



Covenant Baptist Church

Reformed and Refreshing

June 21st, 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

(June 21st, 2020)

Praise to the Lord the Almighty—2

Scripture Reading:
Genesis 11:1-9

Alas, and Did My Savior Bleed?—293

O Great God—35

Message:

Biblical Discernment in a Time of
Racial Divide, Pt 2: The Evil of Racism
—Selected Scriptures

Prayer and Benediction

Closing Hymn: Take My Life and Let It Be
(Selected Verses)—393

Table of Contents

1. Announcements, Events, and Book of the Week—pg. 2
2. Theology: Warning: Everything You Need to Know about the Supreme Court's LGBT Ruling (article)—pg. 3
3. Denver school board votes unanimously to pull police out of schools, citing “systemic racism” (main article)—pg. 6
4. News (cont.), Quote of the Week, and Resources for Biblical Counseling—pg. 8
5. Directions—pg. 9

On-Call Deacon List:

- June 21: Rogers
- July 12: Smoak
- July 19: Kyzer

Church Cleaning Schedule:

- June 27: Lucas/Waddell
- July 4: Bristol
- July 11: Shumpert/Smoak

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.

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We will be having the Lord's Supper soon; the date will be announced later.

Covenant Baptist Church Events

Greek Class—*On hold*

Biblical Counseling 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: The Gospel According to the Apostles, by John MacArthur

Ever since the days of the apostles Paul and James, who seemed to be in contradiction, Christians have struggled to define the proper tension between faith and works. Salvation, Paul stresses, is “not by works, so that no one can boast” (Ephesians 2:8-9). But James argues, “Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works” (James 2:18).

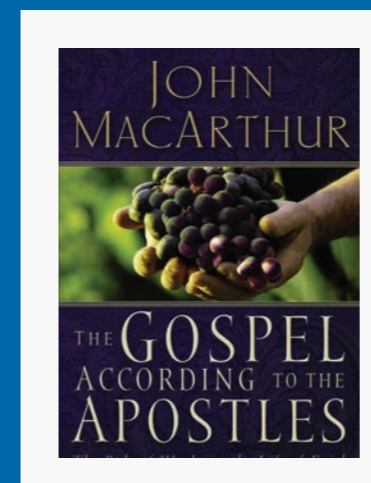
In clear and compelling terms, best-selling author John MacArthur reconciles these two seemingly divergent threads of biblical truth, addressing the difficult questions head on:

What is cheap grace?

Have some Christians adopted a “no-lordship” theology?

What must a person do to be considered righteous by God? [...]

<https://www.gty.org/store/books/451119S/the-gospel-according-to-the-apostles>





Warning: Everything You Need to Know about the Supreme Court's LGBT Ruling

—by Denise McAllister

On June 15, 2020, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in a 6–3 decision to give gay, lesbian and transgender workers protection under Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act that bans employment discrimination, setting up future battles that threaten constitutional rights.

The case, *Bostock v. Clayton County, Georgia*, comprised three different lawsuits involving discrimination claims—all wanting federal action. While many states have varied protections for LGBT individuals, the Court's ruling now applies protections uniformly across the nation.

Bostock might seem straightforward. You might even think there's no big deal giving employment protections to LGBT people. What's the harm, you might ask. But the case is far from simple, and its repercussions will be felt in many sectors of American society.

The three major problems with this case are 1) it is legislation, not interpretation; 2) sex has been, for all intents and purposes, redefined; and 3) it puts our freedoms at risk.

"The position the Court now adopts will threaten freedom of religion, freedom of speech, and personal privacy and safety," Justice Samuel Alito wrote in the dissenting opinion. "No one should think that the Court's decision represents an unalloyed victory

for individual liberty."

The Court Legislating

For years, LGBT groups have been trying to get new legislation passed that grants them employment protections. While some bills have made it through the House, both branches have not been able to make a decision on whether they should include sexual orientation and gender identity as classes that warrant discrimination protections.

The controversy in making that decision hinges on the concept of identity: Can homosexuality and transgenderism be categorized as an identity, such as race or a religious belief, which deserve legal protections, or are they merely actions, individual traits, perceptions, and feelings?

Congress has not been able to agree on the answer to that question, leaving federal LGBT anti-discrimination legislation in limbo. That is, until the *Bostock* case, which is basically an end run around Congress to legislate from the bench. "There is only one word for what the Court has done today: legislation," Alito wrote. "The document that the Court releases is in the form of a judicial opinion interpreting a statute, but that is deceptive."

