

CTK Community Group Sermon Discussion Questions & Announcements
Week of 2/7/21

Sermon Discussion Questions | [Luke 6:20-26](#)

1. Summarize what the following passage teach us about the Christian response to suffering.
 - a. Philippians 3:7-11
 - b. Colossian 1:24-29
 - c. 1 Peter 2:19-25, 3:14-17, 4:14-22
 - d. 1 Peter 3:14-17
 - e. Acts 5:17-42 (esp. v. 41)
 - f. Are there other passages that you want to consider?

2. Read Hebrews 11. Discuss the ways in which the hope of heaven drove the actions of the saints in the passage. How does a heavenly-mindedness add to your understanding of what occurs in those Old Testament stories?

3. In the *Institutes of the Christian Religion* ([Book 3. Chapter 9. Section 5](#)) John Calvin makes the following point about meditating on the future life:

Let us, however, consider this settled: that no one has made progress in the school of Christ who does not joyfully await the day of death and final resurrection. Paul, too, distinguishes all believers by this mark [Titus 2:13; cf. 2 Tim. 4:8], and Scripture habitually recalls us to it whenever it would set forth proof of perfect happiness. "Rejoice," says the Lord, "and raise your heads; for your redemption is drawing near." [Luke 21:28 p.] Is it reasonable, I ask you, that what our Lord meant to be sufficient to arouse us to rejoicing and good cheer should engender nothing but sorrow and dismay? If this is so, why do we still boast of him as our Master? Let us, then, take hold of a sounder view, and even though the blind and stupid desire of the flesh resists, let us not hesitate to await the Lord's coming, not only with longing, but also with groaning and sighs, as the happiest thing of all. He will come to us as Redeemer, and rescuing us from this boundless abyss of all evils and miseries, he will lead us into that blessed inheritance of his life and glory.

Discuss together Calvin's point. Do you agree or disagree? Why? Are there other passages of Scripture you can think of that add to this conversation? Consider 2 Corinthians 5:1ff; Romans 8:18ff.; Philippians 1:21ff.

4. Spend time praying for the persecuted church. [You can use this link to find prompts for prayer.](#)

Announcements:

The Session of CTK has approved a proposal from the deacons for **renovations and repairs of our church building**. This work will include exterior work, such as repointing the brick, and interior work, including repairs and painting in the sanctuary. The work in the sanctuary will affect our in-person worship services as the pews will need to be temporarily removed.

- **Next week (2/14) will be our last in-person service before the sanctuary needs to be closed.** Our current state-mandated capacity will be relaxed as of tomorrow (2/8), so we'll have a capacity of 60 again for the 2/14 service. The work inside the sanctuary is estimated to take 4-6 weeks, and our aim is to have it completed before Easter.
- The deacons will be providing more in-depth information about the nature of the repairs and renovations in the next week or two.

Congregational Meeting Announcement: The Session of CTK has called a congregational meeting for Sunday February 21 at 7pm - 8pm. The purpose of the meeting is (1.) to release Pastor Nathan Barczi as a pastor of Christ the King Presbyterian Church* and (2.) to present a communication plan for the Five Year Plan.