



Covenant Baptist Church

Reformed and Refreshing

April 26th, 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

(April 26th, 2020)

Service cancelled; live-stream at
10:30 am (Charles Swann)

<https://covenantbaptistsc.org/live-stream/>

Table of Contents

1. Announcements, Events, and Book of the Week—pg. 2
2. Theology: It All Adds Up (article)—pg. 3
3. News: COVID-19 antibody testing finds number of Bay Area infections may be 85 times higher than reported (main article)—pg. 5
4. News (cont.), Quote of the Week, and Resources for Biblical Counseling (UPDATED)—pg. 6
5. Directions—pg. 7

Church Bookstore:

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

Announcements

We are aware of the situation with the coronavirus and are asking that everyone take the necessary precautions (i.e. wash hands, use hand sanitizer, etc.) and monitor the church website and the texting service for announcements regarding our services. Things can change overnight as we have seen, so there may be a time when we cancel all services. If you have any questions, you can ask any of the elders or deacons. If anyone needs help knowing how to livestream the service, please see one of the elders or deacons. Also, if you need to stay home for health reasons and need anything brought to you, please let us know. We would be glad to serve you in this way.

—
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 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.

Covenant Baptist Church Events

Greek Class—*On hold*

Other Events:

Truth: Answers for Women, March 27-28 2020—(Williamstown, KY)

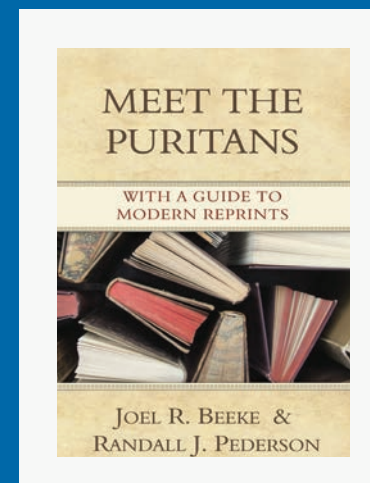
DELAYED UNTIL 2021

More at: <https://answersingenesis.org/outreach/event/answers-for-women-2020/>

NCFIC Singles Conference—*NCFIC is offering a Singles Conference: Holiness to the Lord October 28-29. More details can be found at: <https://ncfic.org/events/216400/overview>*

Book of the Week: Meet the Puritans, by Joel Beeke and 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>



It All Adds Up

—by Roger Paterson

A 6,000-year-old earth? When you look up the Bible references, the math's not that hard!

We've all heard the horror stories. Teachers in government schools force students through strange, torturous machinations to do simple math. For example, many of us used to be able to add $121 + 13$ in 1.72 seconds. The Common Core method takes 7 steps and 3 minutes and 18 seconds.

You might think you need to do similar mathematical gymnastics to arrive at the age of the earth, so you leave it to the scientists. Or maybe you just ignore the subject because you don't see how it relates to your everyday struggles to follow Jesus. Well, this is not a salvation issue, but it is an issue of authority. Here is what I mean.

For those who trust in an evolutionary view of history, determining the earth's age is a complicated process. First, you have to find a meteorite, crush it up, and then send it to a lab for analysis. (Why a meteorite? I'll get to that later.) 4,500,000,000 years (or at least that's the expected result). That's a whole lot of zeros!

Technicians measure the ratio of isotopes and enter that into a complex calculation that factors in the rate of radiometric decay. Out pops a number somewhere around 4,500,000,000 years (or at least that's the expected result). That's a whole lot of zeros!

But if you look to the Bible as the ultimate source of truth, a much simpler answer emerges. And you don't even need to find a meteorite. All you need is a Bible and a calculator. In fact, open your Bible to Genesis 5.

While people might joke about reading genealogies as a substitute for counting sheep, they serve a very important purpose as part of God's Word. These lists demonstrate the historical nature of the early chapters of Genesis. Real men had real sons, and we know how old each man was at the birth of his son.