Because the Court can't change the law to include homosexuality and transgenderism, it has to interpret already established law in light of what was meant at the time it was written—in this case Title VII, which outlaws discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. Looking at the law that was passed in 1964, the Court had to figure out what "sex" means—and it's here that "interpretation" transformed into legislation.

The Court claimed to be faithful to the textual meaning of the word, but as Alito wrote,

The Court's opinion is like a pirate ship. It sails under a textualist flag, but what it actually represents is a theory of statutory interpretation that Justice Scalia excoriated—the theory that courts should "update" old statutes so that they better reflect the current values of society.

Clearly—since our current Congress has been wrestling with making new legislation regarding just this point—the Congress in 1964 did not mean to include homosexuality and transgenderism under the rubric of "sex." But that's what the Court had to decide, and it did so without even looking at congressional intent or the legislative history of Title VII.

What Does “Sex” Mean?

The Court didn’t just interpret the law and the meaning of sex—it, in essence, redefined it. As Alito argues, no one in 1964 would have considered sex to mean anything other than biological male and female. For one thing, homosexuality was outlawed in many states at the time and classified as a mental disorder; and transgenderism wasn’t even a blip on the radar aside from transsexuals. Sex meant a man and a woman. That’s it.

Interestingly, the Court did not simply push aside this definition and blatantly declare that sex includes homosexuality and transgenderism. It was much more clever than that. The Court maintained that sex does mean “male or female”—in fact, Justice Neil Gorsuch who wrote the majority opinion contends that he is a faithful “textualist” and wouldn’t dare change the meaning of the word. He insisted that “sex” in Title VII only means biological male or female. But the Court added something to broaden its scope: the law that outlaws discrimination on the basis of sex refers not only to biological sex but actions or traits that relate to sex.

“An employer who fires an individual for being homosexual or transgender fires that person for traits or actions it would not have questioned in members of a different sex,” Gorsuch wrote. “Sex plays a necessary and undisguisable role in the decision, exactly what Title VII forbids.”

This distinction in the meaning of sex and lack of affirmation regarding a unique sexual identity flies in the face of homosexuals and transgender individuals who demand that their attractions, feelings, self-perceptions, and preferences are their sexual identity. The Court, while ruling in their favor regarding employment discrimination law, has not affirmed their worldview regarding identity. This fact could possibly have positive implications for religious liberty cases in the future.

Regardless, it was a significant victory for LGBT, and any issues regarding identity will likely be ignored. All that matters is that when an employer fires homosexual or transgender individuals, it might not be primarily about their sex—it might only be “based in part on sex”—but that’s enough to claim discrimination. “That’s because it is impossible to discriminate against a person for being homosexual or transgender without discriminating against that individual based on sex,” Gorsuch writes.

Consider, for example, an employer with two employees, both of whom are attracted to men. The two individuals are, to the employer’s mind, materially identical in all respects, except that one is a man and the other a woman. If the employer fires the male employee for no reason other than the fact he is attracted to men, the employer discriminates against him for traits or actions it tolerates in his female colleague.

Put differently, the employer intentionally singles out an employee to fire based in part on the em-

ployee’s sex, and the affected employee’s sex is a but-for cause of his discharge. Or take an employer who fires a transgender person who was identified as a male at birth but who now identifies as a female. If the employer retains an otherwise identical employee who was identified as female at birth, the employer intentionally penalizes a person identified as male at birth for traits or actions that it tolerates in an employee identified as female at birth. Again, the individual employee’s sex plays an unmistakable and impermissible role in the discharge decision.

But unlike any of these other traits or actions, homosexuality and transgender status are inextricably bound up with sex. Not because homosexuality or transgender status are related to sex in some vague sense or because discrimination on these bases has some disparate impact on one sex or another, but because to discriminate on these grounds requires an employer to intentionally treat individual employees differently because of their sex.

Alito counters this by saying that if the employer’s only objection is “attraction to men,” then it might seem like the only difference between them is sex. But, this is simply not the case in the real world. “It is not biological sex, attraction to men, or attraction to women” that motivates these employers. “It is attraction to members of their own sex—in a word, sexual orientation. And that, we can infer, is the employer’s real motive.”

