



Covenant Baptist Church

Reformed and Refreshing

August 11, 2019

Welcome to Covenant Baptist Church. We are a Reformed church committed to three things:

- **The Exaltation of God**

We desire that the people at Covenant truly understand who God is and His rightful place in their lives as their Lord and sovereign Savior.

- **The Edification of the Saints**

We consider it extremely important to correctly teach the Bible, verse by verse, so we can properly have the Holy Spirit apply it to our lives.

- **The Evangelization of the Sinner**

We understand that God has given us the responsibility to be stewards of the Gospel and that means sharing it exactly like God gave it to us with those who need Jesus.

<https://covenantbaptistsc.org>

Covenant Baptist Church Schedule

Bible Education Hour (Systematic Theology)
~ 9:30 A.M.

Sunday Worship ~ 10:30 A.M.

Wednesday Prayer Service ~ 7:00 P.M.

*(We are not interested in traditional worship
or contemporary worship. We are only
interested in true worship.)*

~

Order of Worship

(August 11th, 2019)

On Jordan's Stormy Banks I Stand, pg. 423

Prayer and Scripture Reading: Proverbs 10:1-32

O Worship the King, pg. 135

Before the Throne, pg. 187

Message: Why We Must Be Clear That Jesus Is the
Only Way to Heaven—John 14:6

Closing Hymn: Oh How He Loves You and Me, pg 157

Table of Contents

1. Announcements and Book of the Month—pg. 2
2. Events—pg. 3
3. When the One Who Led You to Christ Walks Away
(article by Jordan Standridge)—pg. 4
4. Church News, Local and Global—pg. 7
5. Directions—pg. 9

Upcoming cleaning volunteers:

August 17: Lucas/Bean
August 24: Bristol
August 31: Shumpert/Smoak
September 7: Egan/Watson

Deacon on-call list:

August 11: Burt Lanier
August 18: James Campbell
August 25: Matt Watson
September 1: Daryl Kyzer

Announcements—August 11th, 2019

Greek class will resume the first Sunday in September at 6 PM.

—
The church bookstore is now open, and purchases can be made between and after services by seeing Annsley or Cristin Smoak.

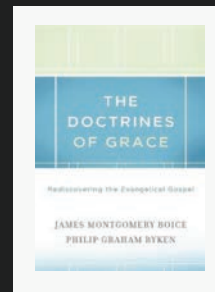
—
There will be a free swap here at the church Sat, Sept 7 from 9-12. If you have items to get rid of, please plan to have them in the church library by Wed, Sept 4 so that they can be sorted by size and category before that Saturday. You do NOT have to donate items in order to take part in receiving items. This is just a way to help out fellow believers and clean out our closets/cabinets! Leftover items not claimed by you will be donated. For more info, see Kerri Olds or Coie.

—
We would like your input. We are considering whether or not to continue the Fall conference due to expense and attendance. Please let us know if you would be willing to attend a fall conference usually the last week of October, Sunday through Wednesday nights. We are not asking for good intentions but rather would you make a commitment to attend. On the table in the foyer of the church there are some papers you can indicate yes or no to a fall conference. Thank you for your help with this. Elders

—
Pastor Swann, Luke Swann, and Alton Crapps are planning to go to Kenya in August. If you would like to give towards the expense of this trip, please indicate it on your check or envelope. Please specify “Swann travel expenses” or “general mission fund”. We plan to also put bibles in the hands of the poor, which would come from the general Mission Team fund. The remaining need is \$2,500. The date of the mission trip is August 15-27.

—
If you would like to give towards feeding the orphans in Kisumu, Kenya during the drought, please earmark your checks “Drought Relief” or write the same on your envelopes.

Book of the Month: The Doctrines of Grace: Rediscovering the Evangelical Gospel *James Montgomery Boice & Philip Graham Ryken*



“We live in an age of weak theology and casual Christianity. And this situation will continue as long as God’s people insist on substituting intuition for truth, feeling for belief, and immediate gratification for enduring hope. Yet if evangelicalism will again denounce this self-centered faith and place Christ and his cross at the center of its vision, the church will see great days once more. According to authors James Montgomery Boice and Philip Graham Ryken, this will happen when believers specifically return to the gospel foundation with its doctrines of radical depravity, unconditional election, particular redemption, efficacious grace, and persevering grace.”

Read the full description at: <https://www.amazon.com/Doctrines-Grace-Rediscovering-Evangelical-Gospel/>

By What Standard?