Many refer to this list and the one in Genesis 11 as chronogenealogies since each name in Genesis 5 and 11 contains a time stamp. Seth was born to Adam at 130, and Seth had Enosh when he was 105. So from Adam to Enosh, 235 years passed. Using your calculator (I won't make you do it the Common Core way), you can run down the list and add the ages from Adam to Noah. You should come up with 1,556 years to the birth of Noah's sons (I'll wait for you to check my math). But they were not triplets—Shem was the middle child (Genesis 9:24, 10:21), born when Noah was 502. That brings the date at Shem's birth to 1,558 years after the creation of Adam.

You can pick up Shem's descendants in Genesis 11:10 and continue adding the dates together. You arrive at Terah, accumulating 320 more years. With some careful examination of Genesis 11:32 and 12:4, we know Terah was 130 when Abraham was born. Adding all of this gives us a time span of about 2,008 years from Adam to Abraham.

To be fair, there are some differences in various ancient manuscripts that you should study if you want to understand this issue in detail. But you'll find the dates vary by a few thousand years at the most. Even if, as some Christians propose, there are missing names in these genealogies and Arphaxad, for example, is really Shem's grandson, the timing doesn't change (because the Bible is clear about how old Shem was when Arphaxad was born).

So now we know there were about 2,000 years from Adam to Abraham, but how do we get to the present? Think backward from this point. Pop quiz: How many years have passed from Jesus' life to the present? Since our modern calendar gives dates in Anno Domini (the year of our Lord), the answer is easy: about 2,000.

All that's left is to determine the time between Jesus and Abraham. This is a little more complicated, but with a bit of hopping from book to book, it is possible to calculate the answer from the Bible. Bible scholars disagree on a few details but the total disagreement covers only about 200 years. Most historians, even those who don't believe the Bible, agree that Abraham was born around 2000 BC—and this dating agrees with the biblical record.

Now you have the three pieces to add together, but I bet you can do this part in your head. From creation to Abraham is about 2,000 years. Abraham to Jesus covers about 2,000 years, and you are 2,000 years removed from Jesus. $2 + 2 + 2 = 6$. That means the earth, and the entire created universe, is about 6,000 years old.

Now that might sound radical if you have always heard the earth is 4.5 billion years old. But on what authority should you accept that claim? Christians should look to God's Word to determine right and wrong, so why shouldn't they do so on matters like the age of the earth? To do otherwise seems inconsistent. If you look to man's interpretation of the natural world and the age of the earth, you place your trust in man over God.

Scientists who believe the universe is billions of years old assume the earth and meteors formed at the same time from a spinning cloud of debris. On top of that, the radiometric dating methods they use to determine meteorites' ages rely on still more assumptions. This chain of assumptions is unreliable and totally disagrees with the Bible. We are talking about thousands versus billions—that's more than a rounding error.

Without these alleged billions of years, evolution cannot happen. Ideas like human evolution are bound up in the question of the age of the earth. You don't need those vast ages if you trust that God created plants, animals, and humans supernaturally—as He says He did in Genesis 1.

While this question may not factor into your daily decisions, it has important consequences. To be sure, all who trust in Christ alone for salvation are secure, even if they believe in an old earth. But if you can't trust God's Word on the age of the earth, why should you trust it when it tells you Jesus rose from the dead? The same skeptical scientists who say the earth is 4.5 billion years old would tell you dead men don't rise from the grave days later. So who are you going to trust?