Contrary to the Court’s contention, discrimination because of sexual orientation or gender identity does not in and of itself entail discrimination because of sex. We can see this because it is quite possible for an employer to discriminate on those grounds without taking the sex of an individual applicant or employee into account. An employer can have a policy that says: “We do not hire gays, lesbians, or transgender individuals.” And an employer can implement this policy without paying any attention to or even knowing the biological sex of gay, lesbian, and transgender applicants. In fact, at the time of the enactment of Title VII, the United States military had a blanket policy of refusing to enlist gays or lesbians, and under this policy for years thereafter, applicants for enlistment were required to complete a form that asked whether they were “homosexual.”

At oral argument, the attorney representing the employees, a prominent professor of constitutional law, was asked if there would be discrimination because of sex if an employer with a blanket policy against hiring gays, lesbians, and transgender individuals implemented that policy without knowing the biological sex of any job applicants. Her candid answer was that this would “not” be sex discrimination. And she was right.

The other point Alito makes is that “intent” matters. Is it the employer’s intent to fire someone because of their sex or something else (their homosexual orientation or gender perceptions)? If an employer has a policy not to hire homosexuals or transgender individuals, that is a decision made before even knowing someone’s sex, especially since both men and women can be gay or transgender.

Additionally, if an employee is fired after he or she is found out to be gay, obviously the reason for the firing has nothing to do with their biological sex—they had been hired

and working for the employer without any issue. Their sex didn't matter. Things changed only after the employer found out about their homosexual orientation.

Title VII "prohibits discrimination because of sex itself," Alito writes, "not everything that is related to, based on, or defined with reference to 'sex.'"

Neither "sexual orientation" nor "gender identity" is tied to either of the two biological sexes. Both men and women may be attracted to members of the opposite sex, members of the same sex, or members of both sexes. And individuals who are born with the genes and organs of either biological sex may identify with a different gender.

Sex isn't the issue when employers fire LGBT individuals, but it is now. Though the Court did not come right out and redefine sex in favor of LGBT sexual identity, the sad result is that sex has been redefined, if not technically, certainly practically.

Threats to Liberty

As a result, the rights of other citizens regarding a wide array of issues will be challenged, including use of bathrooms, women's sports, housing, employment by religious organizations, insurance and healthcare, and freedom of speech.

Regarding locker rooms and bathrooms, Alito warns:

Under the Court's decision transgender persons will be able to argue that they are entitled to use a bathroom or locker room that is reserved for persons of the sex with which they identify, and while the Court does not define what it means by a transgender person, the term may apply to individuals who are "gender fluid," that is, individuals whose gender identity is mixed or changes over time. Thus, a person who has not undertaken any physical transitioning may claim the right to use the bathroom or locker room assigned to the sex with which the individual identifies at that particular time. The Court provides no clue why a transgender person's claim to such bathroom or locker room access might not succeed.

Women's sports:

The effect of the Court's reasoning may be to force young women to compete against students who have a very significant biological advantage, including students who have the size and strength of a male but identify as female and students who are taking male hormones in order to transition from female to male.

Housing:

The Court's decision may lead to Title IX cases against any college that resists assigning students of the opposite biological sex as roommates.

Employment by religious organizations:

Briefs filed by a wide range of religious groups—Christian, Jewish, and Muslim—express deep concern that the position now adopted by the Court "will trigger open conflict with faith-based employment practices of numerous churches, synagogues, mosques, and other religious institutions." They argue that "[r]eligious organizations need employees who actually live the faith," and that compelling a religious organization to employ individuals whose conduct flouts the tenets of the organization's faith forces the group to communicate an objectionable message.

Healthcare:

Healthcare benefits may emerge as an intense battleground under the Court's holding. Transgender employees have brought suit under Title VII to challenge employer-provided health insurance plans that do not cover costly sex reassignment surgery. Similar claims have been brought under the Affordable Care Act (ACA), which broadly prohibits sex discrimination in the provision of healthcare.

Such claims present difficult religious liberty issues because some employers and healthcare providers have strong religious objections to sex reassignment procedures, and therefore requiring them to pay for or to perform these procedures will have a severe impact on their ability to honor their deeply held religious beliefs.

