



## Covenant Baptist Church

*Reformed and Refreshing*

*May 24th, 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.—ON HOLD

Sunday Worship ~ 10:30 A.M.

Wednesday Prayer Service ~ 7:00 P.M.—ON HOLD

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

## Order of Worship

*(May 24th, 2020)*

Rejoice, the Lord is King—116

Scripture Reading:  
Proverbs 21:1-15

Immortal, Invisible—36

Fairest Lord Jesus—107

Message:  
Needed Words from a Departing Savior  
—John 16:1-7

Prayer and Benediction

Closing Hymn: To God Be the Glory—19

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### 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.

—  
We will have preaching for the next 3 Sunday evenings:

Chris Olds: May 24th, 6pm  
Alton Crapps: May 31st, 6pm  
Matt Watson: June 7th, 6pm

Come and support these men as they preach and teach the Word of God.

## Book of the Week: All of Grace, by Charles Spurgeon

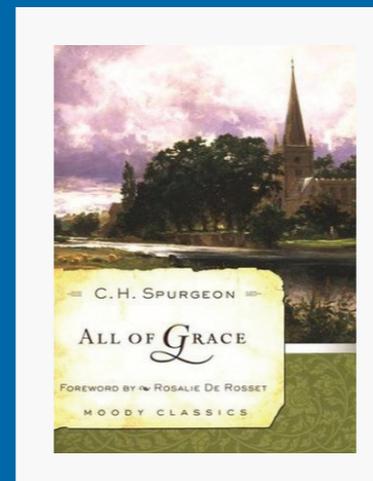
“The Lord knows very well that you cannot change your own heart and cannot cleanse your own nature, but he also knows that He can do both.

“This book does not come to make a demand upon you, but to bring you something.”

C. H. Spurgeon was a famed preacher and a prolific writer. No message was more central to his life and ministry, however, than the message contained in this series of sermons...

*From back cover*

<https://www.amazon.com/Grace-Moody-Classics-Charles-Spurgeon/dp/0802400019>  
(also available as hard copy in church bookstore)



## 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>

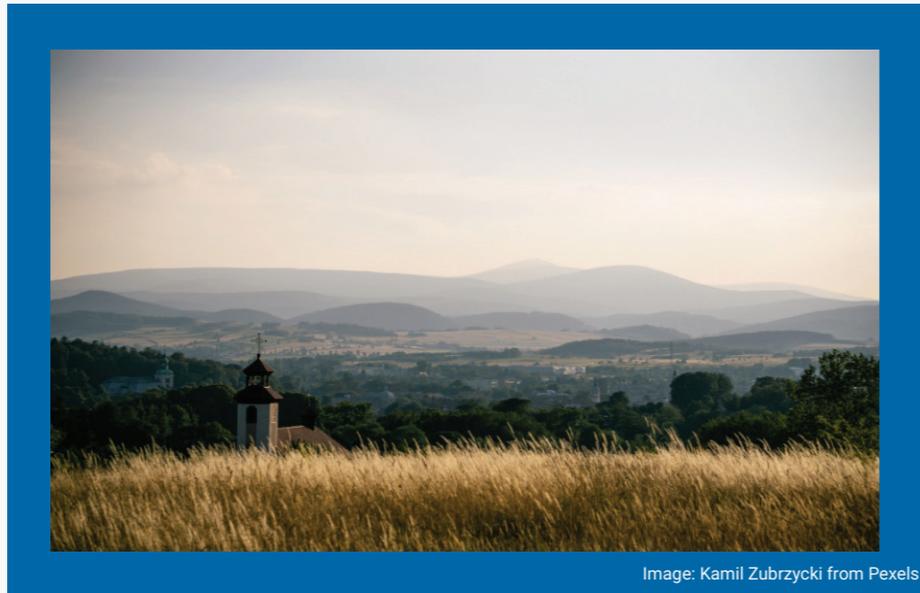


Image: Kamil Zubrzycki from Pexels

## Some Practical Implications of Calvinism

—by Tom Hicks

Calvinism's doctrine of God's sovereign rule over all things is far from an abstract teaching with little if any effect on the lives of ordinary believers. Rather, Calvinism has many practical implications. While they may not automatically follow from simply holding to Calvinistic doctrine, they do follow naturally when Calvinism is truly believed and embraced from the heart. This list is not intended to suggest that non-Calvinists deny any of these truths, only that Calvinism certainly implies them.

