



## Covenant Baptist Church

*Reformed and Refreshing*

*February 23rd, 2020*

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>*

## Service Times:

Bible Education Hour (Puritans)  
~ 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:

*(February 23rd, 2020)*

Jesus Paid It All—281

Scripture Reading and Lord's Supper:  
Proverbs 19:1-15

The Old Rugged Cross—275

Beneath the Cross of Jesus—278

Message:

God's Sovereignty and the Problem of Evil  
—Romans 8:28 & Selected Scriptures

Prayer and Benediction

Closing Hymn: Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross—273

# Table of Contents

1. Announcements and Book of the Week—pg. 2
2. Events—pg. 3
3. Theology: What in the Wide World is Going On with the Southern Baptist Convention? (article)—pg. 4
4. Church News (main article: The Oil-Producing Bible Scam)—pg. 9
5. Church News (cont.) and Quote of the Week—pg. 13
6. The Pastoral Point: Unspeakable Evil—Why?—pg. 14
7. Resources for Biblical Counseling—pg. 17
8. Directions—pg. 18

## Upcoming cleaning volunteers:

February 29: Bristol  
March 7: Shumpert/Smoak  
March 14: Egan/Fudge

## Deacon on-call list:

February 23: Trey Egan  
March 1: Colonel Rogers  
March 15: Andy Shumpert

## Church Bookstore:

Purchases (cash only) can be made by seeing Annsley or Cristan Smoak,  
or following the instructions left near the bookstore entrance.

## Announcements—February 23rd, 2020

No Greek class tonight.

—  
Women's Fellowship Opportunity: Daybreak Ministry will be offering our ladies (children welcome) a tour of their facility and a presentation on their mission and how we can become involved with Daybreak. We will meet with Linzy Laird, the director of Daybreak, at their facility (1601 St. Julian Place, Columbia) on Friday, March 13th at 10 AM. After our tour, we will meet at Grecian Gardens in West Columbia for lunch. There will be a sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall this week or you can RSVP to Kerri Olds at 843-819-5080

—  
A special time of prayer in the overflow room/fellowship area will begin soon, taking place on Wednesdays at 6:15 PM. In an effort to have more prayer and to improve our Wednesday evening service, we are adding a time and place for men and women to pray for general needs. This is modeled after the men and women gathered together for prayer in the upper room in Acts 1. During the Wednesday evening service at 7 PM, we will have 2 or 3 men lead in a more directed prayer for specific topics or needs. Start date to be announced soon.

—  
The Biblical Counseling class has been put on hold for a few months as the teacher, Joe Whiting, just underwent emergency heart surgery. He is stabilized and recovering well. Please keep him and his family in prayer during this time.

—  
The Mission Team for India has postponed their trip to June due to the spread and uncertainty of the coronavirus. Meanwhile, they are still preparing for the upcoming trip. The team will consist of Alton Crapps, Pastor Swann, Luke Swann, Spencer Allen, Andy Shumpert, and Andrew Shumpert. Each individual is responsible to raise their own funds for air tickets, hotel room, and meals. If you would like to help in this ministry please earmark checks or label the missions envelope either for the individual you wish to help or if you wish to help with the ministry cost, label checks or envelope India Ministry. Funds are also needed to provide Telegu bibles. Your prayers and your support are much appreciated.

## Book of the Week:

### *Meet the Puritans*

*Joel R. Beeke & Randall J. Pederson*



This encyclopedic resource provides biographical sketches of all the major Puritans as well as bibliographic summaries of their writings and work. *Meet the Puritans* is an important addition to the library of the layman, pastor, student and scholar.

<https://www.heritagebooks.org/products/meet-the-puritans-beeke-pederson.html>

## Patterns of Evidence: The Red Sea Miracle Part 1 & 2

Tim Mahoney investigates one of the greatest miracles of the Bible. Did a mighty sea split? What secrets will be revealed?

After leaving Egypt, the Bible describes the Israelites crossing a deep sea that was miraculously split with walls of water on their right and left. When the Egyptians and their chariot force pursued, the water came crashing back down to destroy the entire army. Are miracles of this kind even possible?...

Join Timothy Mahoney in the next chapter of the series as he retraces the steps of Moses and the Israelites, looking for answers in Patterns of Evidence: The Red Sea Miracle Part 1 & 2.