Freedom of speech:

The Court's decision may even affect the way employers address their employees and the way teachers and school officials address students. Under established English usage, two sets of sex-specific singular personal pronouns are used to refer to someone in the third person (he, him, and his for males; she, her, and hers for females). But several different sets of gender-neutral pronouns have now been created and are preferred by some individuals who do not identify as falling into either of the two traditional categories. Some jurisdictions, such as New York City, have ordinances making the failure to use an individual's preferred pronoun a punishable offense, and some colleges have similar rules. After today's decision, plaintiffs may claim that the failure to use their preferred pronoun violates one of the federal laws prohibiting sex discrimination.

The Court's decision may also pressure employers to suppress any statements by employees expressing disapproval of same-sex relationships and sex reassignment procedures. Employers are already imposing such restrictions voluntarily, and after today's decisions employers will fear that allowing employees to express their religious views on these subjects may give rise to Title VII harassment claims.

As you can see, this ruling is no simple matter. It sets the stage for fights over fundamental rights and freedoms that were once held secure. But now that a worldview rooted in objective truth has been abandoned by our Court, these foundations are crumbling

quickly.

“Although the Court does not want to think about the consequences of its decision, we will not be able to avoid those issues for long,” Alito concluded. “The entire Federal Judiciary will be mired for years in disputes about the reach of the Court’s reasoning.”



Also read:

Sesame Street Goes Gay

<https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/sesame-street-goes-gay-on-our-street-we-accept-all...happy-pride-month>

Denver school board votes unanimously to pull police out of schools, citing “systemic racism”

—by *Bryan Brammer*

The Denver school board voted unanimously this week to remove police officers from all public schools by this time next year to “fulfill its responsibility for undoing the systemic racism that Black children and children of color face.”

On Thursday, the Board of Education submitted a resolution terminating its \$720,000 contract with the DPD, which provided 18 officers to schools last year, the nonprofit organization Chalkbeat reported.

“DPS is deeply committed to affirming the lives of our students and has been changing our institutional culture to align with that commitment and undo the normalization of inferiority and bias,” the district wrote.

Denver Public Schools asked the police department to “reduce the number of school resource officers” in its districts by 25% by December 31, 2019. The remaining officers must be removed by June 4, 2021.

From: <https://romansone.com/editorial/warning-everything-you-need-to-know-about-the-supreme-courts-lgbt-ruling>

The district will now rely solely on private security officers for protection of its students.

DPS said it plans to use the funds from the DPD contract to increase the number of “school-based social workers, psychologists, restorative justice practitioners, or other mental or behavioral health professionals.”

