



## Covenant Baptist Church

*Reformed and Refreshing*

*August 30th, 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.  
—RESUMING SEPT. 6 (See p. 2 for more info)

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 30th, 2020)*

O Worship the King—135

Scripture Reading: John 3:1-21

Rock of Ages—209

How Deep the Father's Love for Us—80

Message:

The Purpose of the Life and Death of Christ Part 4:  
The Glory of God in Salvation; What is Eternal Life?  
—John 17:1-5

Prayer and Benediction

Closing Hymn: O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing—136

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### On-Call Deacon List:

- August 30: Shumpert
- September 6: Smoak
- September 13: Kyzer

### Church Cleaning Schedule:

- September 5: Bristol
- September 12: Shumpert/Smoak
- September 19: Egan/Fudge

### 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 both of our Bible Ed classes on September 6th at 9:30am. “The Puritans” led by Alton Crapps in the Sanctuary. “Biblical Theology,” a study through Bible doctrine using the book produced by The Masters Seminary and John MacArthur. Chris Olds will be teaching. Also, our Wednesday night services will start again on September 2nd. We will have a special prayer time from 6pm to 6:45 for all to participate in the fellowship area. Requests and prayer can be made at this time for anything. The worship service will start at 7 PM. It will include 2 or 3 specific prayers led by men in our church and proceed with hymns and a message in our study through Romans.

—  
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.

—  
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. Pastor Prabhu and his wife, Leena, will head it up. It will take about \$3230 to get it started and then about \$41 per child, per month. 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.’

## 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, Sept. 1st and Friday, Sept. 4th*

## 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>*

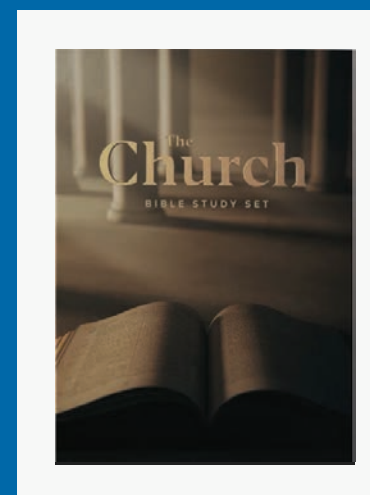
## Book of the Week: The Church Bible Study Set

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.

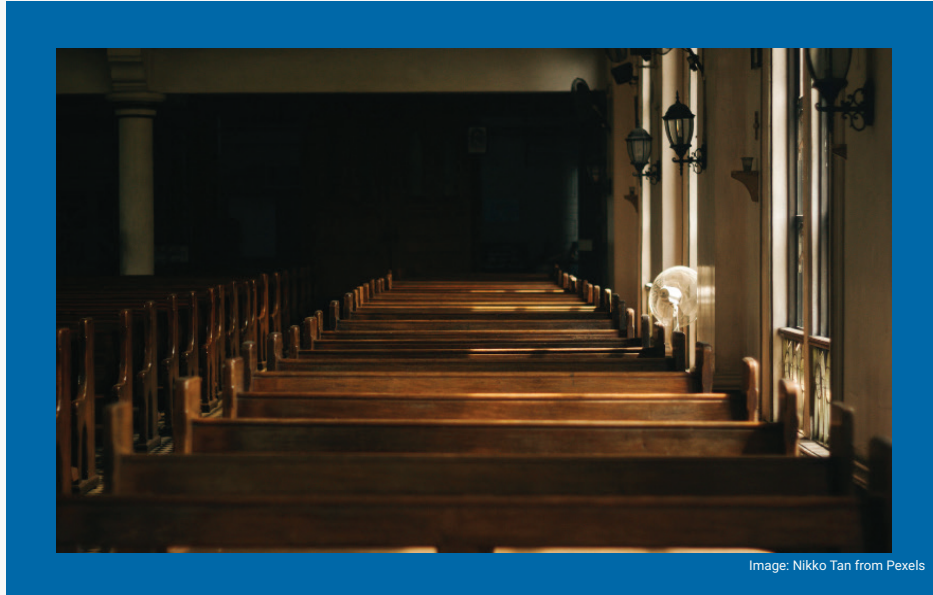
**FEATURING:** Gregg Allison, Voddie Baucham, Josh Buice, Mark Dever, Salvador Gomez, Jeffrey Johnson, Steven Lawson, Robert Letham, Anthony Mathenia, Tom Nettles, Michael Reeves, John Snyder, Owen Strachan, Sam Waldron, Jeremy Walker, and Paul Washer.

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

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







## Losing Our Religion

—by *John MacArthur*

Faith is on the decline nowadays, and it is no wonder. Most people in these post-modern times are convinced that it's impossible to know anything with settled certainty — so they can't really believe anything, either. When you aren't even sure whether objective truth exists, the suggestion that there is something to believe in simply doesn't make any sense. Begin with the assumption that nothing can be known for sure, and religious convictions are automatically out of the question.