**1. Calvinism gives us confidence in the Bible's sufficiency.** God saves His chosen people through the Word of Christ (1 Corinthians 1:18). That means preachers have no need to use innovation in persuading anyone of the gospel. The salvation of souls depends on the gospel, faithfully preached and effectively applied by the Holy Spirit, not on the creativity or ingenuity of the preacher. This implication is wonderfully freeing to the preacher.

If we preach the gospel and people do not believe our message, then we know it is not because there is any problem with the gospel. It is because God saves whom He

chooses through the means He has appointed. Scripture says, "We preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and wisdom of God" (1 Corinthians 1:23-24).

**2. Calvinism helps calm our anxieties.** The Bible teaches that God works "all things after the counsel of His will" (Ephesians 1:11) and "all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose" (Romans 8:28). People often feel anxious or fearful because they're trying to control things that are outside of their control (Luke 12:25).

But Scripture teaches that God works all things for the good of His chosen people which means we have no reason to be anxious. We can know that everything which comes to pass is God's love to us, no matter what we feel or how things seem. We, therefore, can quiet our fears because God governs all things for the good of His people.

**3. Calvinism helps prevent us from trying to control others.** If we think that other people are capable of changing by an act of free will, then we might think that we can change them by manipulating them or coercing them to choose what we want them to choose (3 John 9-10).

But the Bible teaches that God alone rules the human heart (Proverbs 16:1, 9; 21:1; Jeremiah 10:23). Therefore, we should not try to control others. Christ teaches us to speak the truth in love, hold others accountable to truth, and serve them as Christ has served us, no matter what they choose. Our goal should not be to control people, but to show them Christ's love.

**4. Calvinism teaches us to love unconditionally.** Non-Calvinists believe God's saving love is conditioned upon the sinner's acceptance of His love. That is, they say God only exercises salvation toward sinners, if sinners first agree to allow Him to do so. On their view, God only loves people enough actually to save them, when they choose Him. But according to the Bible, God's love is absolutely free, powerfully conquering the hearts of His chosen people. "In this is love, not that we have loved God, but that he loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins" (1 John 4:10). "We love because He first loved us" (1 John 4:19).

When we believe that God loves us unconditionally, we can learn from His example how to love others in the same way. We won't think of "love" as conditioned on what others do or how they respond to us. Rather, we'll love and serve others as Christ Himself loves and serves us, no matter what others do. "Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought to love one another" (1 John 4:11).

**5. Calvinism makes us bold to obey the Lord.** Calvinism teaches both that God is sovereign over everything we choose, and that we are responsible to obey Him. Sometimes people fear that if they obey the Lord, they'll miss out on something or that others might oppose them and do them great harm.

But the Bible says that God controls everything, and that means He rules over all the results of our obedience. As we obey Him, He will certainly keep all His promises. While obedience will often bring suffering into our lives, that suffering cannot destroy us because God sovereignly guarantees that it will not. "For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world – our faith" (1 John 5:4).

**6. Calvinism supports a heart for missions.** The Bible teaches that Christ shed His blood for His chosen people, guaranteeing that they will be saved. Revelation 5:9 says, "By Your blood, You ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, and You have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth." Missions cannot fail because Christ's blood guarantees its success.

Calvinist missionaries can say with Paul, "I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory" (2 Timothy 2:10). They go into a foreign city, knowing that God says, "I have many in this city who are My people" (Acts 18:10). The greatest motive of missions is that we can faithfully proclaim the gospel, knowing that God will save His chosen people.