**IN THEATERS**

**Feb. 18th—Part 1 May 5th—Part II**

<https://patternsofevidence.com/redsea/>

## Covenant Baptist Church Events

Greek Class:

*No Greek class tonight.*



2nd Sunday Fellowship Dinner:

*March 8th is our next second Sunday fellowship meal. Please plan to bring a dish and join us after the service! Also remember that we usually have visitors who stay for the meal, and you are encouraged to bring more than a small side dish so that there is plenty to go around.*

## What in the Wide World is Going On with the Southern Baptist Convention? —by Gabriel Hughes

Perhaps you heard the sound of a massive creaking ship rocking the online community, and you turned in your boat to see a commotion aboard the U.S.S. Southern Baptist Convention. That's because on Monday, the Pastors Conference, which precedes the annual convention held in June, announced the line-up of speakers who would be addressing the ministers attending this year's event in Orlando. And that line-up is a mess, to say the least.

The headlining name at the top of the announcement from the Baptist Press is bestselling author Wayne Cordeiro, pastor of New Hope Christian Fellowship in Honolulu. Not only is Cordeiro not a Southern Baptist, he's not even sound. He's a pastor in a Foursquare church, a pentecostal denomination founded by heretic and con-artist Aimee Semple McPherson.

Cordeiro is cut from the same cloth as Joel Osteen, Joseph Prince, and Joyce Meyer. He's a prosperity preaching motivational speaker disguised as a pastor who wants you to live Your Best Life Now. Cordeiro preaches things like "Jesus came as a dream releaser," and "nothing can rival the power" of the dream God has given you. But, "unless that potential is recognized and released, it remains richly unproductive." (Quotes taken from the first few pages of his book *Dream Releasers*.)

Cordeiro's church has a pastor on staff who's a woman, Cyndi Burgess. The SBC statement of faith, the Baptist Faith and Message 2000, states, "While both men and women are gifted for service in the church, the office of pastors is limited to men as qualified by Scripture." So Cordeiro's church could not be part of the Southern Baptist denomination, operating contrary to clear commands of Scripture. Yet this man is listed as the headlining name preaching to Southern Baptist ministers?



## What in the Wide World is Going On with the Southern Baptist Convention? —by Gabriel Hughes (cont.)

Furthermore, the list of speakers includes Hosanna Wong, a “spoken word artist” who “will perform” some kind of poetry performance backed by music. Wong has the title of “teaching pastor” at EastLake Church in San Diego. This woman does ministry in willful disobedience against God’s word. She’s unqualified even according to our Baptist statement of faith. And yet she’s being invited to address pastors at a Southern Baptist event?

Now, when I raised this concern on Twitter yesterday, I heard from about a dozen people who said something to the effect of, “Hosanna is a spoken word artist. She will be speaking as in a performance; she will not be preaching as a pastor.” Setting aside whatever qualifies as a “spoken word” performance and what place it has at a pastor’s conference, that doesn’t matter. She thinks she’s a pastor. Her church says she’s a pastor. The Bible says she’s not.

In the last couple of years, a segment of Southern Baptists (myself included) have been saying that the powers-that-be are attempting to sneak in egalitarianism, the liberal progressive idea that a woman has just as much right to the pulpit as a man. These leaders might assure us they’re committed complementarians, but then they give pastoral platforms to someone like Beth Moore, who has aggressively challenged complementarianism and called herself a soft complementarian (which means she’s a soft egalitarian).

Lo and behold, the Pastors Conference committee is platforming a woman who is an ordained minister and calls herself a pastor, justifying the concern that egalitarianism is spreading. When asked about Wong, David Uth, the Pastors Conference President, told the Baptist Press, “She’s not preaching. She’s not coming as a preacher. She’s coming as a musical artist.” That makes it okay? Why not make Nadia Bolz-Weber the host? I mean, as long as she’s not preaching...

Also on the docket for the Pastors Conference, is Jim Cymbala, pastor of the famed Brooklyn Tabernacle in New York City. The Brooklyn Tabernacle believes in an unbiblical second baptism of the Holy Spirit and mentions it in their statement of faith. Phil Wickham is leading worship, and I’ve warned elsewhere that Wickham is associated with the heretical Bethel Church in Redding, CA. Even Albert Mohler, president of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, has said Bethel Church, who held a week-long dead-raising ceremony a couple months ago, is not a church at all.

But hang on, we’re not done...



