



## Covenant Baptist Church

*Reformed and Refreshing*

*August 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.—ON HOLD

Sunday Worship ~ 10:30 A.M.

Wednesday Prayer Service ~ 6:00 P.M., 7:00 P.M.  
—RESUMING SEPT.2 (See p. 2 for more info)

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

## Order of Worship

*(August 23rd, 2020)*

Christ The Lord Is Risen Today —312

Scripture Reading: Romans 8:1-39

I Know Whom I Have Believed—356

Behold Our God—126

Message:

The Purpose of the Life and Death of Christ, Part 3:  
The Glory of God in Salvation  
—John 17:1-5

Prayer and Benediction

Closing Hymn: Doxology—440

## Table of Contents

1. Announcements, Events, and Book of the Week—pg. 2
2. Theology: Do All Religions Lead to God? (article)—pg. 3
3. China: Police shutter house churches nationwide, order Christians to stop believing in God (main article)—pg. 5
4. News (cont.), Quote of the Week, and Resources for Biblical Counseling—pg. 7
5. Directions—pg. 8

### On-Call Deacon List:

- August 23: Campbell
- August 30: Shumpert
- September 6: Smoak

### Church Cleaning Schedule:

- August 29: Lucas/Waddell
- September 5: Bristol
- September 12: 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 will be starting our Wednesday night services on September 2 with some changes. From 6-6:45PM there will be general prayer only. All are welcome to come and pray. General needs and requests will be made at that time and prayed for. At 7 PM we will have our worship service with 2 or 3 specific prayers offered and our study in Romans resuming.

—  
We are planning on having our conference on evangelism from “Gospel of God Ministries” in the fall. Date to be announced soon. Please be in prayer for this.

—  
The “Becoming a Titus 2 Woman” books have come in for the ladies’ upcoming study. If you had one ordered, please see Coie Watson or Rebecca Egan to purchase. More books will be coming in soon if you would like to sign up before it starts September 19.

—  
Ladies (of all ages), a study is starting here at the church on the 3rd Saturday of every month from 10-11 AM, beginning in September and lasting through January. The book we are going through is called “Becoming a Titus 2 Woman” by Martha Peace. There is a sign-up sheet on the kitchen counter. If you have any questions please see Rebecca Egan, Carey Smoak, or Coie Watson.

—  
Please pray for the Rock Hill church plant and for Mark Corral, who is the elder in training for this plant. If you would like more info, contact any of the elders or elders in training at Covenant.

—  
The church elders, after studying and praying over the matter for several years, have decided to open an orphanage in Guntur, India. It will be near the church that we, thru the Mission Team, started 2 years ago named after our own church here, Covenant Baptist Church. Pastor Prabhu and his wife, Leena, will head it up. It will take about \$3230 to get it started. This will include rent for the house, food to stock the kitchen, electricity, 10 bunk beds with mattresses, boys clothing, and a kitchen stove. For a more detailed list or if you have any questions, please see Elder Alton Crapps. Remember this: thru this effort we can get these children off the streets and into a house where they can learn about Jesus and be fed meals from a table instead of from a trash pile. (Matthew 19:14) If you would like to participate in this church project, just earmark checks or envelopes ‘India Orphanage.’ We are still praying about a name for it. There will be at least 2 other churches, both already helping with the Mission Team work, that plan to help with this orphanage also. Please pray with us. It will come to only \$41 per child per month to take these children off the street, out of the trash dumps, and put them in a home, a bed, and into church. We plan to start with these 20 boys, and with God’s blessings and His will, we hope to get another house for a separate 20 girls off the street. Again, please pray as we seek God’s will and His strength.

