

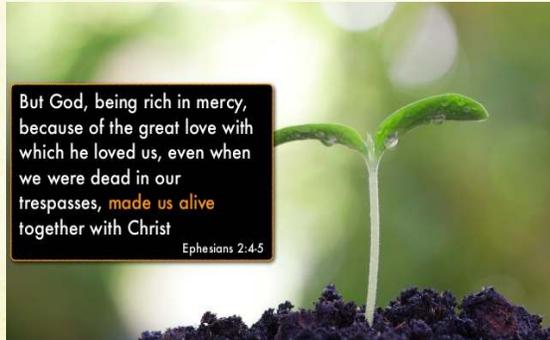


THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE

KCPC This Week

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

Week Ending May 27th, 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: 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.

Evening Worship Service: We will continue our series in the Gospel of John on May 28th at 6pm, followed by a fellowship supper.

Praise God for growing His church! Jakob Ramsay Rolf and Anna Theresa Deaun Rolf met with the Session desiring to become communicant members. We are excited and thankful to God to welcome them to the full benefits of membership in Christ's Church this Sunday, May 28th, during morning worship.

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.

Suggestions for Summer Reading: If you have time to read on how KCPC (that's you!) might be more faithful in our counter-cultural, Gospel witness before the world, Pastor Biggs suggests James Davidson Hunter's '*To Change the World: The Irony, Tragedy, and Possibility of Christianity in the Late Modern World*', and Rod Dreher's '*The Benedict Option: A Strategy for Christians in a Post-Christian Nation*'. If you can read both books, Pastor Biggs recommends Hunter first. Much of what these two authors helpfully encourage is what we have been seeking to live out as a congregation now for almost 15 years. Not everything in the books is recommended; read discerningly, taking time to digest, pray, and meditate on gospel truth.

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!

*"They go from strength to strength; each one appears before God in Zion....
No good thing does He withhold from those who walk uprightly."*

-Psalm 84:7, 11

From Your Pastor
“The Spirituality of Jonathan Edwards (Part 2)”
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 examine 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).

6. Evangelical Humility: “Humble yourselves before God...” Genuine spirituality produces a deep humility. Our greatest issue, Edwards wrote, is that we struggle with pride. Spiritual pride is the major reason for serious blockage of the Spirit's working in the Christian life (James 4:6; 1 Peter 5:6; Rom. 12:3). Edwards wrote, “Remember that pride is the worst viper that is in the heart, the greatest disturber of the soul's peace and sweet communion with Christ.” A truly spiritual person is aware of deep self-righteousness within them, and sees its own poverty and need for the grace of God (Rom. 7:19-21; Rev. 3:17). Father, grant me the humility of the Lord Jesus Christ (Phil. 1:21; 2:6-8). Father, grant me humility as I walk before you; like the Lord Jesus, grant me a willingness to die to self, and contentedness to be overlooked and forgotten.

7. Roots in True Conversion: “But God, rich in mercy...made us alive in Christ...” Genuine spirituality doesn't necessarily know the exact date of one's conversion, but knows that it has taken place, and can determine at least the time period in which they were born again and made alive in Christ (Eph. 2:1-5; John 3:3-8). We should ask: “Has true conversion taken place in my life?” Sin's dominion has been broken in conversion, and there are roots of this in the past, and present fruits to some degree (Rom. 6:11-18; 8:9-11). Father, let me have assurance that my present state before you is rooted in true conversion.

8. Christ-like Gentleness: “...For I am gentle and lowly in heart...” Genuine spirituality possesses increasingly the “lamblike, dovelike spirit and temper of Jesus Christ” (cf. Isa. 40:11; 42:3; Matt. 11:29; 2 Tim. 2:19-25; James 3:17). Edwards wrote, “Christian boldness and zeal are indeed a flame, but a sweet one.” Father, grant me the gentleness of Jesus, while being bold and zealous for the truth.

9. A Tender Heart: “How can I do this...and sin against God?!” Genuine spirituality has a tender heart towards God. Edwards describes this tenderness before God “like a burnt child that dreads the fire.” Increasingly, we fear hell less, and fear sin more. Increasingly, we fear with a deep dread offending God our Father who has shown such kindness to us. We fear less the consequences of sin (though we hate these, too!), and more the offense sin brings to God (Gen. 39:9b; Matt. 26:41; 1 Pet. 3:8). Sin is a destroyer—and the Evil One seeks to use it to kill and destroy our lives, and our communion with God (John 10:10; 1 Pet. 5:8). Father, grant me a tender heart like you have. Let me hate sin as you hate sin. Let me never offend you.

*“For thus said the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel, “In returning and rest
you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength.”*

-Isaiah 30:15

THIS LORD'S DAY

Sermon

“Death in Christ, Resurrection in Christ”

- Pastor Charles Biggs

Scripture Lesson: Romans 6:1-5, 15-23; 8:9-14

Scripture Text: Colossians 3:1-11

Theme of Sermon: *Because we have died with Christ we must mortify or put to death the sinful flesh that remains within us. Because we have been raised with Christ we are to live unto Him as those truly resurrected to a new life. We are to put off the old, and put on the new!*

Hymns

My Faith Looks Up to Thee, 528

Baptized into Your Name Most Holy, 415

Take My Life, and Let It Be, 585

Questions

- Children: Read Col. 3:1-11. Have you died with Christ? How do you know? If you have died with Christ, have you been raised with Him? What is the pattern of the life that is united with Christ in His death and resurrection (Hint: 3:5-10).
- How specifically are our lives “hidden with Christ in God” (3:3)? What is another Scripture that teaches something similar?
- Mortification is the old word for “putting to death” (3:5a). Do you mortify sin? Our forefather John Owen said “If you don’t be killing sin, it be killing you.” (See also Rom. 8:5-8).
- Do you sometimes crave or desire something too much? What is that called? (Hint: 3:5, end of verse). Is your life-pattern seeking things that are above, or seeking things below? Do you need to repent?
- Honestly, before God, answer this question carefully and prayerfully: Are you satisfied spiritually (content with where you are spiritually), and dissatisfied materially (with earthly desires/possessions); or dissatisfied spiritually (desire more...), and satisfied materially (with earthly desires/possessions)?

“Christ and a dungeon, Christ and a cross, is infinitely sweeter than a crown without Christ.”

-John Owen