine spirituality loves God more for who He is (His character), and not merely for what He has done for us in Christ (His redemption). Both are important, but we love God ultimately because He is love and beautiful in Himself, lest He merely become a “means to an end” (cf. John 6:26-29). We shouldn't love Him merely for saving us, but because He is great and greatly to be praised! We should grow in our love for His holiness, His steadfast, covenant love, His perfections, His Aseity (or glorious self-existence!)—all of the glorious attributes that reveal our glorious God! (Rom. 11:33-36). Father, grant me a holy vision of your beauty and holiness through the Spirit as Isaiah experienced (cf. Isa. 6:1-9).
3. **A Spiritual Sight:** “Open my eyes...” Genuine spirituality brings a new way of perceiving reality. A love for holiness, for the things of God. We sense the glory and beauty of God more deeply, and His love for us in Christ (cf. Eph. 1:17-18; 3:17-19). We can “taste and see” that the LORD is good (Psa. 34:8). Father, illuminate my eyes and give me the sight to see your beauty and the beauty of holiness and righteousness.
4. **An Enlightened Mind:** “Whatever things are true...” Genuine spirituality bring a love for the truth as God reveals Himself in creation, conscience, and especially in Holy Scripture (John 17:17-19; Rom. 1:19ff; 2:14-16; Phil. 4:8). Father, my God, and king, grant me a deeper love for your truth—especially Biblical-Theological truth.
5. **Deep-Seated Conviction:** “Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of godliness...” Genuine spiritual brings not merely a love for truth, but a deep conviction, zeal, and boldness to confess it, to obey it, to teach it (Acts 4:29, 31; 5:29; 28:31; 1 Thess. 1:5; Heb. 11:1; Matt. 16:17; John 6:68-69).

“Christ is the foundation of the covenant of grace, by His humiliation and by His exaltation, whereof the resurrection was the first degree. Now, in this as in other covenants, there is the party promising, making the covenant, and the parties that answer the covenant. God promises everlasting forgiveness of sins, through the death of Christ, the mediator. We answer by faith, that we rely upon God's mercy in Christ... We lay hold on Christ that does save us.”

-Richard Sibbes

THIS LORD'S DAY

Sermon

“Shadows and the True Substance”

- Pastor Charles Biggs

Scripture Lesson: Colossians 2:8-10; Galatians 3:23-26, 4:1-11

Scripture Text: Colossians 2:16-23

Theme of Sermon: *In God's unfolding mystery of progressive revelation, He is gracious to reveal shadows and types of Christ before His coming to a church under age. But in the fulness of the times, now that Christ the True Substance has come, these shadows and types have now become a form of worldliness, because now it is Christ Himself that must be embraced in all His fullness, wisdom, power, and grace.*

Hymns

All Glory, Laud, and Honor, 235

I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art, 168

The Church's One Foundation, 347

Questions

- Children: Read Colossians 2:16-23. Walk in the sunshine with your sibling. Look for your shadows. Try to embrace one another's shadows.
- What might be the heart of this passage? In your estimation, what is the main truth the Apostle Paul is seeking to get across to the Colossian Christians?
- Read WCF, chapters 7.5-6 and 19.3, 19.5 (and scripture references). What is the ceremonial law? What is its relationship to the moral law? Has any part of the moral law passed away with the coming of Christ?
- Read Colossians 2:4, 8, 16, 18. What kinds of temptations are the Colossian Christians experiencing from the false teachers? How would you describe the false teachers and the teaching just from these four verses?
- What are the “elemental spirits” or “elementary principles” (see Col. 2:8, 20)? Even if you're having a hard time defining exactly what these are, would you consider them dangerous to sanctification?
- What are the dangers of “self-made religion”? Can it save and sanctify believers (Col. 2:23)?

“I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened...”

-Ephesians 1:16-18a