## What in the Wide World is Going On with the Southern Baptist Convention? —by Gabriel Hughes (cont.)

One of the speakers is also David Hughes (no relation), senior pastor of Church by the Glades in Coral Springs, FL (David's wife is also regarded as a pastor there). Chris Rosebrough of Pirate Christian Radio has been warning for years about the idolatry in this church, lacking any clear preaching of the gospel. About four years ago, Church by the Glades featured a Storm Trooper dance with people on stage dressed as Star Wars characters doing crotch-thrusts to *Don't Stop 'Til You Get Enough* by Michael Jackson.

This church has also featured their worship leaders (??) doing covers of songs by Katy Perry, Beyoncé, and Britney Spears. The Spears song that I saw was *Circus*, with lyrics like "Well baby, I'm a put-on-a-show kind a girl," and "When I crack that whip, everybody goin' trip." The performance put on by Church by the Glades was every bit as provocative as it sounds[...]

If you will recall, the issue that received the most attention at last year's Southern Baptist annual convention was the sex abuse crisis in the denomination, a story broken publicly by the Houston Chronicle in February. I have pointed out that the seriousness of this issue has not been helped by our convention president, J.D. Greear, who preached to his church, "The Bible whispers about sexual sin." How can we consistently confront such wicked depravity and effectively encourage hurting victims when the SBC president preaches things like that?

And yet one year after the news broke about a sex abuse crisis in many Southern Baptist churches, here we are heading to Orlando, FL, and platforming pastors who use sex to attract the unconverted and entertain believers. The inconsistent message continues. Have we learned nothing since last year? The Bible most certainly does not whisper about sexual sin, but apparently the Southern Baptist Convention does

As I wrote about in my book *2019 Year in Review*, this sex abuse crisis exists, in Southern Baptist churches and other denominations,



## What in the Wide World is Going On with the Southern Baptist Convention? —by Gabriel Hughes (cont.)

because of an ongoing affair with pragmatism. Rather than embracing the gospel and promoting the teaching of sound biblical doctrine, Southern Baptists at large, like most American churches, determine truth through that which is practically applicable or meaningful. Those things that aren't relevant get rejected.

Some pragmatism can be helpful as a matter of common sense. If your car is making a funny sound, you replace the fan belt, and suddenly your car isn't making that sound anymore, it's reasonable to assume that a faulty fan belt was the problem. That's pragmatism. But where pragmatism is not helpful is when it becomes the guiding principle of morality, mortality, and ministry. For that we need the absolute and unadulterated truth of God's Word.

The Apostle Paul says, "While bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come." This is right after Paul has said, "Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. Rather, train yourself for godliness" (1 Timothy 4:7-8). He went on to say, "If anyone teaches a different doctrine and does not agree with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teaching that accords with godliness, he is puffed up with conceit and understands nothing" (1 Timothy 6:3-4).

What the Church by the Glades is doing is irreverent, silly pragmatism. They are not preaching the sound words of our Lord. As has long been said by men much wiser than I am, if you use carnal means to get people in your church, it takes carnal means to keep them there. You are entertaining the flesh—you are not piercing the soul with the truth about sin, judgment, repentance, and the life-saving good news of the gospel. That piercing is done with the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God (Psalm 149:6, Ephesians 6:17, Hebrews 4:12, Revelation 1:16).

I do not think Church of the Glades is an anomaly. I think they represent the largest chunk of the denomination. Steven Furtick, whose Elevation Church is, believe it or not, Southern Baptist, is just like David Hughes. Furtick has platformed prosperity heretics and women preachers, too, all to titillating spectacle. Oh, look! Steven Furtick has preached at Church of the Glades! Why am I not surprised...

Why was David Hughes invited to speak to the Pastors Conference? Because a lot of the pastors attending want to be just like David Hughes. Or Steven Furtick. Or Andy Stanley. Or Ed Young Jr. Or Beth Moore. Or Bethel Church. They're pragmatists.



## What in the Wide World is Going On with the Southern Baptist Convention? —by Gabriel Hughes (cont.)

Things like Resolution 9, Beth Moore and the rise of egalitarianism, a lack of church discipline, the opposition to reformed doctrine, topical preaching over expository preaching, and even the sex abuse crisis may look like separate issues, but they have all grown from the same rotten root. The Southern Baptist denomination must make our highest concern the preaching of the true gospel of Jesus Christ and “the stewardship from God that is by faith,” for “certain persons, by swerving from these, have wandered away into vain discussion” (1 Timothy 1:4-6).