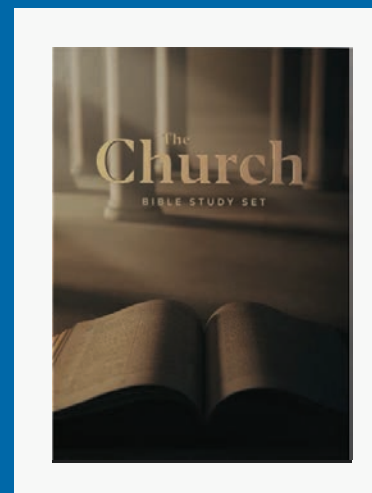
## Book of the Week: The Church Bible Study Set

The documentary, book, and video lessons are designed to help you learn about the true nature of the church and how it is intended to function. The more we understand this, the more we will love the church. The more we learn how the church aids our faith and brings glory to God, the more we will thank God for the church.

FEATURING: Gregg Allison, Voddie Baucham, Josh Buice, Mark Dever, Salvador Gomez, Jeffrey Johnson, Steven Lawson, Robert Letham, Anthony Mathenia, Tom Nettles, Michael Reeves, John Snyder, Owen Strachan, Sam Waldron, Jeremy Walker, and Paul Washer.

**Pre-order your set today. Estimated shipping and digital access date: October 1, 2020.**

<https://shop.mediagratiarum.org/products/the-church?variant=34713462112390>



## Covenant Baptist Church Events

**Greek Class—On hold**

**Biblical Counseling Class—On hold**

**Second Sunday Dinner—September 13th.**  
*Please plan to bring a dish to share and stay for the fellowship. 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.*

**Planned Parenthood Gospel Outreach—**  
*Tuesday, August 25th and Saturday, August 29th*

## 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>**





## Do All Religions Lead to God?

—by Simon Turpin

The belief that people of all religions worship the same God, just in a different way, seems to be the cultural norm today. Behind this is the idea that all beliefs should be tolerated and that any claim to ultimate truth is arrogant.

Sadly, many Christians have inhaled the relativistic air of our pluralistic culture and fallen for this idea. However, it is not intolerant to acknowledge differences in belief. In fact, it is only when we take other views seriously on their own terms instead of trying to assimilate them to our own belief that we are truly being respectful to them. The fact of the matter is that all the world's religions make particular truth claims and seek to live those out.

The idea that we all worship the same God just in different ways is a fairly easy thing to say if you don't know what different religions believe. For example, Buddhists deny the existence of a personal god, while Hindus believe in many gods. Mormonism is also a polytheistic religion, though Mormons restrict their worship to only a few gods.

Even in the three monotheistic world religions—Christianity, Islam, and Judaism—there are fundamental differences in God's character, attributes, and especially his

nature. Although all three are monotheistic, Judaism and Islam are Unitarian monotheists (the belief that the being of God exists as one person). Christianity on the other hand is Trinitarian monotheism. This is the belief that within the one Being that is God, there exists eternally three co-equal and co-eternal persons, namely the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Each is a distinct person, yet each is identified as God: Father (1 Corinthians 8:6); Son (John 1:1–3; Romans 9:5); Spirit (Acts 5:3–4). The doctrine of the Trinity especially distinguishes Christianity from the world's religions. In Islam, even though it is misunderstood, the doctrine of the Trinity is considered blasphemy! It is completely illogical to say all paths lead to God when even the notion of God that is held by each religion is contradictory.

Another major difference between Christianity and the world's religions is that the world's religions do not have a realistic view of human nature (i.e., our sinfulness) since all teach salvation by human effort or goodness. All religions, except Christianity, tone down both the bad news of our sinfulness and the good news of God's free grace. None of the world's religions present any good news (gospel) that someone has liberated us from the reign of sin and death. In Christianity, salvation comes through Jesus' life, death, and resurrection and not through human effort (1 Corinthians 15:1–4; Romans 4:4–8).

On all of these points, it is not that each religion is professing different aspects of one truth, but that they are contradicting each other in their truth claims. While the world's religions may all point you in the direction of heaven and tell you that you can save yourself, Christianity teaches that Jesus has come, not just as a moral leader to show us the path to God, but to be our Way, our Truth, and our Life (John 14:6), the only One who can give us peace (John 14:27; Romans 5:1).