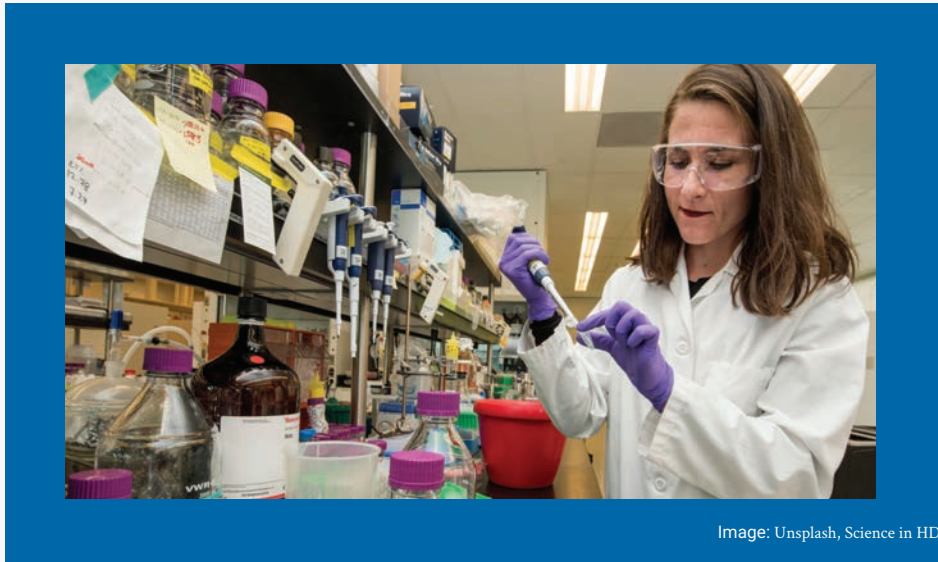


Image: Unsplash, Science in HD

COVID-19 antibody testing finds number of Bay Area infections may be 85 times higher than reported

—by Adam Ford

A team of researchers in California found that the number of coronavirus cases in one California county may actually be up to 85 times higher than what health officials have found, and thus, the virus's true fatality rate may be much lower than previously thought.

Stanford University-led researchers tested 3,330 adults and children in Santa Clara County for COVID-19 antibodies and found that the population prevalence ranged from 2.49% to 4.16%.

The researchers concluded:

“The most important implication of these findings is that the number of infections is much greater than the reported number of cases. Our data imply that, by April 1 (three days prior to the end of our survey) between 48,000 and 81,000 people had been infected in Santa Clara County. The reported number of confirmed positive cases in the county on April 1 was 956, 50-85-fold lower than the number of infectious predicted by this study.”

“Many estimates of fatality rate use a ratio of deaths to lagged cases (because of duration from case confirmation to death), with an infections-to-cases ratio in the 1-5 fold range as an estimate of under-ascertainment,” the researchers wrote. “Our study suggests that adjustments for under-ascertainment may need to be much higher.”

The researchers called widespread antibody testing “an important tool for reducing uncertainty about the state of the epidemic”:

“While our study was limited to Santa Clara County, it demonstrates the feasibility of seroprevalence surveys of population samples now, and in the future, to inform our understanding of this pandemic’s progression, project estimates of community vulnerability, and monitor infection fatality rates in different populations over time. It is also an important tool for reducing uncertainty about the state of the epidemic, which may have important public benefits.”

Dr. Scott Gottlieb, former FDA commissioner, agreed that the researchers’ findings are likely representative of what overall national exposure looks like:

This probably aligns with what overall national exposure may be, on order of about 5% once we do wide serology. Santa Clara was a hot spot and I would have expected exposure to be higher. Overall we’re probably diagnosing 1 in 10 to 1 in 20 infections.

In hot spot cities like New York, there’s data to suggest the overall infection rate may be much higher. We’re also likely to find higher rates of infection among certain jobs. But the data so far suggest that nationally, total exposure is still low.

The Bay Area was one of the first regions hit by the pandemic and also one of the first to lock down in response to the virus.

Though it appears that the test’s results are being trusted by experts, the Premier Biotech serology test, which was used in the Santa Clara County study, has not yet been approved by the FDA.