If the Southern Baptist Convention doesn’t right the ship, and soon, it will be dashed against the rocks and “make a shipwreck of their faith” (1 Timothy 1:16). And it should be wrecked, if a spirit of repentance doesn’t come swiftly upon its officers and its crew.

*EDIT: When the blog was first published, the title was “What in the Wide World is Going On with the Southern Baptist Convention?” I changed “Convention” to “Church,” and under advisement, I have changed it back to “Convention.” I hope that’s not too confusing :)*

*CORRECTION: While Steven Furtick did receive his M.Div. from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, it appears as if he and Elevation Church are no longer part of the Southern Baptist Convention, though they were at one point.*



Full Article, Photos, and Links at:

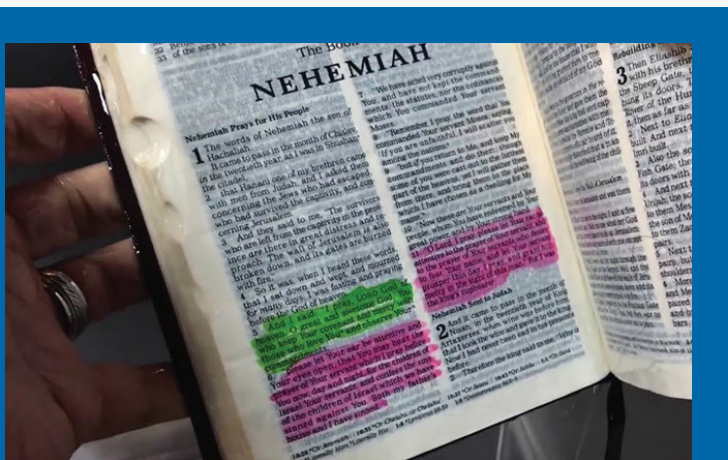
<http://pastorgabehughes.blogspot.com/2020/02/what-in-wide-world-is-going-on-with.html>

## The Oil-Producing Bible Scam—by Josh Buice

A couple of years ago, a ministry by the name His Name is Flowing Oil was hosted by a local church in our community for a series of special meetings. This caught my attention because the ministry was claiming to have a Bible that was producing oil. The claim was that oil was miraculously flowing out of the Bible into a container used to collect it, which was stated to be a manifestation of God's presence and a manifestation of everything you think is impossible. As you can imagine, this caught the attention of many skeptics and religious people who adamantly defended the claims.

A little more than two years later, the ministry that developed under this alleged oil producing Bible based in Dalton, Georgia, has shut down following an investigation by the Chattanooga Times Free Press. The leaders of the ministry would travel to churches for special services where they would proclaim God's miraculous power to heal the sick, grow arms and legs that had been amputated, and provide financial prosperity.

During the services, they would anoint people with this special oil straight out of the plastic container where the oil producing Bible was held. They would also distribute vials of this oil to people, in fact, they have distributed more than 350,000 vials of this oil throughout the nation. During the investigation, it was discovered that the oil is nearly identical to the Ideal brand oil—a petroleum-derived product found at Tractor Supply. [1] Ministry leader Jerry Pearce has admitted to buying gallons oil from a local Tractor Supply Co., but he defends himself claiming to never put the oil on the Bible or in the container.



What can we learn from this exposed scam?

When we read Psalm 119, we find that the psalmist is consistently pointing back to the Bible. In fact, to be clear, he is pointing back to the content of Scripture. Throughout the entire psalm, the point is clearly

Photo from: <http://www.deliveredbygrace.com/the-oil-producing-bible-scam/>

### The Oil-Producing Bible Scam—by Josh Buice (cont.)

made that the Bible is sufficient to direct our path and to protect us from the dangers of this broken sinful world (Ps. 119:11, 105). When we look at our world today, we see that people have many physical, emotional, financial, and most importantly—spiritual needs. However, the tragedy is that many people are being deceived by ministries that point people away from the Scripture to something else. They point to “signs and wonders” as the means by which people will receive their blessing.

