



# THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE

## KCPC This Week

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

*Week Ending August 5, 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!

**Sunday Evening:** Join us at 6pm for a sweet time of singing and praying, followed by a fellowship dinner.

**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](mailto: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](mailto:missmargaretbiggs@comcast.net).

### **Coming Soon Fall 2017:**

\***Men's and Boy's Breakfast** in September, beginning study on *The Puritan Option* (seeking maturity in Christ as a counter-cultural-kingdom people). Study is based on a critical appreciation and evaluation of both James Davison Hunter's *To Change the World* and Dreher's *The Benedict Option*.

\***Sermon Series on 'Book of Samuel'** beginning. 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 each Friday morning as Pastor Biggs guides us through a study on Calvin's most important book. Sign up here: <http://providenceprep.net/adjunct-theology-course-2017-2018.html> or talk to Kathy Weitz.

**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 us as His people!

*Gentleness is having the tone and the touch of Jesus Christ.*

## *From Your Pastor* **Gentleness ~ Part II**

*Charles R. Biggs*

Gentleness is a fruit of the spirit. The Spirit of God is pleased to rule over our hearts in such a way that our tongues may possess a gentle tone and our hands and bodies may be used as instruments of kindness with a gentle touch.

When we were young we read in our fairy stories about a gentle giant. As we got older and experienced more of the real world we were surprised to find that he's not so gentle. **But Jesus is.** What was attractive about the gentle giant was that he was very strong, but in his strength, he treated others kindly. He was powerful, yet kind. Isn't this story of the gentle giant really a story about our longings for one like Jesus Christ? Gentleness, like meekness, is strength that is under control and used in tone and touch to be kind and gracious to others.

One of my teachers used to speak of "*gentle-ing himself*" when he saw that his heart was upset or impassioned by sin or an aggravation of others. This teacher understood that lack of gentleness was a heart problem. It showed a lack of grace and a need for Christ. At times, I find myself thinking of this and seeking to gentle myself in places where there's potential controversy or conflict, or in crowded places, or in long lines, or in times when I'm running late and there's traffic, and when I perceive folks are being inconsiderate of my time. These are times to think about "*gentle-ing oneself*" methinks. By God's grace...

Sadly, in the church, we can forget to gentle ourselves. Sometimes when we argue (discuss?) theologically, we can forget gentleness. We can so desire that the truth be told, that we forget tone and touch in telling that truth. We forget to "*speak the truth in love*" even to one another (Eph. 4:15)! Yet gentleness is one of the most important characteristics that should describe us in our engagement with one another, especially when we disagree. The Bible teaches us:

***"The servant of the Lord must not be quarrelsome, but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil. Correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth..." (2 Tim. 2:24-25).***

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We see doctrinal positions and personal opinions publicly posted on Facebook and other social media. But what is revealed is often more than truth or a mere opinion. What we see are sinful dispositions and hearts that are in desperate need of *Christ-like gentleness*. Should we wonder by this kind of online behavior why many distance themselves from us and will not come to hear our Gospel?

Beloved, let us pray for kindness, the ability to teach or persuade others patiently and to correct *with gentleness*. For every public display of lack of gentleness that is tweeted and posted on social media, as Christians, let there also be a transparently honest and humble public display of repentance tweeted or posted.

We should remember that like a lot of things in this life, gentleness is "caught" not "taught". We can have an understanding of what gentleness is, and have an ability to define it, and even be dogmatic about what its definition is :-)) yet we learn it best from seeing it in others. We learn it by imitation. We learn it from being in communion with Christ and learning to be like Him. The glory that will be reflected on us and in us as we are transformed by Christ's Spirit is the temperament of gentleness toward others (2 Cor. 3:18). As King David, we can possess hands trained for war, living as warriors for Christ in the present cultural battle, and yet gentleness is what will make us *great* (Psalm 18:34-35). Gentleness is bold because it is God-like. If we truly want greatness, it must come through godly gentleness.

But gentleness cannot be learned while being rushed and in a hurry all the time. Gentleness cannot be learned in being concerned only about one's self. Gentleness cannot be learned while seeking to exert one's opinions without listening, or in seeking to be first (3 John 9). Gentleness cannot be learned as long as one would seek to be right all the time.

***Need gentleness?*** Embrace Christ, and let him gentle on you through His grace. Then by His Spirit, gentle yourself and go and be influential and effective in your gifts and calling in this world. Let's cultivate a culture of gentleness in our Christian congregations, in our larger community, and in our posts on social media.

***Let us be a gentle-ing, counter-cultural influence,  
by speaking the Gospel and living it out gently.***

# THIS LORD'S DAY

## Sermon

### *Word, Worship, and Work*

-Pastor Charles R. Biggs

Scripture Lesson: Ephesians 5:18-33

Scripture Text: Colossians 3:14-4:1

#### Theme of Sermon:

*True spirituality is lived out by God's counter-cultural-kingdom people in loving submission to Christ, revealed in our word, worship, and work. This blessed love and grace of God is seen in the congregation, the family, and the workplace.*

## Hymns

Fountain Of Never Ceasing Grace #519

Whate'er My God Ordains Is Right #108

Let Thy Blood In Mercy Poured #429

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*Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.*

~ 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

*Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God.*

~2 Corinthians 7:1