Other News:

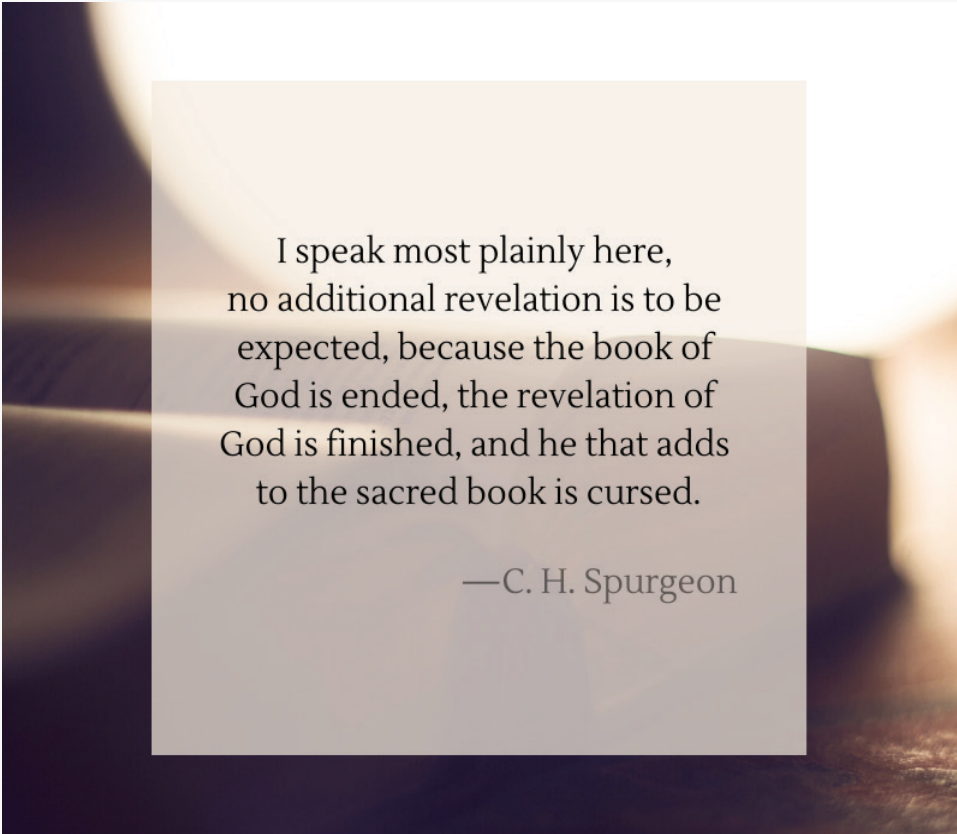
Google Play suspends evangelical church's app over COVID-19 'sensitive events' policy— <https://www.christianpost.com/news/google-play-suspends-evangelical-churchs-app-over-covid-19-sensitive-events-policy.html>

NWS: 20 tornadoes hit SC on Monday, at least 5 were EF3— <https://www.wistv.com/2020/04/17/nws-tornadoes-hit-sc-monday-least-were-ef/>

Woman says she survived tornadoes that killed 9 in SC by 'calling on Jesus'— <https://www.christianpost.com/news/woman-says-she-survived-tornadoes-that-killed-9-in-sc-by-calling-on-jesus.html>

As part of quarantine enforcement, California officials fill skate park with 74,000 pounds of sand— <https://disrn.com/news/as-part-of-quarantine-enforcement-california-officials-fill-skate-part-with-74000-pounds-of-sand>

Quote of the Week:



I speak most plainly here,
no additional revelation is to be
expected, because the book of
God is ended, the revelation of
God is finished, and he that adds
to the sacred book is cursed.

—C. H. Spurgeon

Biblical Counseling Resources

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/>

The Pursuit of Peace—by Sam Stephens
<https://biblicalcounseling.com/the-pursuit-of-peace/>

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.

Biblical counseling class on hold while teacher recovers from surgery. See page 2 for more info.