God has revealed himself in the pages of the Bible. Not in a book that’s claiming to be producing miraculous oil. God has revealed himself in the actual text of Scripture—the words and sentences and paragraphs. In other words, this is why Paul instructed Timothy to “preach the Word” to the church at Ephesus (see 2 Tim. 4:1-5). He didn’t instruct Timothy to hold special miracle services or to engage the community with signs and wonders. Instead, he pointed Timothy to the content of the sufficient Word and commanded him to preach the Scriptures. If we want to meet with God, we must get serious about teaching and preaching the Bible. We must be serious minded about reading and praying through the Scriptures—rather than some special service that spends the entire time pointing people away from the Bible to something else.

The 1689 London Baptist Confession, in Article 1.1 on the Scriptures says: **“The Holy Scripture is the only sufficient, certain, and infallible rule of all saving knowledge, faith, and obedience.”**

In John Bunyan’s *The Pilgrim’s Progress* Christian and Hopeful are on their way to the Celestial City. As Christian and Hopeful were on their way, they noticed a pleasant-looking field. It was called By-Path Meadow. They reasoned with themselves and said, “If this meadow is right next to the way, let us step aside into it and walk there.” So, they compromised and soon enough, they felt the journey to be easier and comfortable.

Soon, they found a man named Vain-Confidence walking the same path and they asked where the path was leading. He yelled back, “To the Celestial Gate.” Christian turned to Hopeful and said, “See, didn’t I tell you?” When night came, darkness fell, and they lost sight of Vain-Confidence. He fell into a deep pit and when Christian and Hopeful called out for him, all they could hear was him groaning in the pain of death. Then suddenly, a great storm came and with torrential rain and fierce thunder and lightening – Hopeful groaned in himself, saying,

### The Oil-Producing Bible Scam—by Josh Buice (cont.)

“O that I had kept on the true way!”

This is how Christian and Hopeful were eventually captured and taken to Doubting Castle and placed in a dungeon. One of the greatest scenes in Bunyan’s story is when Christian remembers that he has a key in his pocket. As the story unfolds, notice the location of the key:

*What a fool I have been, to lie like this in a stinking dungeon, when I could have just as well walked free. In my chest pocket I have a key called Promise that will, I am thoroughly persuaded, open any lock in Doubting-Castle.” “Then,” said Hopeful, “that is good news. My good brother, do immediately take it out of your chest pocket and try it.” Then Christian took the key from his chest and began to try the lock of the dungeon door; and as he turned the key, the bolt unlocked and the door flew open with ease, so that Christian and Hopeful immediately came out.*

The lesson we learn from this book is that God’s Word was hidden in his heart so that in the midst of danger, doubt, and despair—it was not a mystical experience that occurred that led Christian and Hopeful out of the dungeon. Instead, it was the key called Promise which is a direct connection to Psalm 119:11. John MacArthur has rightly stated the following:

*Preoccupied with mystical encounters and emotional ecstasies, [many] seek ongoing revelation from heaven – meaning that, for them, the Bible alone is simply not enough. [With them], biblical revelation must be supplemented with personal “words from God,” supposed impressions from the Holy Spirit, and other subjective religious experiences. That kind of thinking is an outright rejection of the authority and sufficiency of Scripture (2 Tim. 3:16–17). It is a recipe for far-reaching theological disaster.*

Any church or any pastor who diminishes the preaching and teaching of Scripture and majors on extra-biblical encounters, experiences, signs, wonders, and supposed miracles is not speaking for God. Furthermore, when men like Jerry Pearce and Johnny Taylor insist that God has spoken directly to them, yet they are later found out to be scam artists—it should further validate the problem of people claiming to be hearing directly from God. Whatever they’re hearing—we can be certain it isn’t God.

Do not be led astray by false teaching. We should look to Scripture and evaluate every word taught by the lens of holy Scripture—which

### The Oil-Producing Bible Scam—by Josh Buice (cont.)

can always be trusted (Ps. 19). When you see preachers and teachers trying to take our attention away from God and our confidence away from his Word—it should be like warning lights flashing on the dashboard of your vehicle—something is not right and must be evaluated immediately. We must remember that the Bible is sufficient, as Thomas Watson so eloquently stated, “The Scripture is the library of the Holy Ghost; it is a pandect of divine knowledge, an exact model and platform of religion. The Scripture contains in it the credenda, ‘the things which we are to believe,’ and the agenda, ‘the things which we are to practice.’”