**7. Calvinism fosters deep humility.** While some who profess Calvinism are proud of their new found understanding and are only looking to win theological debates, they have not really internalized what they claim to believe. Calvinism teaches that we are deeply sinful and can do nothing to save ourselves. If we trust in Jesus, then it is only because God has given us the gift of faith (Philippians 1:29).

If we repent of our sins, it's because God has given it to us (2 Timothy 2:25).

That means there is no room whatsoever for boasting. John 3:27 says, "A person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven." 1 Corinthians 4:7 says, "What do you have that you did not receive? If then you received it, why do you boast as if you did not receive it?" Therefore, those who truly believe Calvinistic doctrine will be deeply humble before the Lord and before their fellow human beings.

**8. Calvinism undergirds our assurance of salvation.** If salvation initially depends on our free will, then it would seem that it finally depends on our free will as well. In other words, if we are saved by our free will in the first place, then it would only make sense that we could freely choose to leave salvation.

But thanks be to God that is not the case! The Bible teaches that election is tied to the preservation of the saints. John 6:39 says, "And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day." God gives His chosen people to the Son, and they are all preserved by His power for resurrection and life on the last day. Assurance of salvation is a great comfort to God's people.

**9. Calvinism leads us to worship.** Non-Calvinistic theologies make salvation to depend, in the final analysis, on the free will of human beings. Conditional theologies, however, are not conducive to worship. Should we sing praises to God about our choices and our efforts? That is not worship.

The Bible teaches that God alone saves. And that's why we worship Him. We fall on our faces with joy and gratitude that we did nothing at all for our salvation. God did everything. The Father chose us for salvation in eternity. The Son accomplished our salvation at the cross. And the Holy Spirit applies salvation to us by uniting us to Christ and keeping us forever. We were dying in our sins, but God graciously and freely gave us life. And that is why we worship Him and glorify Him.

## Conclusion

Calvinism isn't just a doctrine to be formally accepted and then used to win debates

win debates or to be put on a shelf to collect dust. Rather, Calvinism is rife with experiential and practical implications. We need to think deeply about God's sovereign rule over all the universe and His electing love and then we ought to think and live accordingly in every aspect of our lives. May the Lord help us to live upon the doctrines of His great grace.



## NYC Council speaker demands Samaritan's Purse to leave over homosexuality views

—by Anugrah Kumar

While Samaritan's Purse has treated hundreds of COVID-19 patients at its field hospital in Central Park, New York City Council Speaker Corey Johnson demanded that the Christian charity leave the city over its biblical views on homosexuality.

"It is time for Samaritan's Purse to leave NYC. This group, led by the notoriously bigoted, hate-spewing Franklin Graham, came at a time when our city couldn't in good conscience turn away any offer of help. That time has passed," Johnson wrote on Twitter Saturday. "Their continued presence here is an affront to our values of inclusion, and is painful for all New Yorkers who care deeply about the LGBTQ community."

The openly gay speaker said while he's aware that the coronavirus battle is far from over and that the healthcare system needs ongoing support, "we can't continue allowing a group with their track record to remain here when we're past the point they're needed ... Mount Sinai must sever its relationship with Samaritan's Purse. Its leader calls the LGBTQ community 'detestable' and 'immoral.' He says being gay is 'an affront to God,' and refers to gay Christians as 'the enemy.'"

The Samaritan's Purse 68-bed field hospital has treated 315 patients since opening on April 1 adjacent to Mount Sinai Hospital in Central Park's East Meadow to help

meet the needs of local hospitals that are facing an unprecedented wave of sick patients.

As the organization faced criticism from the start over its views on marriage, Franklin Graham, who heads the organization, has made it clear that they treat all patients and do not discriminate. While staff are required to subscribe to a Statement of Faith, he stressed that “we have never asked any of the millions of people we have served to subscribe to anything.”

