



THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE

KCPC This Week

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

Week Ending October 21st, 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!

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.

Evening Worship: We continue our sermon series in the Gospel of John this Sunday evening at 6pm, followed by a fellowship meal.

Locust Street Film Night: This Friday, enjoy a viewing of "Wild River" hosted by KCPC's own film scholar Bill Domanski; dinner at 6pm, film at 7pm.

Recommended Resources: Dr. Chad Van Dixhoorn's Westminster Assembly Project makes available writings by and about the Assembly members at westminsterassembly.org. Lectures from the Reforming Families Conference are on sermonaudio.com/kcpc.

Men's and Boy's Breakfast: On Saturday, Nov. 18th at 8:30am, we will continue studying Christian life in cultural context, discussing "The Benedict Principle."

Pastor/Elder Family Visitation: Your pastor and elders will be seeking to schedule in-home family visits for pastoral care and prayer over the next several months. Let us know at any time how we can best serve you as your shepherd-elders.

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 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.

"And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all. See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to everyone. Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

-1 Thessalonians 5:14-18

From Your Pastor
“500th Anniversary of the Reformation: The Five Solas”
Charles R. Biggs

“Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to your name be the Glory!” -Psalm 115:1

This month we have the privilege of celebrating the 500th anniversary of the Reformation of the Sixteenth Century. October 31st is the occasion when many Reformed congregations gratefully remember the Spirit of God’s work through Martin Luther’s hammering his 95 Theses on the church door at Wittenberg, Germany; these theses were the means through which God brought a fresh recovery of His Gospel to His church. We should be thankful that the Reformation was one of the greatest revivals in the history of the church. Let us pray that we today can enjoy this same kind of revival by God’s grace in our hearts and churches.

As grateful heirs of this reformation and revival, let us particularly remember the five theological truths of the Reformation that are worth memorizing and remembering each year at this time. These five truths of the Reformation are five “solos”, or “alones”, that are important for us never to forget as God’s people. These ‘solos’ accentuate God’s absolute mercy and passionate grace for His dear lost and helpless children whom He is pleased to rescue and receive through the person and work of Jesus Christ. The ‘solos’ are ‘Sola Scriptura’ (Scripture Alone), ‘Sola Fide’ (Faith Alone), ‘Sola Gratia’ (Grace Alone), ‘Solus Christus’ (Christ Alone), and ‘Soli Deo Gloria’ (To God be Glory Alone). Let’s look briefly at each of these:

Sola Scriptura (Scripture Alone): Scripture alone stresses that the God-breathed-out, infallible and inerrant Word of God is foundational and sufficient for all life and godliness (2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:3-4). Biblical creeds and confessions are helpful aids to God’s people, and we should embrace tradition insofar as it is consistent with Scripture, but the last word and final authority for matters of life and doctrine is found in the Holy Scriptures. Scripture is to be preached by the power of the Holy Spirit as a primary means of saving and sanctifying sinners (2 Tim. 4:1 ff).

Sola Gratia (Grace Alone): Grace alone teaches that we are not saved in our cooperating with God in salvation. We are utterly helpless and unable to do anything good before God in our sinfulness (Rom. 3:23). Apart from Christ we can do nothing (John 15:5) and without the gracious, initiating, powerful work of God through His Spirit drawing us no one can be saved (Matt. 11:25-27; Tit. 3:4-7; John 6:37, 44). Our salvation is because of God’s mercy from beginning to end, not because of anything God might foresee in us (Rom. 9). We are saved by grace through faith, not of works, so that no one can boast (Eph. 2:8-9).

Sola Fide (Faith Alone): Faith is a gift of God, an instrument whereby believers receive as a gift all of the perfect righteousness that we need to stand before a holy God. The righteousness God requires is the righteousness found in Christ (Rom. 3:24-26, 4:5; 2 Cor. 5:21). Faith alone stresses that Christ does all the work that is required for one to be saved, and we receive this as a gift. We are not saved through faith and our works, but through Christ’s works alone received by faith. However, it is important to note that while we are saved by faith alone, we are saved not by a faith that is alone. True and saving faith is a working faith that responds to God’s grace with sincere obedience out of love and the fear of God (Eph. 2:8-10).

Solus Christus (Christ Alone): Christ alone emphasizes that there is one Mediator between God and man, the man Christ Jesus (1 Tim. 2:5), who is God’s perfect Prophet, Priest and King. Christ has done all for us that we never could do or would want to do in our sinful fallenness. Christ is to be glorified and thanked for His good works for us. Christ is to completely possess our minds, hearts, wills and affections, and our lives are to be lived with our ultimate focus, praise, and gratitude toward Him (1 Cor. 1:30; Heb. 12:1-2) because of all He has done for us in His life, death, resurrection, and ascension to God’s right hand. While others may place undue and unbiblical emphasis on saints, Mary, and even angels, our hearts and minds are centered on Christ alone as our loving Savior, Bridegroom, and Friend (Col. 3:1-4).

Soli Deo Gloria (To God be the Glory Alone): All that has been achieved for our salvation is to bring glory, honor and praise to the Triune God alone! (Psalm 115:1; Rom. 11:33-36; Rev. 4:11; 5:9-11). We were made for His pleasure, and now live for His glory in gratitude for what He has accomplished for us in Christ.

As a congregation, let us memorize these five ‘Solos’ of the Reformation, and reaffirm them, and unashamedly make them known as God’s pilgrim people on the way to the Heavenly City.

“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

“Ichabod”

-Rev. Charles R. Biggs

Scripture Lesson: Jeremiah 26:1-9; Psalm 78:56-66

Scripture Text: 1 Samuel 4:1-22

Theme of Sermon:

In biblical “Ark-eology”, the Ark of the Covenant revealed God’s presence with, His rule over, and forgiveness for His people; the Ark was God’s throne and a place of sacrificial reconciliation with Him. What does the Ark of the Covenant symbolize for God’s people when they refuse to recognize the presence and righteous rule of the Glorious King of the Covenant? If the Ark is taken from Israel, does it mean that God’s presence with, rule over, and forgiveness has departed from His people, too?

Hymns

Hallelujah, Praise Jehovah, 57

The Lord Will Come and Not Be Slow, 367

Approach, My Soul, the Mercy Seat, 507

Questions for Meditation/Reflection

- *Children: Read 1 Samuel 4. What is a primary tragic event that happens in this chapter? Why is this so bad for the people of God?*
- *Let’s be “Ark-eologists”. What was the Ark of God? What did it contain? What did it represent for God’s people?*
- *What tends to characterize folks who want religion of some sort, or at least the benefits of religion, without a true, healthy fear of God?*
- *From past reading and sermons, why do Hophni and Phineas die? What is their father Eli’s response to this? What might we learn as God’s people from this incident?*
- *Why do you think Phineas’s wife call her son “Ichabod”? What does the name mean? What does this mean in the larger context of 1 Samuel?*

“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