*2 Peter 2:1–3 – But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction. And many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of truth will be blasphemed. And in their greed they will exploit you with false words. Their condemnation from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.*



## Other News:

**Christian father loses wife, 6 children in house fire**— <https://www.christianpost.com/news/christian-father-loses-wife-six-children-in-house-fire.html>

**Boko Haram reportedly responsible for nearly 120,000 orphans, widows in Nigeria**— <https://disrn.com//news/boko-haram-reportedly-responsible-for-tens-of-thousands-of-orphans-widows-in-nigeria>

**Africa's Worst Locust Plague in Decades Threatens Millions**— <https://www.wsj.com/articles/africas-worst-locust-plague-in-decades-threatens-millions-11580475600>

**Virginia Senate passes bill removing abortion safety standards; governor expected to sign**— <https://www.christianpost.com/news/virginia-senate-passes-bill-removing-abortion-safety-standards-governor-expected-to-sign.html>

**Fox won't show abortion survivors' Super Bowl ad but OKs drag queen commercial**— <https://www.christianpost.com/news/fox-wont-show-abortion-survivors-super-bowl-ad-approves-drag-queen-commercial.html>

## Quote of the Week:

We are not responsible to God for the souls that are saved, but we are responsible for the Gospel that is preached, and for the way in which we preach it.

—Charles Haddon Spurgeon

# The Pastoral Point—Proclaiming Truth in a World of Uncertainty (Feb. 2020)

—Pastor Charles Swann

## Unspeakable Evil...Why?

*Therefore, hear me, you men of understanding: far be it from God that he should do wickedness, and from the Almighty that he should do wrong.— Job 34:10 (ESV)*

This past week has captured our minds and our hearts with the tragic disappearance and subsequent murder of Faye Swetlik. A beautiful 6-year-old girl who was full of life and smiles. My immediate reaction was that this was such an “unspeakable evil.” I was reminded of another time an unspeakable evil captured the nation’s attention when Susan Smith killed her 2 children by strapping them in the car and deliberately allowing the car to go down the boat ramp into a pond drowning both her boys.

How do we explain such evil? How do we reasonably understand this without going insane? For the unbeliever, there is no hope in finding answers. These events and many like them would be just a meaningless collision of choices that purposeless people make. It is utterly hopeless. And even for the Believer, this can sometimes shake us deeply and we wonder, “How could a loving God allow such evil to take place?”. If He is an all-knowing God and all-powerful, how can He know this evil is happening and have the power to stop it, and yet not act? And since God is the Sovereign Ruler of this universe and rules in the affairs of men, then is this the plan and purpose of God? These are hard questions and many of us find our minds going right here.

So...when unspeakable evil happens, it is natural that we often find ourselves asking lots of questions. How can a beautiful 6-year-old girl be taken from the protection and love of her mother and father and be murdered and discarded as meaningless garbage? We wonder, why God would allow such evil in the world and how is it that His fiery wrath is not dispensed from Heaven with speed to satisfy the Justice of God?

Although it would take much more to explain all that Holy Scripture says



# The Pastoral Point (cont.)

about evil and its allowance and purpose by God, I give you a few points to keep in mind as you navigate through your thoughts about such an unspeakable evil.

## 1. We live in a fallen sin cursed earth.

Sadly, this is the natural result of a fallen and sinful world. We are reminded of this every day with the reality of how fragile life is and how sin and death permeate our world. Not long after the fall of man in the garden, blood was spilt with the murder of Abel. Also by the time we get to Genesis 6 the earth is full of evil and violence to the point that God says he was sorry that he had made man and decides to destroy them all with a flood. The fact that evil happens should not shock us, but sometimes the degree to which man can go with his evil heart does. Because of sin, men are capable of the worse forms of evil as Jeremiah says, “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; Who can know it?” (Jer. 17:9)

## 2. The Devil is the god of this age.

The Devil works tirelessly to blind people to the truth and lead people into evil as Paul reminded us in I Corinthians: “But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded...,” 2 Corinthians 4:3–4 (NKJV). Jesus said he was a murderer from the beginning (John 8:44). And lost people are identified as “children of the Devil” in I John 3:10.