”In other words, as a religious charity, while we lawfully hire staff who share our Christian beliefs, we do not discriminate in who we serve. We have provided billions of dollars of medical care and supplies, food and water, and emergency shelter without any conditions whatsoever. Our Christian faith compels us — like the biblical Good Samaritan — to love and serve everyone in need, regardless of their faith or background.”

Denny Burk, professor of biblical studies at Boyce College, the undergraduate arm of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, responded to Johnson’s tweets and argued that Christians are the ones being discriminated against.

“This open hostility to Christianity is breathtaking. Christians have always believed that marriage is the union of one man and one woman and that all sexual relations outside marriage are by definition immoral,” he tweeted. “It’s not a particularly popular point of view in the secular West, but it is what all faithful Christians everywhere throughout the 2,000-year history of the church have always believed. This is nothing new.

“What is new is the notion that real live Christians are unwelcome to live and work and practice their faith in our nation’s largest city. That is an innovation of recent vintage and is nothing more than unvarnished animus—invidious discrimination. If Christians are not allowed to practice their faith in NYC, rest assured that it is only a matter of time before they won’t be allowed to practice it anywhere in the U.S.”

That’s the cost of allowing “this kind of illiberal intolerance” to drive a Christian group from NYC, he concluded.

Mount Sinai, which partnered with Samaritan’s Purse due to the surge in critically ill coronavirus patients, announced Saturday that they will wind down the field hospital operations.

“Now that the surge in COVID hospital admissions is reaching manageable levels, we will stop admitting new patients to the Central Park field hospital as of May 4,” the hospital said, while expressing gratitude for the temporary partnership.

Many, including comedian Jimmy Fallon, have offered support and also expressed thanks for the work of Samaritan’s Purse.

According to Graham, Fallon sent burgers and fries to the charity’s NYC team. “Our staff has been so blessed by the hospitality of people in NY like you. God bless you!” Graham tweeted.

One discharged patient also sent cronuts to the Samaritan’s Purse team. “He said, “Thank you so much for your service! I can only imagine the emotional & physical toll...thank you for your selflessness,” Graham noted.

Samaritan’s Purse also has a field hospital in Italy to deal with the novel coronavirus outbreak.

“A beautiful gesture thanking our team at the @SamaritansPurse field hospital in Cremona, Italy,” Graham wrote on Twitter, along with a video of a man playing a cello there.

Last week, Samaritan’s Purse urged prayers for the frontline workers at its field office in NYC.

It shared that a nurse, Katie Kunnen, one of the more than 100 disaster assistance response specialists doing 12-hour shifts on the ground in New York, is “providing the highest level of quality care and dignity to patients suffering from the coronavirus.”

“When you feel exhausted, it’s important to remember you don’t have to do this in anxiety or stress. I can do this in grace and peace,” she said.

Doctors and nurses are meeting various immediate needs of their patients, including “communication, which means our medical team must navigate conversation despite the barriers caused by many levels of personal protective equipment. We’ve become a support system for patients in a place where family members are not allowed to enter.”

## Elderly couple “executed” at veterans cemetery were visiting son’s grave, a daily ritual

—by Adam Ford

Maryland couple Paul Marino, 86, and his wife Lidia, 85, who were “executed” at the Delaware Veterans Memorial Cemetery, were visiting their son’s grave as they did every day, according to one of their surviving sons.

Their son Ray, 60, said:

*“It was like a regimen. Mom and Dad visited my brother’s grave every single day, without fail, unless there was inclement weather. They usually went there in the morning.”*

Anthony, their son whose grave they were visiting, died of cerebral palsy in 2017, and since then they have visited his grave “perhaps 1,000 times.”

Delaware State Police identified the Marinos’ killer as Sheldon C. Francis, 29. He died of a gunshot wound near the scene of the murders after a shootout with police. Authorities have not said if he was killed by police or if he shot himself.

Authorities have also not released a motive for the slaying of the Marinos.