When it comes to our cultural situation today, we should also keep in mind that the book of Acts tells us that Christianity was born in a time of persecution and immorality in a world where the church was in the minority. Yet it was in that culture that the apostles proclaimed the exclusivity of Christ as the only way of salvation for all people (see Acts 8:5, 13:23–39, 16:30–31, 17:30–31, 20:21):

*And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved. (Acts 4:12)*

Even when the apostles were told by the authorities to be silent and no longer proclaim Christ, they responded by saying, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge, for we cannot but speak of what

we have seen and heard” (Acts 4:19–20). In a time when the emperor claimed to be Lord and the moral code was decidedly in opposition to Scripture, the Holy Spirit gave that early church the ability to be faithful and to preach the Word of God without fear or compromise. He did it then, and he can do so now.

### What About People Who Never Hear About Jesus?

If all religions do not lead to God, then a common question that usually comes up is this: “What happens to those who have never heard about Jesus?” Obviously, this is a very emotional question because it deals with the final destiny of people. This is an important question because how we answer it will determine how we engage other religions with the gospel. We need to keep in mind two things: first, that the theological reality that God is our Creator and man is in rebellion against him and, second, that the Bible tells us that all people know of God’s existence and are therefore accountable to him. The apostle Paul tells us:

*For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse (Romans 1:18–20).*

Because of our fallen state, we disobey God and, consequently, make counterfeit gods/idols (Psalm 96:5). Jesus is sent into a lost world that is already guilty of rejecting the God whom they know exists and therefore are already under his judgment and on their way to hell (Romans 2:5, 16). In other words, God does not punish people for not knowing about Jesus, but for their individual sins against him (Romans 1:20–32) and their rejecting the clear revelation of God that has been evident ever since God’s creation was completed.

People may say, “Isn’t it unfair of God not to provide more than one way of salvation?” But in reality, we should be thankful that God has provided even one way. God is under no obligation to save any of his fallen creatures. We do not deserve salvation; it is solely based upon his grace (Ephesians 2:8–9).

What about those who argue for inclusivity, the belief that there is access to salvation outside of Jesus? The Roman centurion Cornelius is often used as an example of a gentile whose faith in God was accepted without him knowing about Jesus. It

is true that Cornelius is described as a “devout man who feared God” (Acts 10:2), and as Peter himself said, “Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him” (Acts 10:34–35). But does this mean that Cornelius did not need to hear about Jesus to be saved? We need to keep in mind the context, which is that the gentiles, as well as the Jews, need to hear the gospel. Peter explains this as “preaching good news of peace through Jesus Christ” (Acts 10:36). He also ends his message by stating that “everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name” (Acts 10:43). Cornelius’s salvation occurred during Peter’s presentation of the gospel, since Peter himself says, “He will declare to you a message by which you will be saved, you and all your household” (Acts 11:14).

God has chosen the gospel of Jesus Christ as the means by which people are to be saved (Romans 10:17). Although he is free to work outside of ordinary providence, as is recognized by the Westminster and London Baptist confessions of faith (5.3), he is under no obligation to do so. The Bible makes it clear that the world is in desperate need of Jesus, which is why we take the gospel to every tribe, tongue, and nation.

It is important to remember as we share the gospel with those from other religions that they are made in the image of God and, therefore, have dignity and value. As Christians, we should also remember that at one time we “were without Christ” and “having no hope and without God in the world” (Ephesians 2:12, NKJV). Therefore, we should not reach out to people in fear or hate, but with love and grace, as this is what we have been shown by our Savior (Ephesians 2:5; Titus 3:5). The nineteenth century Bishop of Liverpool, England, J.C. Ryle exhorted Christians to remember those who are without Christ:

*We are often reminded of the many who are without food or clothing or school or church. Let us pity them, and help them, as far as we can. But let us never forget that there are people whose state is far more pitiable. Who are they? The people without Christ! Have we relatives without Christ? Let us feel for them, pray for them, speak to the King about them, strive to recommend the gospel to them. Let us leave no stone unturned in our efforts to bring them to Christ. Have we neighbours without Christ? Let us labour in every way for their soul’s salvation. The night cometh when none can work. Happy is he who lives under the abiding conviction that to be in Christ is peace, safety and happiness; and that to be without Christ is to be on the brink of destruction.*

