

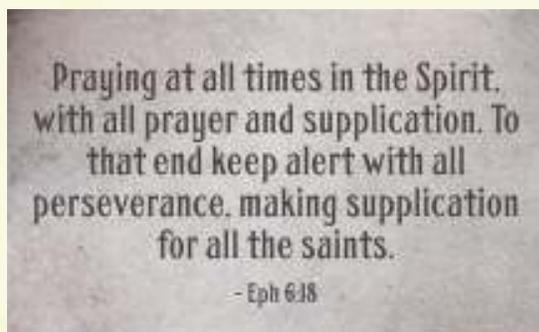


THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE

KCPC This Week

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

Week Ending August 19, 2017



Thank you, from Pastor Charles, Miss Margaret, Elisabeth, and Esther: We were baptized in deep Christian love when we returned from sabbatical. Thank you for the cards, gifts, and sweet encouragements from all of you. We are grateful to grow and serve Christ together with you!

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!

Home Fellowship: Join us for fellowship after worship this Sunday at the Biggs' home in Round Hill. Bring lawn chairs and summer picnic food!

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, enjoying a study of biblical friendship with Ed Welch's *Side by Side*. For more information, contact Margaret Biggs at missmargaretbiggs@comcast.net.

No Sunday School during August.

Locust Street Film Night: This Friday at 7pm, come enjoy a viewing and discussion of John Frankenheimer's 1964 film "The Train," guest hosted by Bill Domanski! Dinner at 6pm.

Coming Soon Fall 2017:

***Men's and Boy's Breakfast** September 9th, studying *'The Puritan Option'* (seeking maturity in Christ as a counter-cultural-kingdom people). Based on a critical appreciation and evaluation of Hunter's *'To Change the World'* and Dreher's *'The Benedict Option'*.

***Sermon Series on the Book of Samuel.** Pray for our reception of the truths of this series.

***Ashburn Saints Bible Study** starting up again weekly at Winger House; details forthcoming.

***Calvin's 'Institutes of Christian Religion'** Join us this school year, starting September 8, at the church building at 7:30am on Fridays as Pastor Biggs leads a study on Calvin's most important book. Talk to Kathy Weitz or sign up here: <http://providenceprep.net/adjunct-theology-course-2017-2018.html>

Suggestions for Summer Reading: 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'* Not everything in the books is recommended; read discerningly, taking time to digest, pray, and meditate on gospel truth.

Congregational Memory Verses 2017:

“God is not man, that He should lie, or a son of man, that He should change his mind. Has He said, and will He not do it? Or has He spoken, and will He not fulfill it?”
-Numbers 23:19

“Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.”
-John 14:13-14.
Meditate on these promises of God for His people!

“True piety (godliness) consists in a sincere feeling which loves God as Father as much as it fears and reverences Him as Lord, embraces His righteousness, and dreads offending Him worse than death.”

-John Calvin

From Your Pastor
**“John Calvin’s Pilgrim Life and Pastoral Teachings:
Calvin the Young Scholar and His ‘Sudden Conversion’”**
Charles R. Biggs

Theodore Beza (1519-1605), Calvin’s successor as pastor in Geneva, wrote one of the first biographies of his ministerial mentor after his death. He wrote of Calvin: “Having been a spectator of his conduct for sixteen years...I can now declare, that in him all men may see a most beautiful example of the Christian character, an example which it is as easy to slander as it is difficult to imitate.” On Calvin’s deathbed in 1564, Calvin would transparently and honestly confess to some of the church leaders of Geneva: “I have had many infirmities which you have been obliged to bear with, and what is more, all I have done has been worth nothing...I have willed what is good, my vices have always displeased me, and the root of the fear of God has been in my heart; and you may say that the disposition was good; and I pray you, that the evil be forgiven me, and if there was any good, that you conform yourselves to it and make it an example.”

These are the dying words of a repentant sinner saved by God’s good grace who imperfectly, but faithfully and sincerely, fulfilled God’s call upon his life as pastor and leader. What a humble example he leaves for all of God’s servants, to recognize the good that one has done in sincerity and fear of the Lord, but at the same time to be fully aware of the need of a Savior until we see Him face to face! (1 Jo. 3:1-3). Who, indeed, is sufficient for these things?! Apart from Christ we can do nothing; in Him, we can do all things! (John 15:1-5; 2 Cor. 2:16b; Phil. 4:13).