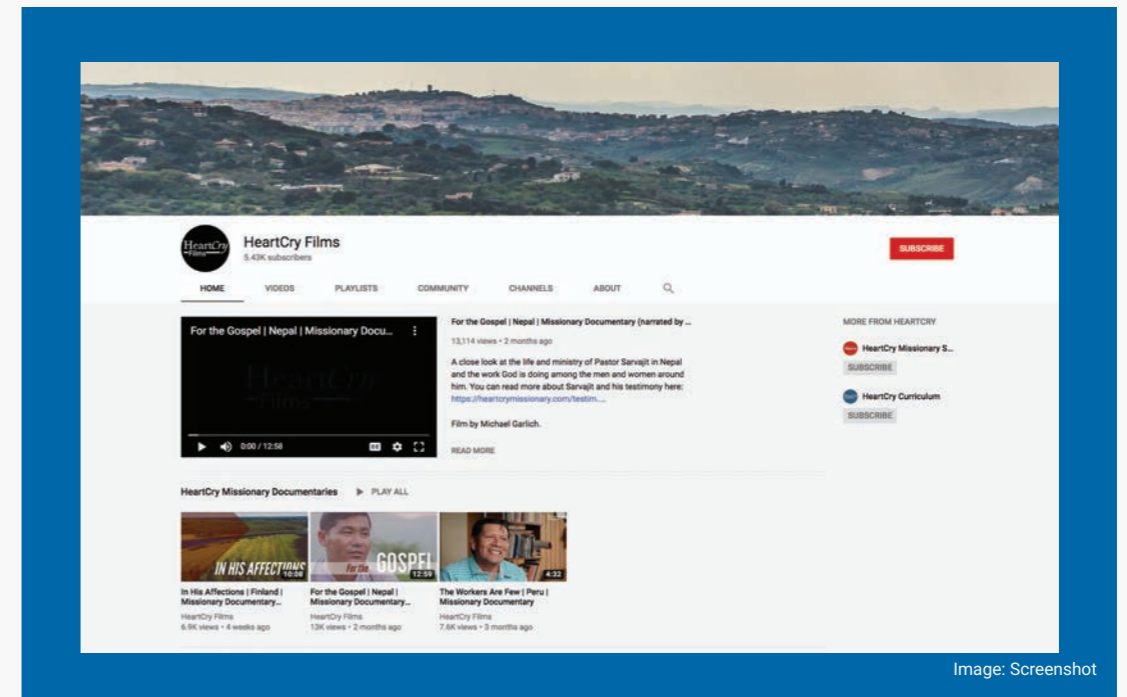


Image: Screenshot

HeartCry Films

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCaAduRlnHccltfHqICZGL-Q>

From: <https://disrn.com/news/denver-school-board-unanimously-votes-to-withdraw-police-from-public-schools>

Other News:

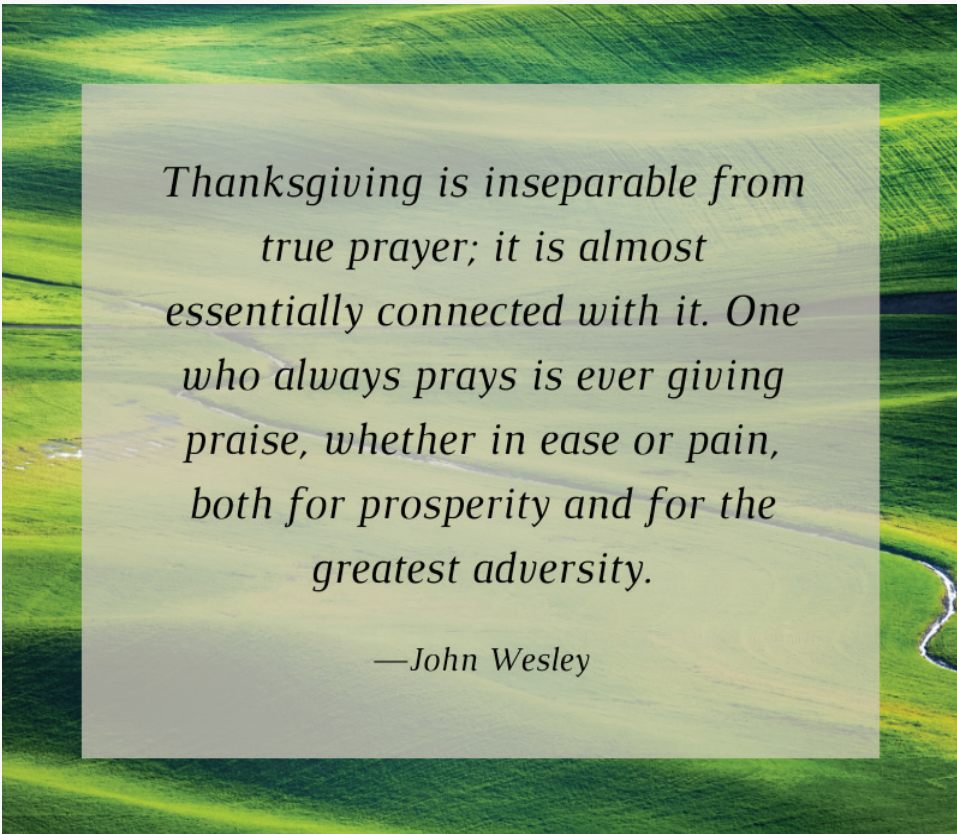
Monkeys steal coronavirus blood samples in India— <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-india-monkey-idUSKBN2351KV>

Costi Hinn names new wave of prosperity preachers, says they are not like his uncle, are businessmen— <https://www.christianpost.com/news/costi-hinn-names-new-wave-of-prosperity-preachers-says-they-are-not-like-his-uncle-are-businessmen.html>

Pastor dies from coronavirus after laying hands on infected followers, declaring them healed— <https://www.christianpost.com/news/pastor-dies-from-coronavirus-after-laying-hands-on-infected-followers-declaring-them-healed.html>

NYC Council speaker demands Samaritan's Purse to leave over homosexuality views - The Christian Post— <https://www.christianpost.com/news/nyc-council-speaker-demands-samaritans-purse-to-leave-over-homosexuality-views.html>

Quote of the Week:



Thanksgiving is inseparable from true prayer; it is almost essentially connected with it. One who always prays is ever giving praise, whether in ease or pain, both for prosperity and for the greatest adversity.