Watch the trailer at: <https://founders.org/cinedoc/>

“In 1979 the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) formally entered into the “Battle for the Bible” that was raging within North American evangelicalism. Over the next 15 years, the SBC was returned to its historic commitments on the inerrancy and infallibility of Scripture. Many of those who resisted this conservative resurgence were driven by religiously progressive convictions...

“Now, 25 years after the clear success of the conservative resurgence, it seems like evangelicals, including Southern Baptists, are in danger of loosening their commitments to those basic, Christian commitments. Dangerous ideologies like Critical Theory and Intersectionality are gaining inroads into the thinking of some leaders, churches and organizations...

“Founders Ministries is producing this cinedoc to sound an alarm and issue a call for pastors and churches to stand firm against this onslaught by reaffirming the authority and sufficiency of God’s written Word. If we care about true justice—what God has revealed to be just—then we must stand against what is being promoted under social justice. If we care about the true gospel—the gospel revealed in the faith once-for-all-delivered to the saints—we must reject the agendas being promoted by godless ideologies.”

(From: <https://founders.org/cinedoc/>)

Covenant Baptist Church Events

Greek Class:

Our Sunday Greek class, “It’s Greek to You and Me”, will continue in the fellowship hall at 6 P.M. on the first Sunday of September.



2nd Sunday Fellowship Dinner:

This Sunday (August 11th) we will have our 2nd Sunday fellowship meal, after the service. Please plan to stay for food and fellowship.



2019 Kenya Mission Trip:

Pastor Swann, Luke Swann, and Alton Crapps are planning to go to Kenya in August for the annual pastors’ conference, and to help with the orphanage. We plan to also put Bibles in the hands of the poor.



When The One who Led You to Christ Walks Away—by Jordan Standridge

“The information that was left out of our announcement is that I have undergone a massive shift in regard to my faith in Jesus. The popular phrase for this is ‘deconstruction,’ the biblical phrase is ‘falling away.’ By all the measurements that I have for defining a Christian, I am not a Christian. Many people tell me that there is a different way to practice faith and I want to remain open to this, but I’m not there now.” – Joshua Harris

When anyone walks away from the Lord Jesus Christ, it is a devastating thing.

When a respected leader who wrote books, pastored a large church, and who led many people to Christ does it, it can be all the more devastating.

But when it is a respected leader whom God used, not only to help someone grow spiritually, but who led them to Christ, it can prove to be earth-shattering.

One of my closest friends in the world was in a bathroom in Seoul, South Korea, crying his eyes out as he was reading *Dug Down Deep* by Joshua Harris. Right then and there he asked the Lord to save him and to give him a new heart. He was saved a few years ago and now this week, Joshua Harris, the man God used to save my friend said the above-mentioned quote at the top of this blog post.

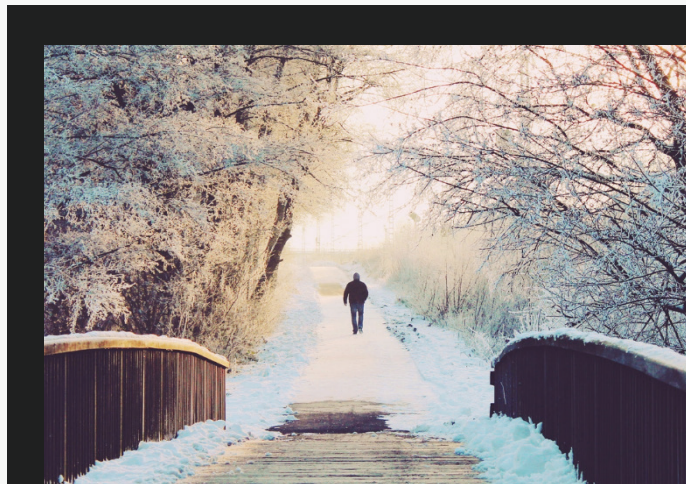
Joshua Harris is a guy who wrote several top-selling books, preached countless sermons, and pastored a large conservative gospel-preaching church in Maryland and has now told the world that he no longer considers himself a Christian.

There are countless stories like this. I know many people who were led to the Lord by someone who now has walked away, and one of the main questions that they wrestle with is: what now?

There are so many questions that can swirl up when people face this difficulty, so I’d like to give you five reminders for when you face a tragedy like this.

God is the one who saves you

“He has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time” (2 Timothy 1:9).



When The One who Led You to Christ Walks Away—by Jordan Standridge

God is the one who saves, not because of our works, and not because of the works of others, but simply of His own purpose and grace. And it is important to remember that He planned this before the beginning of time.

