

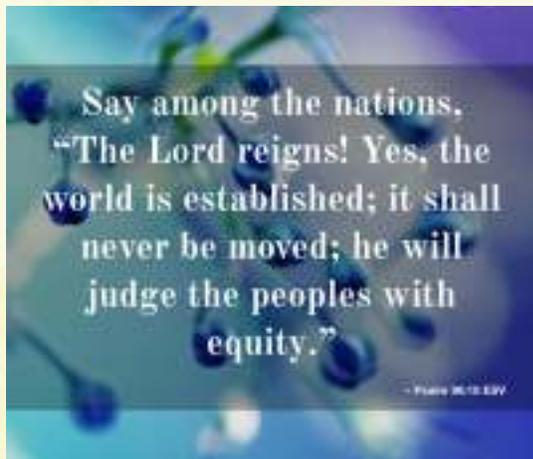


# THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE

## KCPC This Week

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

*Week Ending September 23<sup>rd</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!

**Evening Prayer Meeting:** Join us Sunday at 6pm for a short devotional, hymn sing, prayer time, and our regular fellowship time. Let's end the Sabbath with the Body of Christ and focused on our great God!

**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).

**Biggs Family Vacation Sept. 18<sup>th</sup> – Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup>:** While Pastor Biggs is out of town, we are privileged to welcome the Rev. Dan Halley to our pulpit once again.

**Purcellville Tag Sale Outreach:** On Saturday, Oct. 7, join us as we serve our neighbors during this annual opportunity for evangelism, and as we invite them to worship with us. For details, see Elder Rick Weitz.

**Ladies' Retreat:** The annual OPC ladies' retreat will be held at Machen Camp & Conference Center on October 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>, with speaker Diane Ippolito teaching on "Prayer That Changes." The organizer is looking for a contact person in each local congregation; if willing to serve in this way, email Karen Jones at [lynnhavenhome@gmail.com](mailto:lynnhavenhome@gmail.com).

**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.

*"The finer things of life point to a gracious God. Through the eyes of faith, the elect enjoy these things not as momentary pleasures but as the revelation of God's love."*

**-John Calvin**

*From Your Pastor*  
**“John Calvin’s Pilgrim Life and Pastoral Teachings:  
Calvin’s *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, Part 4a”**  
*Charles R. Biggs*

Church historian Bruce Gordon writes that Calvin revised his *Institutes* for more than twenty years because they reflected Calvin’s continuous study of Scripture, deepening grasp of the theological tradition of patristic and medieval fathers, pastoral experience, and involvement in doctrinal controversies. Herman Selderhuis described this colorfully: “The *Institutes* had drifted into the market as a sailboat, but by 1559 it had grown into a cargo ship.” Caspar Olevianus, co-author of the Heidelberg Catechism, succinctly summarized Calvin’s ‘Institutes’ in this way: “Man being at first created upright, but afterwards being not partially but totally ruined, finds his entire salvation out of himself in Christ, to whom being united by the Holy Spirit freely given, without any foresight of future works, he thereby obtains a double blessing—namely, full imputation of righteousness, which goes along with us even to the grave, and the commencement of sanctification, which daily advances till at length it is perfected in the day of regeneration or resurrection of the body, and this, in order that the great mercy of God may be celebrated in the heavenly mansions throughout eternity.”

There are three primary editions of the *Institutes* from 1536 to 1559. The 1536 *Institutes* might be called “A Catechetical *Institutes*.” Similar to a catechism, it is focused on grounding God’s people in the biblical faith. The format was borrowed from Calvin’s first generation Reformation father, Martin Luther. It has six chapters: Faith; Commandments; Lord’s Prayer; Sacraments; False Sacraments of Roman Catholicism; and Christian Freedom (relating to church and state).

The second, larger edition of 1539/1541 might be called “A Thematical, Biblical-Theological *Institutes*.” Expanded to seventeen chapters, it is a handbook on the Christian faith to help believers study their Bibles and know the word of God. Calvin based the format of this edition on his comprehensive study of Paul’s Epistle to the Romans and on the works of Martin Luther and Philip Melancthon. Here is an overview and summary of each chapter of Calvin’s ‘*Institutes*’ (1541 edition) with a memorable quote from Calvin for catechetical instruction for Christ’s Church:

**The Knowledge of God:** “All the wisdom we possess, that is to say, true and sound wisdom, consists of two parts: knowledge of God and knowledge of ourselves.”

**The Knowledge of Man & Free Will:** “Man, having been created in God’s image, was endowed with gifts and superior powers which testified to His Creator’s extraordinary generosity toward him... Through his ingratitude, he quickly made himself unworthy of all the benefits which God had given him. The heavenly image he bore therefore erased; being estranged from God by sin he was likewise deprived of his share in the blessings which can only be had in Him.”

**The Law:** “The Law reveals our need of God’s mercy ... The Law is a standard of perfect righteousness.”

**Faith & Explanation of Apostle’s Creed:** “A firm and certain knowledge of God’s goodwill to us which, being founded on the free promise given in Jesus Christ, is revealed to our minds and sealed in our hearts by the Holy Spirit.”

**Repentance:** “The essence of repentance is that, taking leave of ourselves, we turn to God, and forsaking our former thoughts and intentions we adopt new ones ... It is a turning of our life to follow God and the path which He shows us, a turning produced by a genuine and unfeigned fear of God, and consisting in mortification of our flesh and of the old man, and in vivification of the Spirit.”

**Justification by Faith & the Merits of Works:** “It teaches us to look away from our works and to look only to God’s mercy and to the perfect holiness of Christ .... A man is righteous not in himself but because Christ’s righteousness is made over to him by imputation.”

**Similarity & Difference Between Old & New Testaments:** “The covenant made with the fathers of old, in its substance and reality, is so similar to ours that it can be said to be the very same. It differs only in the way it is dispensed.”

**The Predestination & Providence of God:** “We call predestination God’s eternal counsel by which He has determined what He wishes to do with each and every person ... Thus, according to the end for which a person has been created, we say that he is predestined to death or life ... Providence is what we call the order which God observes in governing the world and in directing all things.”

**Prayer & Explanation of Our Lord’s Prayer:** “We are taught by faith to know that all the goodness which we need and which we ourselves lack is in God and in His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, in whom the Father has placed all the bounty of His blessing and grace, so that we may all draw from Him as from a most plentiful spring. It...remains for us to seek from Him what we know to be in Him, and to ask Him for it in prayer and supplication.”

***“For I believe I have so embraced the sum of religion in all its parts, and have arranged it in such an order, that if anyone rightly grasps it, it will not be difficult for him to determine what he ought especially to seek in Scripture, and to that end he ought to relate its contents.”***

-John Calvin

# THIS LORD'S DAY

## Sermon

### *“Raging Nations”*

-Pastor Daniel Halley

Scripture Lesson: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31; Acts 4:23-31

Scripture Text: Psalm 2

Theme of Sermon:

*Though the nations rage, God's decree is fulfilled to the glory of the Triune God!*

## Hymns

Hallelujah, Praise Jehovah, 110

Like a River Glorious, 699

O Father, You Are Sovereign, 75

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*“Be still, and know that I am God.  
I will be exalted among the nations,  
I will be exalted in the earth!”*

-Psalm 46:10

*“What are God's works of providence? God's works of providence are His most holy, wise,  
and powerful preserving and governing all His creatures and all their actions.”*

-Westminster Shorter Catechism, Q&A 11