Ray Marino told the Cecil Whig:

*“He came up behind them, pulled out a handgun and did his thing. He shot our dad in the back of the head and then he shot our mom. We don’t know if he shot our mom first in front of our dad or if he shot our dad first in front of our mom. We don’t even know if they saw him ...*

*My parents were in their 80s, but they were very healthy and active. They had five or 10 more years of good life left, I’m sure. I thought they would die from natural causes some day — not be executed by a stranger in a cemetery.”*

## Other News:

County supervisor says San Diego has only had 6 “pure, solely coronavirus deaths” out of 194 listed as such— <https://disrn.com//news/county-supervisor-says-san-diego-has-only-had-6-pure-solely-coronavirus-deaths-out-of-194-listed-as-such>

Dallas Salon owner gets 7 days in jail and \$7000 fine for reopening shop— <https://disrn.com//news/dallas-salon-owner-gets-7-days-in-jail-7000-fine-for-reopening-shop>

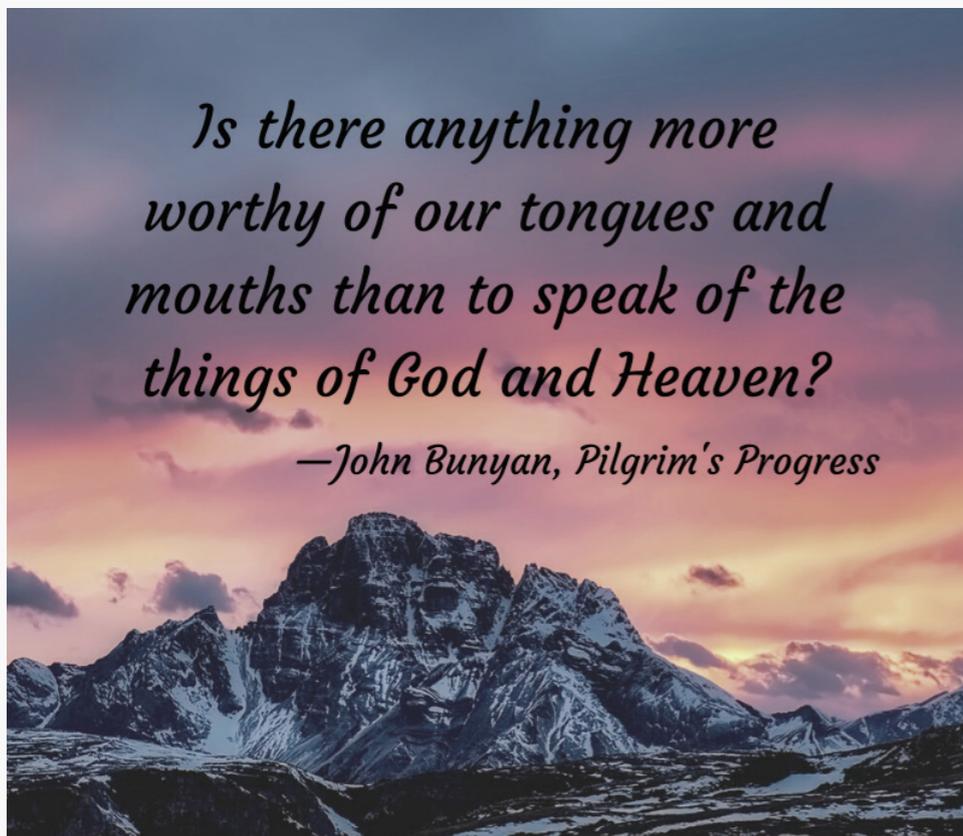
More than 5,600 Planned Parenthood clinics worldwide have closed due to pandemic— <https://disrn.com/news/more-than-5600-planned-parenthood-clinics-worldwide-have-closed-due-to-pandemic>

COVID-19 antibody testing finds number of Bay Area infections may be 85 times higher than reported— <https://disrn.com/news/covid-19-antibody-testing-finds-bay-area-infections-may-be-85-times-higher-than-reported>