## 3. Evil men are getting worse and worse.

Scripture is clear that as man and society move away from God and His Word, men will manifest more and more evil (Romans 1:18-28); Two things can occur in this situation. First, the grace of God is removed and the restraint that God gave for evil is removed. Second, the evil that is resident in all of our hearts is allowed to express itself with no internal restraint of the conscience and no external restraint due to the collapse of a moral society governed by the principles in the Word of God. (2 Tim 3:1-5)

## 4. God is Sovereign over the worst forms of evil.

The fact that God is Sovereign is not a debatable issue. God is not God if He is not sovereign. The issue is how do we understand God’s rule over evil. Scripture clearly teaches that while God is not the author or efficient cause of evil, He does exercise control over it. He doesn’t in any sense approve of

# The Pastoral Point (cont.)

evil, ratify it, look on it with favor, give it His blessing, or delight in it; but nothing happens outside of His sovereignty. Consider the case of Job—God turned Satan loose for horrendous evil in the life of Job. All the suffering Job endured at the hands of Satan happened under the Lord’s authority; none of it occurred outside the plan and power of God. None of it could have occurred if God had not willingly permitted it. (*The Truth About Evil*, by John MacArthur Tuesday, January 17, 2017)

Hope and comfort can only be found in the fact that God is ultimately in control of the existence and purpose of evil. Consider this... there are only 4 possibilities for who is in control of evil; Man, the devil, chance or God. The only one that brings comfort and hope is God, and that is exactly what the Bible affirms, “I form the light and create darkness, I make peace and create calamity; I, the Lord, do all these things.” (Isaiah 45:7). Also the greatest evil ever conceived of in the mind of man was the murder of the Son of God on the cross, yet this is clearly said to have been under the control of God. (Acts 2:23; 4:26-28, Gen.50:20,Rom. 8:28)

## 5. This is gracious reminder of the need for Christ.

The most important thing you can learn from this tragic event is that you need to saturate your family with the gospel of Christ. We will all die...us and our children, so we need to be prepared to meet God. In response to some unspeakable evil and a tragic event Jesus had a important reminder for all of us, “Do you suppose that these Galileans were worse sinners than all other Galileans, because they suffered such things? I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish. Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them, do you think that they were worse sinners than all other men who dwelt in Jerusalem? I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish.”(Luke 13:2–5) It must be stated that all of the thoughts I offer are an affirmation that the Bible is true, and it is the only means by which we can understand the existence of such evil and most importantly that the Gospel of Christ is our greatest need.



## Strategies for Fighting Depression Well—by Jim Newheiser

*<https://biblicalcounseling.com/fighting-depression-well/>*

## Identity Language in Counseling—by Martha Peace

*<https://biblicalcounseling.com/identity-language-in-counseling/>*



## Covenant Baptist Biblical Counseling Class:

*A Biblical Counseling class started February 13th at 7 PM here at the church. If you would be interested in participating, please let the pastor know. We are going to livestream the class. Just go to the website at <https://covenantbaptistsc.org> and click the livestream button on home page at 7pm Thursdays.*





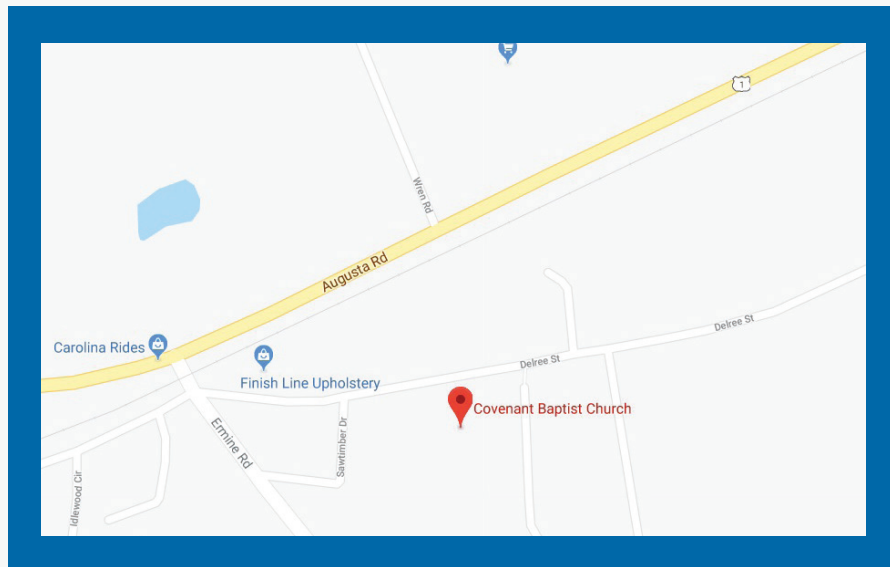
## **Covenant Baptist Church**

*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.*