



# THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE

## KCPC This Week

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

*Week Ending September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017*



**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!

**Young Adult Fellowship:** The young (and young at heart!) are invited to a fellowship lunch at the Weitzes' home in Round Hill following morning worship this Sunday. To RSVP or request a ride, email Kathy Weitz: [weitz.kathy@gmail.com](mailto:weitz.kathy@gmail.com)

**Prayer Meeting:** We have the privilege of gathering as a congregation at 6pm this Lord's Day for prayer and a fellowship meal. Come early at 5pm for a question-and-answer time with Pastor Biggs!

**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).

**Men's and Boy's Breakfast:** On September 9<sup>th</sup>, 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*.

**Sunday School resumes September 10<sup>th</sup>.**

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

**Locust Street Film Night:** On September 15<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm, enjoy a viewing and discussion of Alfred Hitchcock's atmospheric thriller "Rebecca" (1940); dinner at 6 pm.

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

**Reformation Day Service:** Mark your calendars for our 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary Reformation Day service with sister congregations at Bethel OPC in Leesburg on October 29<sup>th</sup>; 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 will teach on the nature of the Diaconate and how we can show Christ-like compassion through our service and 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.

*"Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity,  
and in whose spirit there is no deceit."*

**-Psalm 32:2**

*From Your Pastor*  
**“John Calvin’s Pilgrim Life and Pastoral Teachings:  
Calvin’s *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, Part 2”**  
*Charles R. Biggs*

Calvin addressed his *Institutes* to King Francis I of France to show that reformed believers made up the one true, holy, apostolic, catholic church and to appeal for their protection from severe and harsh persecution by French Roman Catholics. Calvin wrote in his preface to the king: “Observing that certain wicked men had stirred up such fury in your kingdom that no place remained for wholesome doctrine, I thought it worthwhile to use the present book both for the instruction of those I had originally meant to teach, and as a confession of faith for yourself, so that you might know what this teaching is which so inflames the rage of those who today, by fire and sword, are troubling your kingdom. For I am not at all ashamed to say that here I have included almost the full sum of that very teaching which they [Roman Catholics] believe should be punished by prison, exile, banishment and fire, and which they shout should be driven from both land and sea...It is thus with good reason, most illustrious King, that I ask you to acquaint yourself thoroughly with this case...”

Calvin, a trained lawyer, wrote his *Institutes* as an apologetic to defend suffering, persecuted Christians, but also as a theology of suffering. Calvin teaches Christians how to understand their suffering and persecution, and how to trust in God’s fatherly kindness and good providence. He encouraged believers to meditate upon God’s providence: “But anyone who has been taught by Christ’s lips that all the hairs of his head are numbered...will consider that all events are governed by God’s secret plan... [and] directed by God’s ever-present hand.”

Calvin advised believers to find spiritual comfort in knowing that the Lord ultimately willed their troubles and sorrows, and to be prepared for a hard life, knowing that their difficult times had been ordained by a loving Heavenly Father who uses them to make us holy, humble, honest and Christ-like. Rather than rail against God in response to temporal losses, hardships, and dangers, believers should remember God’s mercy and fatherly love and learn to live patiently as they are tested and trained, following the example of Christ.

Calvin knew that biblical teaching on the doctrine of providence shows believers that God is in control, and, confident in this knowledge, fear and anxiety can give way to comfort, assurance, and courage in the face of danger and especially in times of persecution. Calvin’s *Institutes* armed reformed believers with the sword of biblical truth so that they could live their lives full of joy in fellowship with their Savior, even in treacherous persecution.

And the persecution in France was long and treacherous during Calvin’s time. Studying theology and confessing one’s faith was a serious matter, as it should always be. As late moderns, we can take for granted what we believe and know (if we are interested in it at all!). We often study theology just to acquire knowledge, but we should remember that in Calvin’s time the study of biblical, reformed theology and the profession of one’s faith was a matter of life and death, as it is for the majority of Christians throughout the world today! Remember the words of our Lord Jesus: “If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you” (John 15:18-19).

To get a taste of the awful persecution during Calvin’s time, listen to an eye-witness description of the execution of a reformed believer in France, documented by a German Roman Catholic student: “I saw...a very young man, not yet with a beard...the son of a cobbler. He was brought in front of the judges and condemned to have his tongue cut out and burned straight afterward. Without changing the expression of his face, the young man presented his tongue to the executioner’s knife, sticking it out as far as he could...he was put into a tipcart, which was driven to the place of execution, but, to see him, one would think that he was going to a feast...When the chain had been placed around his body, I could not describe to you with what equanimity of soul and with what expression in his features he endured the cries of elation and the insults of the crowd that were directed towards him. He did not make a sound, but...lifted his eyes to heaven, as if he was waiting some miraculous rescue...the executioner showed him the fire with a menacing air; but the young man, without being scared, let it be known, by a movement of his body, that he was giving himself willingly to be burned.”

Many who studied the theology of Calvin’s *Institutes* went to France as missionaries of the true evangelical faith and were martyred. For many of the reformed pastors, an ordination certificate in theology for ministry was a death certificate. This should remind us that theology is something we are called to live out as well as to teach.

Calvin’s *Institutes* taught reformed believers how to suffer under God’s sovereign hand and trust in God’s good providence. All that happens to us is planned and ordained by Heavenly Father for His glory and the believer’s good.

**“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you  
falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven,  
for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”**

-Matthew 5:10-12

# THIS LORD'S DAY

## Sermon

### *“A Tale of Two Kings”*

-Pastor Charles R. Biggs

Scripture Lesson: Genesis 3:15; 17:5-7; Deuteronomy 17:14-20

Scripture Text: Judges 17:6; 21:25; 1 Samuel 1:1-8

#### Theme of Sermon:

*The Covenant God of providence and power enters the messy and difficult lives of two ordinary people to sovereignly advance His good purposes in history toward His glorious goal in Christ.*

## Hymns

All Glory, Laud, and Honor, 235

Commit Now All Your Grievs, 669

Wondrous King, All-Glorious, 166

## Questions for Meditation/Reflection

- *Children: Watch this brief (7 min.) video explaining the redemptive-historical overview of the Book of Samuel: <https://youtu.be/QJOju5Dw0V0>. Share with your family the three main characters and the main themes of the Book of Samuel (1&2 Samuel).*
- *Read Deuteronomy 17:14-20 and Judges 21:25. Did Israel need a king? Was this part of God's sovereign plan?*
- *What kind of king did Israel desire? What kind of king did God desire and give them?*
- *How is 1 & 2 Samuel a tale of two kings? How might it even be a tale of 4 kings? What are the big picture implications of this?*

*“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