



THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE

KCPC This Week

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

Week Ending September 30th, 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 hymn singing and a time of prayer, followed by a fellowship meal. 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 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.

Biggs Family Vacation Sept. 18th – Oct. 2nd: 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 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 Wingle 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
**“John Calvin’s Pilgrim Life and Pastoral Teachings:
Calvin’s *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, Part 4b”**
Charles R. Biggs

An overview of the chapters of Calvin’s *Institutes* (1541 edition) with memorable quotes from Calvin (continued):

The Sacraments: “It is an outward sign by which our Lord represents and testifies His goodwill toward us, in order to sustain and strengthen the weakness of our faith.”

Baptism: “In the Gospel our washing and sanctification are proclaimed to us, and that by baptism this proclamation and message are signed and sealed.”

The Lord’s Supper: “We call it the Lord’s Supper or Eucharist, because in it we are spiritually fed and nourished by the goodness of our Lord, and we in turn give Him thanks for His kindness.”

The Five Ceremonies Falsely Called Sacraments: Confirmation, Penance, Extreme Unction, Ecclesiastical Orders, and Marriage: “Belief in the seven sacraments has been so common among men and so widely discussed in debates and sermons, that from very early times it has been rooted in men’s hearts and is still embedded there. I thus thought it worthwhile to consider separately and more closely the remaining five, which are generally counted among the Lord’s sacraments, and having revealed their complete falsity, to show the untutored what they are like and how, up until now, they have been wrongly taken for sacraments.”

Christian Freedom: “Freedom from bondage to the law in Christ ... Freedom to obey without constraint God’s will ... Freedom in the use of indifferent things.”

The Power of the Church: “Power is conferred solely by God’s Word. Those who rightly use such power look on themselves simply as Christ’s servants and as stewards of the mysteries of God.”

Civil Government: “Magistrates are God’s servants/ministers ... They must remember that they are deputies of God, they must make every effort and take every care in all they do to represent to men an image of God’s providence, protection, goodness, mildness and justice.”

The Christian Life: “Scripture teaches that holiness is the purpose of our calling, which we must constantly keep in view if we would truly respond to God ... A golden rule: we are not our own ... Let us therefore forget ourselves as much as we can—ourselves and everything around us.”

The final edition of the *Institutes* (1559) might be called “A Mature, Pastoral-Theological Textbook.” Calvin described the eighty-chapter work as practically a new book, although in this more expansive and detailed treatment, Calvin’s content and argument are virtually unchanged. The edition is divided into four volumes: Knowledge of God the Creator (“theology proper,” focusing on the Triune God, Creation and Providence); Knowledge of God the Redeemer (“Christology,” focusing on the Person and Work of Jesus Christ for sinners, central to all of Calvin’s teaching); Knowledge of God the Spirit and the Application of Christ’s Redemption for Sinners (“pneumatology,” focusing on God’s Spirit uniting believers to all the blessing and benefits of Christ); Knowledge of Christ the King, Lord of His Church (“ecclesiology,” focusing on the Church, Sacraments, and Christian Freedom). The completed *Institutes* have profoundly affected mankind’s understanding of God, man, sin, grace, Christ, church, sacraments, and Christian life, and influenced music, the arts, literature, political theory, and more. Some of the characteristics of the *Institutes* include:

Biblical: Calvin taught his students to avoid the pitfalls of ignorance and extreme curiosity. “Speak where Scripture speaks, and be silent where it is silent.” He intended the *Institutes* as a theological handbook to Bible study.

Systematic: Calvin gives a systematic, God-centered world- and life-view drawn completely from Holy Scripture and from the faithful and biblical writings of the fathers of the faith. The *Institutes* have been described as “thoroughly logical and consistent, and gives the mind an organized way of thinking about God and His ways.”

Polemical: Calvin sought always to pastorally inform and to defend the truth against heresy and division. Calvin’s primary antagonists were Roman Catholics, Anabaptists, Lutherans, and Nicodemites. However, Calvin’s aim was primarily constructive, not destructive; Calvin was seeking to rebuild the church after many years of theological error.

Pastoral: Calvin writes with hungry souls in mind, passing on his knowledge and experience about God. Calvin sought brevity and clarity in contrast to the intentional complexity and opacity of the Medieval Scholastics’ methodology.

Devotional: Calvin’s theology aimed to glorify the triune God through our loving Him with heart, mind, soul, and strength, and our neighbor as ourselves. Piety or godliness was Calvin’s goal in writing the *Institutes*.

“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

“Trust in the Name of the LORD”

-Pastor Daniel Halley

Scripture Lesson: 1 Samuel 17:32-49

Scripture Text: Psalm 20

Theme of Sermon:

Our trust is in the LORD our God! May He answer us when we call.

Hymns

With Grateful Heart My Thanks I Bring, 88

The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want, 86

How Firm a Foundation, 94

*“You keep him in perfect peace
whose mind is stayed on You,
because he trusts in You.
Trust in the LORD forever,
for the LORD God is an everlasting rock.”*

-Isaiah 26:3-4

*“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