



THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE

KCPC This Week

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

Week Ending August 26th, 2017



Praise God for the work of the Boardwalk Chapel team!

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!

Evening Worship: Join us this Sunday, August 27th, at 6pm as we continue our sermon series on Gospel of John and enjoy a fellowship meal.

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.

Men's and Boy's Breakfast: On September 9th, at 8:30am, we will begin 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*.

Family Meeting: This Sunday at 9:30 we will have an informal time to meet and discuss questions, concerns, and ideas as a congregation. In preparation, please take the survey at <https://kwiksurveys.com/s/4z9XYgoE>.

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>

Sermon Series on 1&2 Samuel: Pray for our reception of the truths of this new series, starting next Sunday.

Ashburn Saints Bible Study: A weekly study will be resuming at Winger House; details forthcoming.

Reformation Day Service: Mark your calendars for our 500th anniversary Reformation Day service with sister congregations at Bethel OPC in Leesburg on October 29th; pastors Biggs, Hammond, Proctor, and VanDelden will preach on "The Attributes of the Church: One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic."

Winter/Spring 2018 Sunday School: Our beloved deacons teach a series on the nature of the Diaconate and how our congregation can show Christ-like compassion in our service and be generous in our stewardship of God's good gifts in our congregation and community. Pastor Biggs will teach a class on the Person and Work of the Holy Spirit.

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!

"The path of wisdom requires one to tread between two evils: ignorance and excessive curiosity."

-John Calvin

From Your Pastor
**“John Calvin’s Pilgrim Life and Pastoral Teachings:
Calvin’s *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, Part 1”**
Charles R. Biggs

The risen and ascended Christ graciously gifted and called John Calvin as a teacher to benefit His people. Calvin wrote: “God has filled my mind with zeal to spread his Kingdom and to further the public good and since I undertook the office of teacher in the church, I have had no other purpose than to benefit the church by maintaining the pure doctrine of godliness.” At age twenty-six, Calvin faithfully penned a pastoral-theological classic and publishing sensation: *The Institutes of the Christian Religion, Embracing Almost the Whole Sum of Piety & Whatever is Necessary to Know of the Doctrine of Salvation: A work Most Worthy to Be Read by All Persons Zealous for Piety.*

The term “institutes,” frequently used in sixteenth-century titles, means “principles” or “instructions.” Calvin’s *Institutes* is a manual to teach believers what to believe concerning God and what duty God requires of man. Note Calvin’s twofold intention: to embrace the whole sum of piety (godly doctrine), and to be read by all persons zealous for piety (godly living). For John Calvin, true and biblical piety was a proper attitude toward God and devoted obedience to Him from the heart, lived out from one’s knowledge of God’s good character, in light of His saving mercies in Christ. Piety, or godliness for Calvin, was the essence of true biblical Christianity.

Throughout the *Institutes*, the fresh and fragrant wind of biblical Christianity blows with the gospel aroma of Christ. This fragrance is particularly heightened for one familiar with Aquinas’s work *Summa Theologicae*, the primary theological textbook of the Middle Ages. Aquinas begins his book with the argument for God’s existence, while Calvin begins his book with the assumption of God’s existence, the true and living Triune God who has spoken finally and authoritatively and clearly in Holy Scripture. The *Institutes* begins with Scripture as its sole foundation, purposefully breaking with the speculative theology of the medieval Scholastics in both form and content. Reason, experience, and biblical tradition are important, but the principles of Christianity rest on Scripture alone.

Reformers received the *Institutes* as the clearest, most biblical exposition and defense of the Christian faith since the time of the apostles. In contrast, the Roman Catholic Church, threatened by its doctrinal and biblical substance, called it the “Koran and Talmud of heresy.” Church historian Philip Schaff wrote that the *Institutes* was “more fiercely and persistently persecuted than any book of the sixteenth century.” And what did Calvin teach that was so fiercely opposed, so radical and revolutionary to medieval Roman Catholic Theology? Simply that God’s authoritative revelation for life and godliness is found in Holy Scripture alone, and that this glorious Gospel message is salvation by grace alone in Christ alone through faith alone, though that faith is not alone—it is a working faith!

Calvin’s system of doctrine is supported ingeniously by Scripture, and agrees with the biblically faithful creeds and councils of the Church, affirming the theology and Christology of Nicea, Constantinople, and Chalcedon. Additionally, Calvin’s teaching draws from church fathers Irenaeus, John Chrysostom, Gregory of Nyssa, and Gregory of Nazianzus, and from the work of Bernard of Clairvaux. Calvin continued Augustine’s biblical understanding of anthropology and soteriology and skillfully corrected the medieval Church’s ecclesiology and sacramentology.

Calvin and the Reformed Protestants of the sixteenth century were not sectarians separating from the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church of Christ as criticized by Rome, but were seeking to be faithful to her through submission to Holy Scripture. Calvin wrote to Francis I of France in his preface to the *Institutes*, remarking that while the reformers did not have the outward unity of the Roman Catholics, they were unified in their teaching of Scripture. Calvin respectfully challenged Francis I by explaining that many could not see the true church in the reformers’ teaching because Medieval Roman Catholic error had veiled the eyes of man with unbiblical and sinful traditions. Calvin demonstrated in his *Institutes* the singular foundation of scripture for life and godliness and continuity with the church fathers’ unified, historical witness to the essentials of the Christian faith. We should desire today to be faithful apostolic-reformed-catholic Christians in a similar way.

The theological work of the *Institutes* was Calvin’s primary focus for the remainder of his life. He often expanded and revised it as he learned more biblical truth and theology, but never took from it. His thesis remained the same: “All the wisdom we possess, that is to say true and sound wisdom, consists in two parts: knowledge of God and ourselves.” Meditate and pray concerning this blessed and deeply wise statement of God’s revelation.

**“I cannot think of the One [God] without quickly being encircled by the splendor
of the Three [Persons of the Godhead]; nor can I discern the Three
without being immediately carried back to the One.”**

-Gregory of Nazianzus

THIS LORD'S DAY

Sermon

“Useful”

-Pastor Charles R. Biggs

Scripture Lesson: Psalm 107:10-14; John 8:31-36; Colossians 3:22-24

Scripture Text: Philemon

Theme of Sermon:

God graciously grants sinners in Christ freedom from slavery to sin's dominion, and a liberty to become useful to Him in loving service.

Hymns

Marvelous Grace of Our Loving Lord, 465

Father, I Know That All My Life, 559

Now I Belong to Jesus, 709

Questions for Meditation/Reflection

- *Children: Read Philemon. What is the Apostle Paul's tone in speaking to Philemon?*
- *What is the Apostle Paul asking Philemon to do? Why is this important to him?*
- *List three specific ways the Gospel and its fruits are revealed in this short letter.*
- *Is there a particular verse that you might want to memorize?*

“Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD. He is like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit!”

-Jeremiah 17:7-8