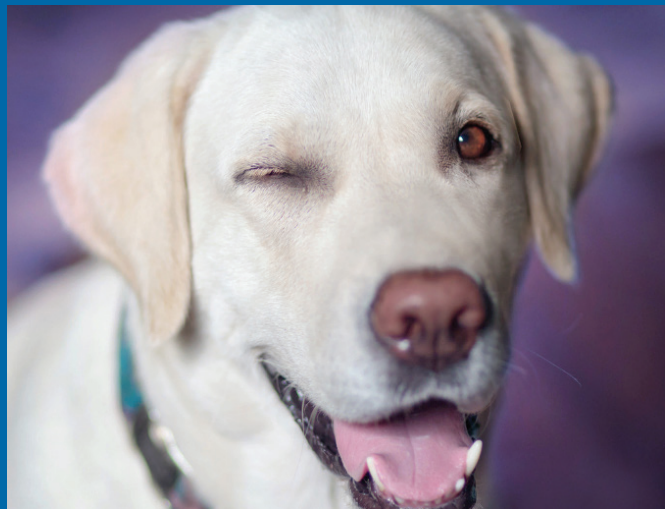


Image: NeelShakilov-7028798 from pixabay

Also Read:

What a Dog's Nose Knows!

<https://answersingenesis.org/creation-science/baraminology/what-a-dogs-nose-knows/>



Image: Magda Ehlers from Pexels

## China: Police shutter house churches nationwide, order Christians to stop believing in God

—by Leah MarieAnn Klett

House churches across China have experienced intensified persecution in recent months, with Communist officials telling Christians they are not permitted to believe in God in the atheist country.

Bitter Winter, a publication produced by the Center for Studies on New Religion which covers human rights issues in China, documented numerous instances where Christians were threatened and harassed by Chinese Communist Party officials.

In June, a group of officials in the county-level city of Leiyang, in the central province of Hunan, raided a house church. They confiscated the church's donation box and destroyed 10 Bible verses on the walls, telling the Christians their actions were "the result of their disobedience" and that it was "illegal to hold religious gatherings without a permit or joining the Three-Self Church."

In May, the Religious Affairs Bureau in the province's Yongzhou city shut down a house church for "holding illegal gatherings without permits" and confiscated all valuables in the venue, including a computer, a photocopier, and Bibles.



In April, police in Dengzhou city in the central province of Henan raided a house church, confiscated its Bibles and hymnbooks, and took eight congregation members to a police station for interrogation.

One Christian later revealed that a police officer said to him that they could “not believe in God in China.”

The believer also revealed that half a month later, police visited the eight arrested members at home to ask if they had continued to attend religious gatherings. Officers warned them that they would be sentenced to three to five years in prison if they gather again.

“We don’t break any law by believing in God, but the government treats us this way,” the believer said. “The government wants to eliminate all religions and threatens us with the future of our family members, forcing us to give up our belief. It’s really shameless.”

Protestant Christianity is one of five approved religions alongside Buddhism, Taoism, Islam, and Catholicism in China. Religious organizations must register with one of five state-sanctioned patriotic religious associations, which are supervised by the State Administration for Religious Affairs.

Christian churches that refuse to register with the government, known as “house churches,” are illegal. However, even Three-Self churches — those registered with the government — have experienced an uptick in persecution in recent months.

Numerous reports have revealed the persecution Christians have endured at the hands of the CCP, including arrests, detentions, imprisonments, and church attacks. Such persecution is part of Chinese President Xi Jinping’s efforts to abolish religion and enforce greater control over people’s lives.

In Yugan county, authorities shut down at least 48 Three-Self churches and meeting venues between April 18-30, according to Bitter Winter.

The magazine reported that “countless number of churches” were also ordered to remove their crosses in Jiujiang, Fuzhou, Fengcheng, Shangrao, and a few other cities in the province in April.

Persecution watchdog Open Doors USA ranks China as one of the worst countries in the world when it comes to the persecution of Christians. The organization

that all churches are perceived as a threat if they become too large, too political, or invite foreign guests.