In case you hadn't realized it, that kind of thinking now dominates our society. The concept of settled, knowable truth is widely considered intellectually inept and politically incorrect. There's "my truth" and "your truth," meaning everything is ultimately just a matter of perspective. In other words, truth claims are really nothing more than just personal opinions, and they deserve to be treated that way. Every point of view, no matter how bizarre, demands equal respect. Because, after all, no one can say for sure what is ultimately true.

How did we get here? This is the wreckage of a post-structuralist epistemology, where all texts must be deconstructed; any spiritual precept or article of faith must be met with unyielding skepticism; certainty is deemed the very height of arrogance; feelings count more than facts; and common sense, moral values — even

knowledge itself — are scorned as relics of a more naïve epoch of human history.

There is zero tolerance for religious faith in a climate like that.

Western society was built on beliefs that are rooted in Scripture, starting with the truth that God exists and has made Himself known. The whole weight of the United States' Declaration of Independence hangs on truths about God and His creation that our nation's founding fathers regarded as "self-evident."

They were right about that. All creation is filled with important realities that are self-evident — axiomatic — beginning with the very foundation of all truth. The Bible says some basic knowledge of God is innate in every human heart: "That which is known about God is evident within them." (Romans 1:19)

Furthermore, God constantly displays His glory through creation in a way that is hard to miss. Whether you study the vastness of the universe or examine a single drop of pond water through a microscope, you will see ample evidence of God's infinite power, wisdom, creativity — and a host of other attributes. These truths (precisely the kind of ultimate, objective realities the postmodern mind rejects) are purposefully built into all of creation at every conceivable level.

Scripture goes on to say, "God made it evident to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse." (Romans 1:19-20)

Humanity's problem is that because of our sin, we resist accountability to God, so we suppress that innate knowledge and ignore or try to explain away what is literally spread across the universe in all its resplendence before our eyes. Because fallen minds refuse to see what is obvious, they lose the ability to make sense of anything. "For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools." (vv. 21-22)

I've been quoting, of course, from the opening chapter of the apostle Paul's epistle to the Romans. He goes on to chronicle a pattern of decline that has been repeated in cycles throughout human history. It is a descent into sin and depravity that has brought down every one of history's most powerful empires and currently threatens our civilization. It is a path that goes from unbelief to complete intellectual

futility, and it drags whole societies through idolatry, uncontrolled lusts, degrading passions, and every conceivable expression of unrighteousness.

The end result is “a depraved mind” (v. 28) — a soul utterly given over to wickedness, irrationality, and contempt for everything that is truly righteous. In an act of divine judgment, God withdraws His grace and allows an individual (or an entire culture) to reach that point of moral and spiritual insanity. Here’s how the apostle says it:

*Just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper, being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; they are gossips, slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful; and although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them. (vv. 28-32)*

We have literally watched this play out in living color, with Jerry Springer narrating, as our culture has sped down the exact path of spiritual decline Paul outlines in that chapter. Hollywood, hip-hop, shock radio, and a host of other pop-culture obsessions — helped by mainstream media and the secular academy — have indoctrinated recent generations to accept and even encourage every imaginable kind of depravity and radical “alternative lifestyle.”

We’re not supposed to notice the overtly self-destructive nature of popular moral deviancies or the aberrant subcultures they spawn. Anyone who is still offended or appalled by such things is considered ignorant or ill-bred. Our mainstream media have displayed a stubborn determination to advance and encourage the moral meltdown. They will, for example, portray months of lawlessness and rioting as legitimate expressions of free speech — insisting that it has been “mostly peaceful,” even though the destructive result is clearly evident to anyone with eyes to see.

Meanwhile, nothing is more politically incorrect than religious belief. Genuine faith in God is commonly represented as a dangerous, disqualifying disorder. Just this week, for example, former U.N. Ambassador Susan Rice, speaking live on a national news network, suggested that Secretary of State Mike Pompeo does not qualify to serve in public office because he is “overtly religious ... which in itself is problematic.”

Governmental response to the coronavirus pandemic offers more stunning examples of how far our culture has gone in losing its religion. States and counties across the nation have classified places like casinos, abortion clinics, liquor stores, and massage parlors as essential businesses, permitting them to remain open — while churches are commonly categorized as “nonessential” and kept closed. The governor of California and county officials in Los Angeles have shown a determination to keep our church closed, even while encouraging massive political protests by angry people in the streets.

Although public discourse today is full of cries for justice and structural change, there is simply no way to affirm any coherent standard of justice — much less is there any hope of change for the better — apart from a sweeping return to the God of Scripture, who is the source of all truth. We desperately need a generation of men and women who will open their eyes to that reality, turn from the unbelief and cold skepticism that define our culture, and flee for mercy to the God they have spurned. The good news is that God does offer full and free forgiveness and abundant blessing for those who will heed the call of Jesus Christ and come to Him in repentant faith.