When the tool God used in our lives turns out to fall away, we must remember that God had saved us not through our works, but also not through the works of others. God has saved us entirely by His own purpose. If we trust in the works of others, we are still trusting in works. No man can convince us to leave our sin and follow Christ. It takes a miracle of God, and that's why when the one who lead us to Christ walks away, our faith stays strong, because it wasn't a man who convinced us, it was God himself.

God can use a donkey

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile” (Romans 1:16).

The power of God is in the Gospel, not the person! We love to exalt people and call them a powerful preacher, an anointed servant of God! A clearly gifted individual. But while God has gifted certain men and women in a special way, we must remember that they have no power. All the power is in the message that they preach. That's why God can use a donkey to accomplish His mission, or as Jesus said, the rocks could cry out in the place of men. The reason is clear, God doesn't need humans, and God doesn't need “saved humans” to accomplish this task. I've heard of God using Mormon tracts (the Scripture in it), Joyce Meyer, and other unorthodox means to bring people to true repentance. Your salvation is not based on any human, but rather on the God who made every human and who only holds the power to save.

No one can snatch you out of His hand

“...and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand” (John 10:28-29).

Because salvation did not depend on you, or on anyone else, it cannot be taken away. The one who holds you in His hand will not allow anyone or anything to snatch you out of His hand. It is impossible. He not only chose to draw you to Himself, but He chose the means, which means that He ordained that as well before the foundations of time. No one can separate you from the love of God and no one can undo your salvation, including when the one whom God used to draw you to Himself walks away.

We don't believe based on reason or persuasion

When The One who Led You to Christ Walks Away—by Jordan Standridge

On what basis do you believe the Gospel? None of us is smart enough to reason ourselves to God. None of us is a Christian based on the evidence, or based on the persuasion of any one man or woman. If that is so, then we are not Christians.

If we are Christians based on reason, then something might occur in our lives that makes Christianity no longer so reasonable to us. Whether it is personal tragedy, sickness, or any host of trials we might incur, if we have reasoned ourselves to God then we can very easily reason ourselves out of it. But our salvation is not based on reason, it is entirely based on repentance and faith. And both of those things are miracles that God does on our hearts and minds. We must remember that there is nothing that could cause us to give up our sin we so desperately loved holding on to except for a miracle that the Lord did to us through the Gospel.

There is a weird blessing that comes when the one who led us to Christ has fallen away, and that is that our confidence in God's salvation should grow because we realize that the miracle that occurred in us did not come through the messenger but through the one who sent him or her to us.

We love Jesus more than anything or anyone

The final question we must ask ourselves is whom do we love more? Of course, our heart is crushed when our loved ones walk away. But we must ask ourselves a simple question, do we truly love Jesus? If we do, then we realize our salvation does not depend on whether others love Him, too. There must be a simple conviction in our hearts that says that, though the whole world rejects Christ, I will not, because He died in my place! I love Him because He first loved me!

How gracious of God to save you through the lips of one who would later deny Him! Though you are saddened that the one who led you to Christ has walked away, you can be thankful that God used them to draw you to Himself and cause you to love Him above all things and people, including the one who led you to Him.

A final reminder is that all it takes is a simple step to come back to the Lord. Life is long in this respect. You can take thousands of steps away from the Lord, and all it takes is one step to come back to Christ.

Though the words they say now and the actions they take might make restoration seem impossible to you, I think it is your duty to pray to God for their repentance. In your eyes, their feet should still be beautiful (Isaiah 52:7 [Open in Logos Bible Software (if available)]) since they brought you the good news, and so, pray in faith that God will work in their life and that they come back to the One they used to profess!

Pray for the one who led you to Christ. Who knows, God might use your prayers to lead them back to Himself.

China removes 'Bible,' 'God,' 'Christ' from children's classics like 'Robinson Crusoe'

—by Leah MarieAnn Klett

In efforts to bring Christianity further under government control, authorities in China have erased the words “Bible,” “God” and “Christ” from classic children’s stories, including Robinson Crusoe.

China’s Ministry of Education recently introduced a new school textbook to help fifth-grade students “understand other cultures,” according to Asia News. Included in the textbook are four popular stories by foreign writers, including Robinson Crusoe, The Little Match Girl, and Vanka. However, each story is censored to remove any religious reference.

In Daniel Defoe’s 18th century classic novel, castaway Robinson Crusoe discovers three Bibles inside a shipwreck, which he then uses as his moral compass while stranded on the island. However, the Chinese version eliminates the word “Bible,” instead noting that Crusoe happened upon “a few books.”