According to some estimates, there are more Christians in China than Communist Party members.

#### Also Read:

‘People Feel Betrayed’: Hallmark Channel Movie to Feature its First Same-Sex Wedding Church Website/Design

<https://www.christianheadlines.com/contributors/michael-foust/people-feel-betrayed-hallmark-channel-movie-to-feature-its-first-same-sex-wedding.html>

From: <https://www.christianpost.com/news/china-police-shutter-churches-destroy-bible-verse-displays-tell-christians-they-cant-believe-in-god.html>

## Other News:

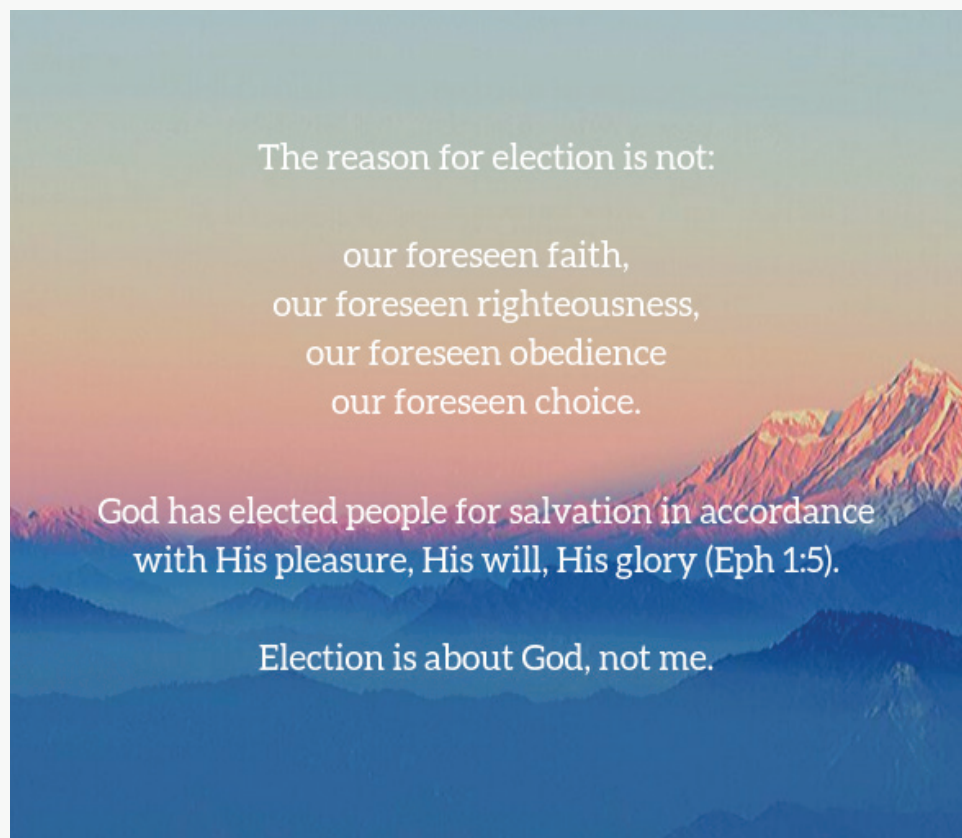
**Members of Congress push for U.S. to fund global abortions for 'Black and brown' women**— <https://www.liveaction.org/news/congress-us-fund-global-black-brown-abortions/>

**L.A. Threatens John MacArthur And His Church With Fines, Arrest For Holding Services**— <https://thefederalist.com/2020/08/05/l-a-threatens-john-macarthur-and-his-church-with-fines-arrest-for-holding-services/>

**Biden, at Muslim voters summit, says 'I wish we taught more in our schools about the Islamic faith'**— <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/biden-muslim-voters-summit-taught-schools-islamic-faith>

**Telemedicine Abortion Gets Green Light From Federal Court**— <https://reason.com/2020/07/14/telemedicine-abortion-gets-green-light-from-federal-court/>