## Quote of the Week:

*Is there anything more  
worthy of our tongues and  
mouths than to speak of the  
things of God and Heaven?*

*—John Bunyan, Pilgrim's Progress*



## 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

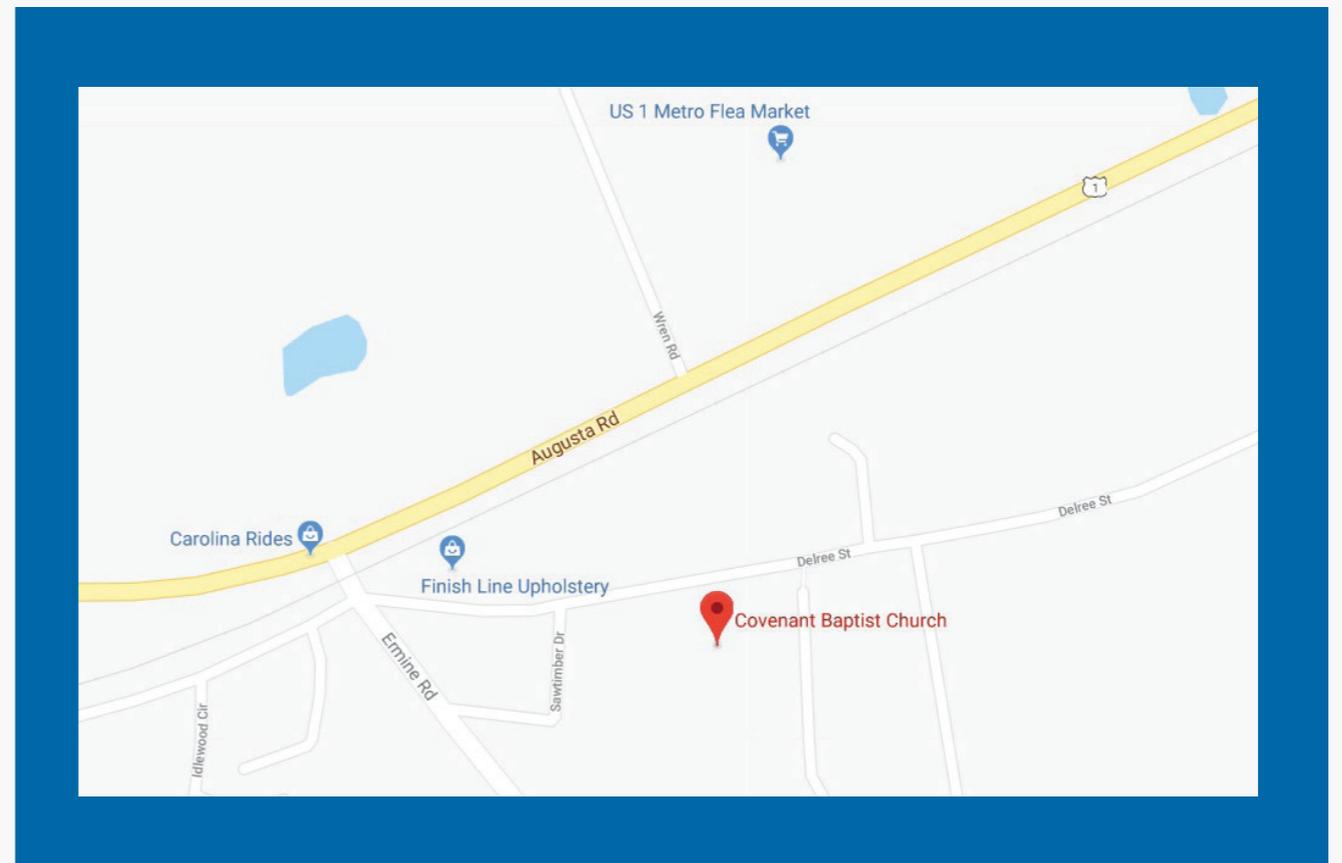
*Reformed and Refreshing*

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*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.*