The original The Little Match Girl, written by Danish author Hans Christian Anderson, includes the line, “when a star falls, a soul goes to be with God.” The redacted Chinese version, however, reads, “when a star falls, a person leaves this world.”

Anton Chekhov’s story Vanka includes a passage where a prayer is said inside a church, during which the word “Christ” is mentioned several times. In the Chinese version, that section is left out and every mention of the word Christ has been erased.

Asia News notes that the censorship of Christian religious elements isn’t isolated to elementary schools. Several college professors also condemn classics containing religious words and confiscate them. Among these are The Count of Montecristo by A. Dumas, Resurrection by Lev Tolstoy, and Notre-Dame de Paris by Victor Hugo.

In 2018, China’s ruling Communist Party implemented rules on religious practice and announced a five-year plan to make Christianity more compatible with socialism. Efforts to make the faith more “Chinese” reportedly included a rewrite of the New Testament using Buddhist scripture and Confucian teachings to establish a “correct understanding” of the text.

“There are outlines that the new Bible should not look westernized and [should look] Chinese and reflect Chinese ethics of Confucianism and social-

China removes 'Bible,' 'God,' 'Christ' from children's classics like 'Robinson Crusoe'

—by Leah MarieAnn Klett

ism,” Bob Fu, founder of ChinaAid, previously told The Christian Post.

“The Old Testament will be messed up. The New Testament will have new commentaries to interpret it.”

Additionally, Bibles are no longer available for purchase online, and authorities recently arrested seven employees of an electronics store for selling audio bibles, according to persecution watchdog International Christian Concern.

The CCP has also carried out a widespread crackdown on all religious institutions, including bulldozing churches and mosques, imprisoning Christian believers, and barring Tibetan children from Buddhist religious studies.

This week, Vice President Mike Pence met with an interfaith coalition of religious freedom advocates to discuss what the United States can do to hold China accountable as it continues to persecute religious believers.

“Up until this point, the United States never had a strategy against China’s violations of human rights,” David Curry, head of the international Christian persecution advocacy group Open Doors USA, told The Christian Post. “They’ve recognized them as a country particular concern, but it’s not escalated. And there haven’t been any punishments directly associated with it. So we think that might be something they would consider, as far as punishments go.”

Open Doors USA ranks China as the 27th worst nation in the world when it comes to Christian persecution on its 2019 World Watch List.

From:

<https://www.christianpost.com/news/china-removes-bible-god-christ-from-childrens-classics-like-robinson-crusoe.html>



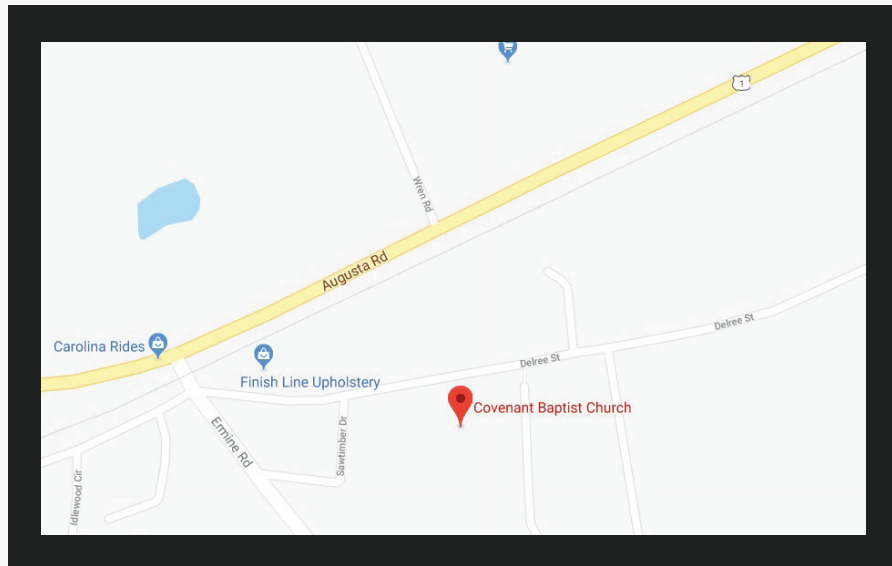
Covenant Baptist Church

Reformed and Refreshing

3535 Delree Street

West Columbia, SC 29170

<https://covenantbaptistsc.org>



*If you are interested in joining our church, please speak to one of our elders or deacons.
They will be happy to give you the information you need.*