## Quote of the Week:



## 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/>

**You Can Please God**—by Kyle Gangel  
<https://biblicalcounseling.com/you-can-please-god/>

**Crafting Temptation and Repentance Plans to Help Addicts**—by Keith Palmer  
<https://biblicalcounseling.com/crafting-temptation-and-repentance-plans-to-help-addicts/>

### 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

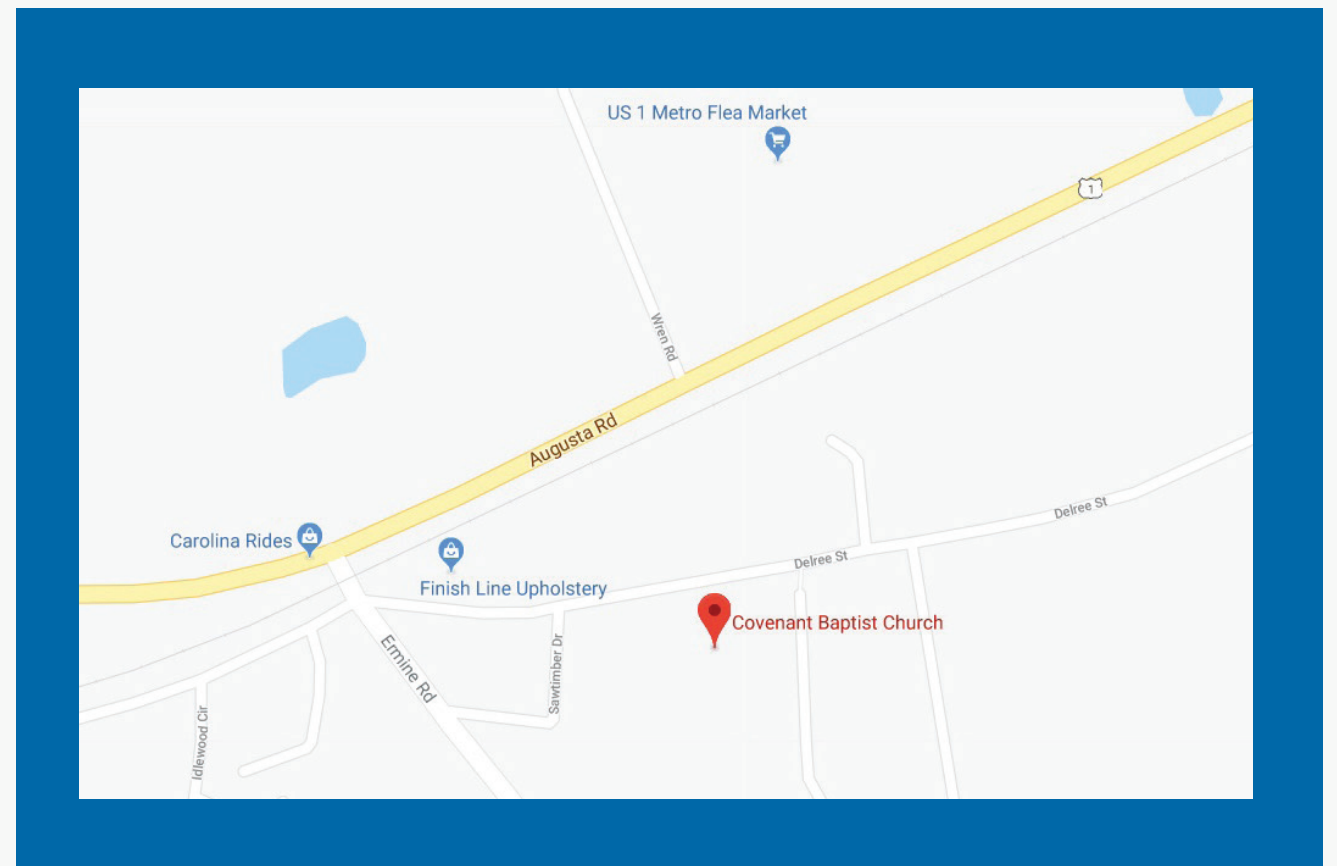
*Reformed and Refreshing*

*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.*