—John Wesley

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/>

Defeating Despair—by Tim Pasma
<https://biblicalcounseling.com/defeating-despair/>

Gracious Words Amid Sword Thrusts—by Jim Koerber
<https://biblicalcounseling.com/gracious-words-amid-sword-thrusts/>

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.



Covenant Baptist Church

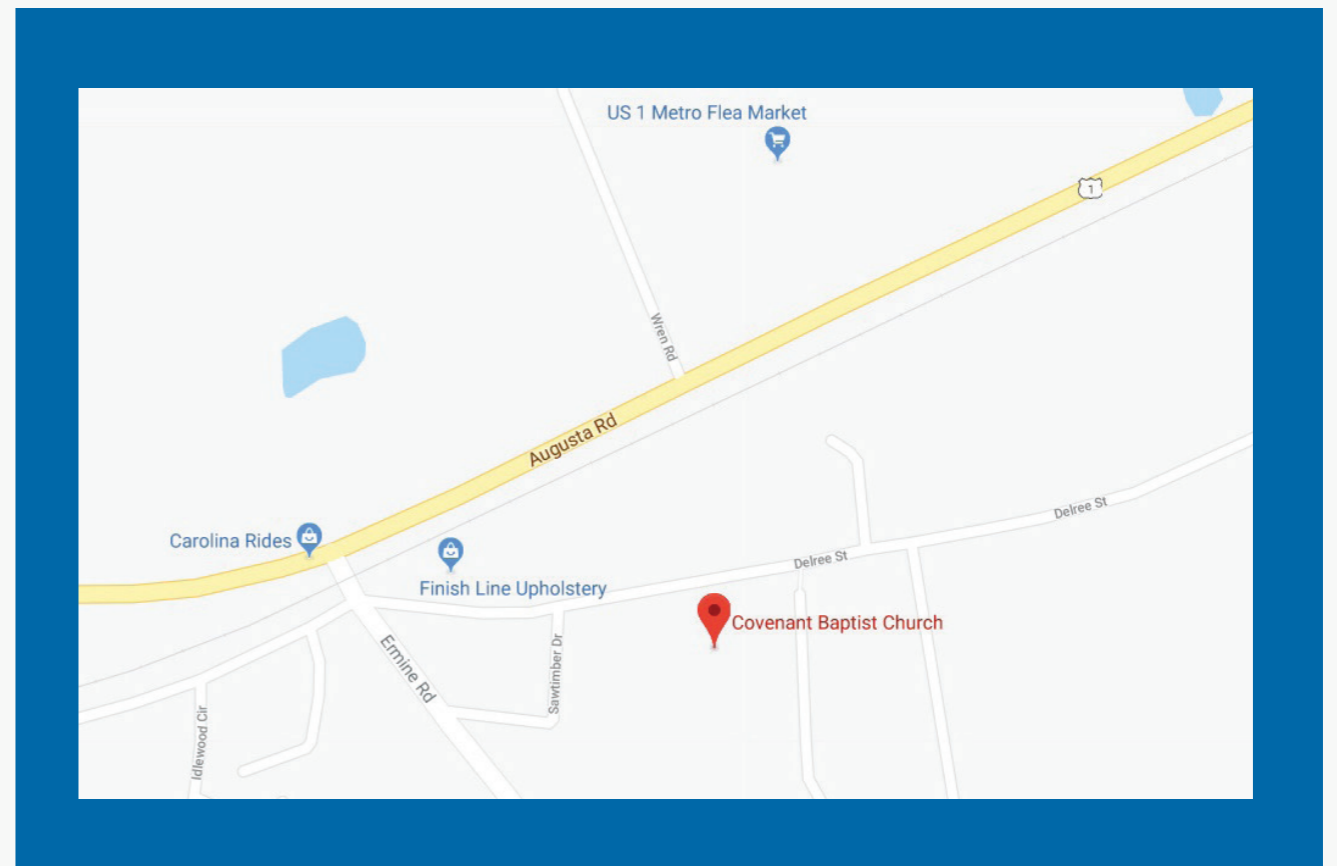
Reformed and Refreshing

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.*