

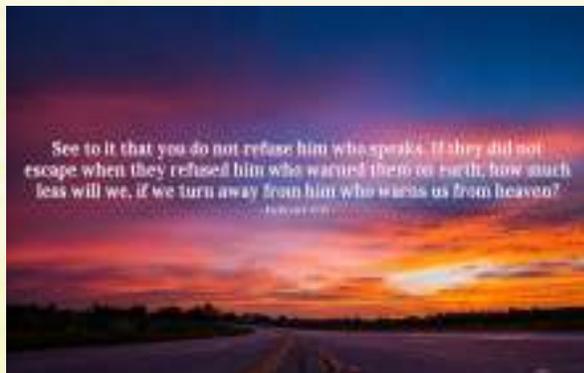


THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE

KCPC This Week

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

Week Ending October 7th, 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 Weitz family will be hosting a fellowship lunch this Sunday at their home in Round Hill. Please let Kathy Weitz (greengables@weitz.us) know if you are able to attend, want to help with food, or need a ride!

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: Join us Sunday at 6pm as we close the Lord's Day with worship and a fellowship meal, continuing our sermon series on the Gospel of John.

Purcellville Tag Sale Outreach: This Saturday, Oct. 7, join us as we serve our neighbors during this annual opportunity for evangelism and 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 13th-14th, 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.

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 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
“Christ’s Voice in Preaching”
Charles R. Biggs

Preaching is a continuation of Christ’s prophetic ministry to the Church. Christ still speaks. On the Day of Pentecost, the exalted, ascended Christ sent forth His Spirit to empower His beloved people to be His witnesses (Acts 1:8), and preaching was one important result of this outpouring. We see that Peter in Acts 2 “lifted up his voice” (Acts 2:14; cf. Isa. 42:2) to authoritatively declare the truths of God in submission to His word. To lift up one’s voice as a preacher (or prophet as in the Old Testament, cf. Isaiah 40:8-11) is to authoritatively yet submissively declare the mind of God in Christ by the Spirit. In faithful preaching, we hear God’s very voice, as John Calvin taught in his *Sermons on Deuteronomy*: “Where preaching is, there God’s voice rings in our ears.”

Preaching is Christ continuing by His Spirit to be with and guide His Church, feeding His sheep through the means of men as they faithfully declare His word. Christ is pleased not to speak directly from heaven to His people, but to use sinful, yet sanctified men as His means of making His truth known, to use weak men to glorify His strength (1 Cor. 1:23-24, 2:1-5; 3:7; 4:7; 2 Cor. 2:16), and to use men who are insufficient yet qualified and called to the task (cf. Act 13:1-4; 1 Tim. 3:1ff). Preaching is incarnational, in that it continues Christ’s powerful ministry of the Word, and extends His kingdom through weak men, weak vessels, extending a hand of grace and comfort to His people through the preacher.

Although Christ is pleased to use men to preach, the authority and efficacy of preaching is with Christ alone. The men that Christ calls to preach and fills with His Spirit are those who are submissive to God’s Word and faithfully declare God’s Word to God’s people. In other words, preachers are Christ’s called, ordained, and sent ambassadors declaring faithfully the mind of Christ the King to the church and the world as it is revealed in the Word of God (2 Tim. 4:1), not merely their own ideas, pet theological topics, or opinions. Faithful preaching declares the Gospel story of redemption to the church and the world for the glory of God, imploring sinful men to be reconciled to God in Christ (cf. 2 Cor. 5:17-21)! In Acts 2, 7, and 13, in the sermons of Peter, Stephen, and Paul, we see them wholly submitted to Holy Scripture as Christ’s ambassadors, faithfully telling God’s good story of redemption in Christ. Their messages have Christ and His crucifixion as the central focus (cf. 1 Cor. 2:1-5). Let us rejoice that God is not silent, but ever present to teach, guide, encourage, comfort, and edify His people through faithful ambassadors (cf. Isa. 40:1ff; Eph. 4:11-16). Preaching reveals the God of all mercies and comfort as we hear His gracious voice to us in Christ. Christ’s sheep hear His voice, and they listen, learn, and follow as His sheep-like disciples (John 10:14-16, 27). Jesus says: “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me” (John 10:27). In order to better hear and follow, God’s people should bring to the preaching event not only God’s Word to follow along, but also a prepared heart and expectant faith that Christ will speak to them.

But you may ask, “How is preaching Christ’s voice speaking with power?” The Bible teaches us that although Christ is exalted at God’s right hand, ruling and reigning in a glorified body, He nevertheless is pleased to be with His chosen instruments by His Spirit as a means to speak to His Church. Although Christ is in heaven as Advocate, ever-interceding for His people (Rom. 8:34), he nevertheless is present, truly and really, yet spiritually, in preaching to the faith of God’s people. As Christ is truly and really, yet spiritually present (not corporally present, for He is embodied in heaven as glorified King of kings) in the Lord’s Supper, so He is present in preaching. As Calvin wrote in his ‘Commentary on Acts’: “The Lord gave the Holy Spirit [on Pentecost] once to His disciples in visible shape, that we may be assured that the Church will never lack His invisible and hidden grace.”

Christ is pleased to use the means of men as preachers to be present with His Church and to make His very voice heard. The Apostle Paul speaks of the importance of faith in hearing God’s Word, writing: “Faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the Word of Christ” (Rom. 10:17). In the preceding verses, the apostle declares that Christ is present to the faith of all who hear faithful preachers and will save them: “For ‘everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.’ But how are they to call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in Him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?” (Romans 10:13-14). In Romans 10:14b, the Apostle Paul is often translated as saying: “How are they to believe *in Him of whom* they have never heard?” but he is not merely speaking of Christ as the subject of good and faithful preaching, but more particularly as the Preacher. A more accurate translation is: “And how are they to believe *Him whom* they have never heard” (Rom. 10:14b). As John Calvin wrote in his *Commentary on Isaiah*, “When the ministers faithfully declare the words of Christ, their mouth is His mouth and their lips are His lips.” In preaching, when God’s ambassador is submitted to Christ and His Word, the very voice of Jesus Christ speaks (cf. John 10:16, Heb. 12:25). Let us believe and hear Him!

“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

“Worthless”

-Rev. Charles R. Biggs

Scripture Lesson: Psalm 119:37; Hebrews 6:1-8, 10:26-31

Scripture Text: 1 Samuel 2:12-36

Theme of Sermon:

In which covenant children who have the privilege of the means of grace wickedly spurn God's mercy in Christ. How are using the means of grace God has given to His Church?

Hymns

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling, 529

O Jesus, I Have Promised, 654

Fountain of Never-Ceasing Grace, 519

Questions for Meditation/Reflection

- *Children: Read 1 Samuel 2:12-36. Compare and contrast Samuel with Hophni and Phineas. What are similarities? What are differences? What might you learn as children of the covenant from this passage?*
- *Why are Eli's sons called “worthless”? What is their primary sin? How might you see this in your own heart?*
- *What sobering insight do you learn from this: “But they would not listen to the voice of their father, for it was the will of the LORD to put them to death” (1 Sam. 2:25)?*
- *What hope and kindness does the Lord reveal to Israel in 1 Samuel 2:25?*

“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