John Calvin was born a man of the church, a covenant child reared in the medieval Roman Catholic church in France. He was a brilliant young scholar known for his “quick intelligence and excellent memory” who by God’s grace and good providence was granted an ideal education. He studied and excelled in the humanities, law, philosophy, and theology at the most prestigious universities in France—Orleans, Bourges, and Paris—from 1528 to 1533. Calvin had the opportunity to profit intellectually from some of the most notable professors in Europe at that time. He studied first for the priesthood, and then dutifully studied law at his father’s direction.

Though young Calvin was full of knowledge, he didn’t possess what was most important—true knowledge of God and of himself revealed through the Holy Scriptures by the Holy Spirit in regeneration—until around 1533, when, in his early twenties, he was suddenly converted to the Lordship of Jesus Christ, and to the truths of biblical Christianity. Calvin’s knowledge of the gospel and the sovereignty of God in salvation was not merely theological: he had experienced God’s wonderful, powerful saving grace in Christ. Calvin said his conversion from Roman Catholicism to the gospel of the spreading Reformation was because “God himself produced the change.” As Calvin understood the gospel of grace in Christ for the first time in his life, he was driven to a deeper sense of his sin and the mercies of God found in Jesus Christ. He said: “Only one haven of salvation is left open for our souls, and that is the mercy of God in Christ. We are saved by grace—not by our merits, not by our works.”

Within a year after his conversion, though he desired quiet study, by God’s sovereign will, Calvin was thrust into the theological spotlight, and became the most influential pastor, teacher and theologian of the Reformation. God used pastor William (Guillaume) Farel (1489-1565), an important early Reformer in Geneva, as a means to direct Calvin toward this calling. Though God used many men like Farel in Geneva and Luther (twenty-five years Calvin’s senior) in Germany, Calvin was exceptionally and uniquely gifted by God to be a profoundly biblical theologian and organizer, God’s architect of the Reformation, influencing the church in Geneva, Europe, and beyond.

A significant event for Calvin occurred in 1533, when his friend Nicolas Cop, newly-elected rector of the University of Paris, delivered a sermon penned by Calvin on All Saints Day, November 1st. In the sermon on Matthew 5:3, “Blessed are the poor in spirit,” Calvin wrote of Roman Catholic Scholastics: “They teach nothing of faith, nothing of the love of God, nothing of the remission of sins, nothing of grace, nothing of justification; or if they do so, they pervert and undermine it all by their laws and sophistries. I beg you, who are present, not to tolerate any longer these heresies and abuses.” Having declared his Reformed convictions, Calvin fled persecution in his hometown and became a renowned itinerant evangelist of the biblical gospel of Christ, until in 1536 he was elected pastor and teacher of theology at Geneva. There he began the first edition of a handbook on Christianity to defend the true faith and help new converts interpret Scripture, simply entitled *The Institutes in the Christian Religion*.

“I offer my heart, promptly and sincerely.”
-John Calvin

THIS LORD'S DAY

Sermon

“Unsung Heroes”

-Pastor Charles R. Biggs

Scripture Lesson: Romans 15:30-16:16

Scripture Text: Colossians 4:2-18

Theme of Sermon:

The Book of Colossians concludes with the Apostle Paul writing to many “unsung heroes” in the Church of Christ who were faithful to the end. All Christian lives matter to God.

Hymns

Open Now Thy Gates Of Beauty, 376

For All The Saints, 358

Fountain Of Never Ceasing Grace, 519

Questions for Meditation/Reflection

- *Children: Read Romans 15:30-16:16 and Colossians 4:2-18. Usually final words in letters are most important; what are some of the important final words of the Apostle Paul to both the Roman and the Colossian churches? What might this teach you?*
- *List three of the people you recognize from other places in the New Testament in Romans 15:30-16:16 and Colossians 4:2-18. List a few who you have not heard about before.*
- *In Colossians 4:2-18, list the different ways the Apostle Paul describes the saints. What does this teach you about God's people?*
- *What can we learn about unity and gifts in the Body of Christ from these passages in Romans and Colossians?*
- *As a congregation, let us meditate upon, memorize, and live out Colossians 4:2-4.*

“Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison—that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak.”

-Col. 4:2-4