Covenant Baptist Church

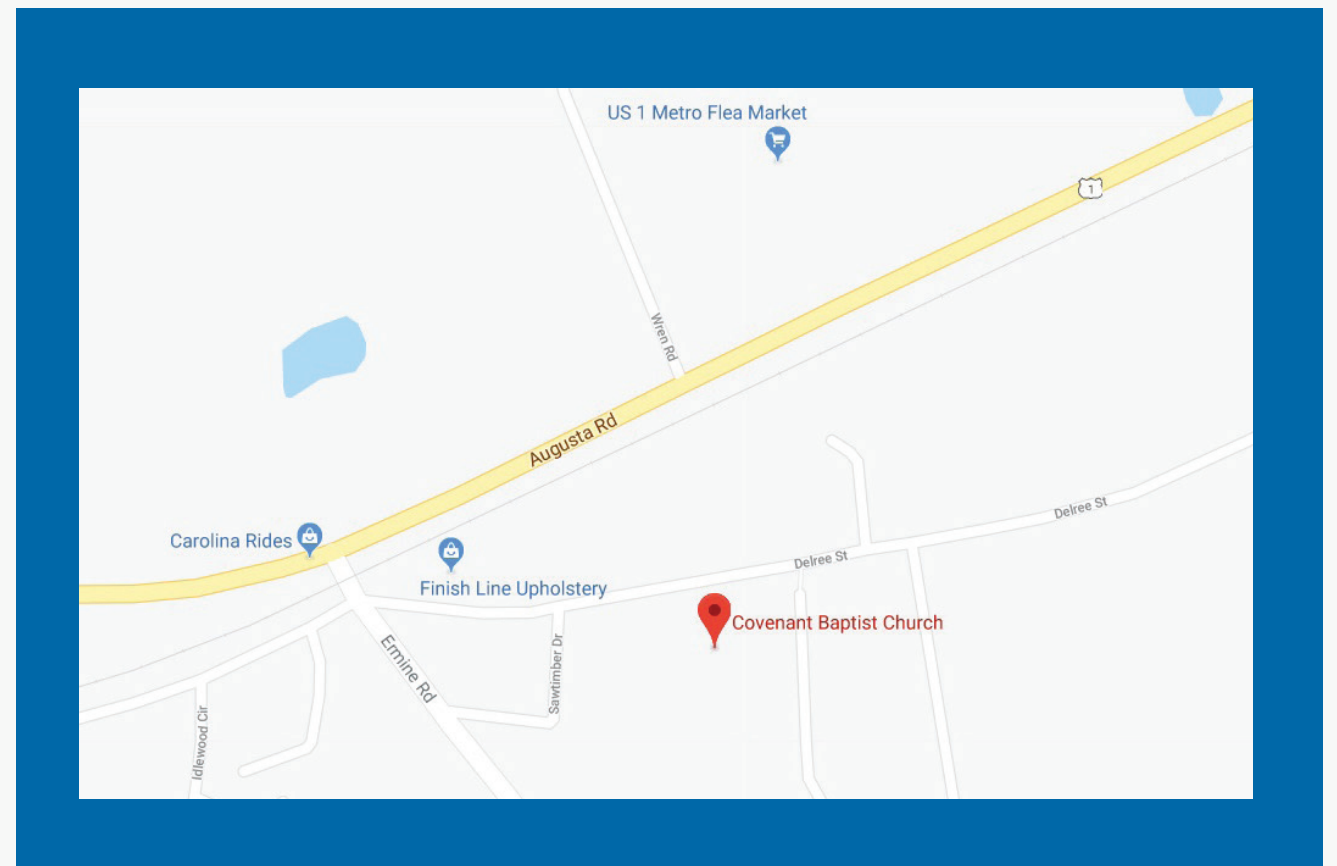
Reformed and Refreshing

3535 Delree Street

West Columbia, SC 29170

<https://covenantbaptistsc.org>

Location:



*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.*