Image: jeffjacobs1990-7438739 from pixabay

Also Read:

One-third of evangelicals believe Jesus was a “good teacher,” but “not God”

<https://disrn.com/news/one-third-of-evangelicals-believe-jesus-was-a-good-teacher-but-he-was-not-god>



Image: Taiying Lu, Unsplash

## China orders hospitals to abort, kill newborn babies of religious and ethnic minorities

—by Leah MarieAnn Klett

Hospitals in Xinjiang were ordered by China’s Communist government to abort and kill all babies born in excess of its mandated family planning limits — including newborns born after being carried to full term — or face hefty fines, claims a new report.

Hasiyet Abdulla, a Uighur obstetrician who worked in multiple hospitals in northwest China’s Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region for 15 years, told Radio Free Asia that maternity wards implemented strict family-planning policies intended to restrict Uighurs and other ethnic minorities to three children.

“Every hospital had a family-planning unit that was responsible for implementation — who had how many kids, when they’d given birth to them — they tracked all of this,” she said.

“The regulations were so strict: there had to be three or four years between children. There were babies born at nine months who we killed after inducing labor. They did that in the maternity wards, because those were the orders.”

Abdulla told RFA that babies were aborted even if their mothers were “eight and nine months pregnant,” adding that in some cases, medical staff would “even kill the babies after they’d been born.”

Babies who had been born at the hospital outside of family-planning limits weren’t safe



either, she said, adding doctors would “kill them and dispose of the body.”

“They wouldn’t give the baby to the parents — they kill the babies when they’re born,” she said.

“It’s an order that’s been given from above, it’s an order that’s been printed and distributed in official documents. Hospitals get fined if they don’t comply, so of course they carry this out.”

Previous reports have revealed how the Communist Chinese Party has forcibly sterilized, aborted, and taken other measures to reduce the birthrates in Xinjiang.

A June study by Adrian Zenz, scholar and chronicler of Beijing’s atrocities in Xinjiang, documented how CCP officials placed fines on Uighur women who had three or more children and forced women to undergo mandatory pregnancy tests, implantation of IUDs, or sterilization surgery.

He calculates, based on information from Chinese public websites, that the population growth had declined by 90% between 2014 and 2019, noting that despite the persistence of the one-child policy for 40 years in mainland China, the Uighurs’ population growth rate is lower than the national average.

In Guma County (Pishan) and Hotan city, doctors performed sterilizations 143 times the national average, according to Zenz. Before a “dramatic spike” of sterilizations in 2016 that has continued into the present, Uighur birthrates were typically higher than the national average and sterilizations much lower.

A Uighur woman named Bumeryem from Toquzaq township in Kashgar’s Kona Sheher (Shufu) county who fled the region for Turkey in 2016 told RFA that in 2004, she was forced to have an abortion while pregnant with her fourth child around halfway through her second trimester.

“[The family-planning cadres] told me I had to get an abortion because the pregnancy was my fourth, and they gave me an injection through my belly button — I paid 200 yuan (U.S. \$29) [for the procedure] myself,” she said.

“[The cadres] took me [to the hospital] and did the abortion at five months,” she said.

“It was a boy. We could find out [the sex] at five months. ... If my baby who was aborted were alive today, he’d be 15 years old.”

Bumeryem told RFA she recovered in a room with other women whose babies had been aborted at seven and eight months, as well as full-term.

“There were women there in even worse situations than mine,” she said. “I lay in my bed and cried.”

The RFA report comes as China has faced increasing international criticism over its treatment of Uighurs and other minorities in Western China.

Estimates suggest that over 1 million to as many as 3 million Uighur Muslims and other minority groups in Western China have been subject to internment camps in Xinjiang.

A recent report documented how the religious minority has been subject to massacres, mass internment camps, torture, organ harvesting, and disappearances in addition to forced birth control and sterilization. The report also highlights the forcible transfer of children from their families to Chinese state orphanages or boarding homes.

In June, the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom argued that the forced sterilization of Uighur Muslims is “evidence of genocide.”

“It’s evident from the Chinese government’s own data that the Communist Party’s policies are clearly designed to prevent population growth for the Uyghur, Kazakh, and other Turkic Muslim peoples,” USCIRF Commissioner Nury Turkel said in a statement.

“We urge the State Department to investigate whether the Chinese authorities’ deliberate and systematic attempt to genetically reducing the Turkic Muslim population in Xinjiang meets the legal definition for genocide as contemplated in the Genocide Convention.”

In a statement to Fox News, Morgan Ortagus said the U.S. State Department is “extremely concerned by reports of forced abortions and sterilization in Xinjiang.”

“These reports are consistent with an overwhelming and growing body of information that exposes the Chinese Communist Party’s campaign of brutal repression targeting Uighurs, ethnic Kazakhs, Kyrgyz, and other Muslim minorities in Xinjiang. We reiterate our call on the PRC [People’s Republic of China] government to reverse its repressive course in Xinjiang, release all who are arbitrarily detained, and to end its draconian and brutal policies to forcibly indoctrinate and intimidate its own citizens.”

## Other News:

**China: Police shutter house churches nationwide, order Christians to stop believing in God** — <https://www.christianpost.com/news/china-police-shutter-churches-destroy-bible-verse-displays-tell-christians-they-cant-believe-in-god.html>

**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>

## 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

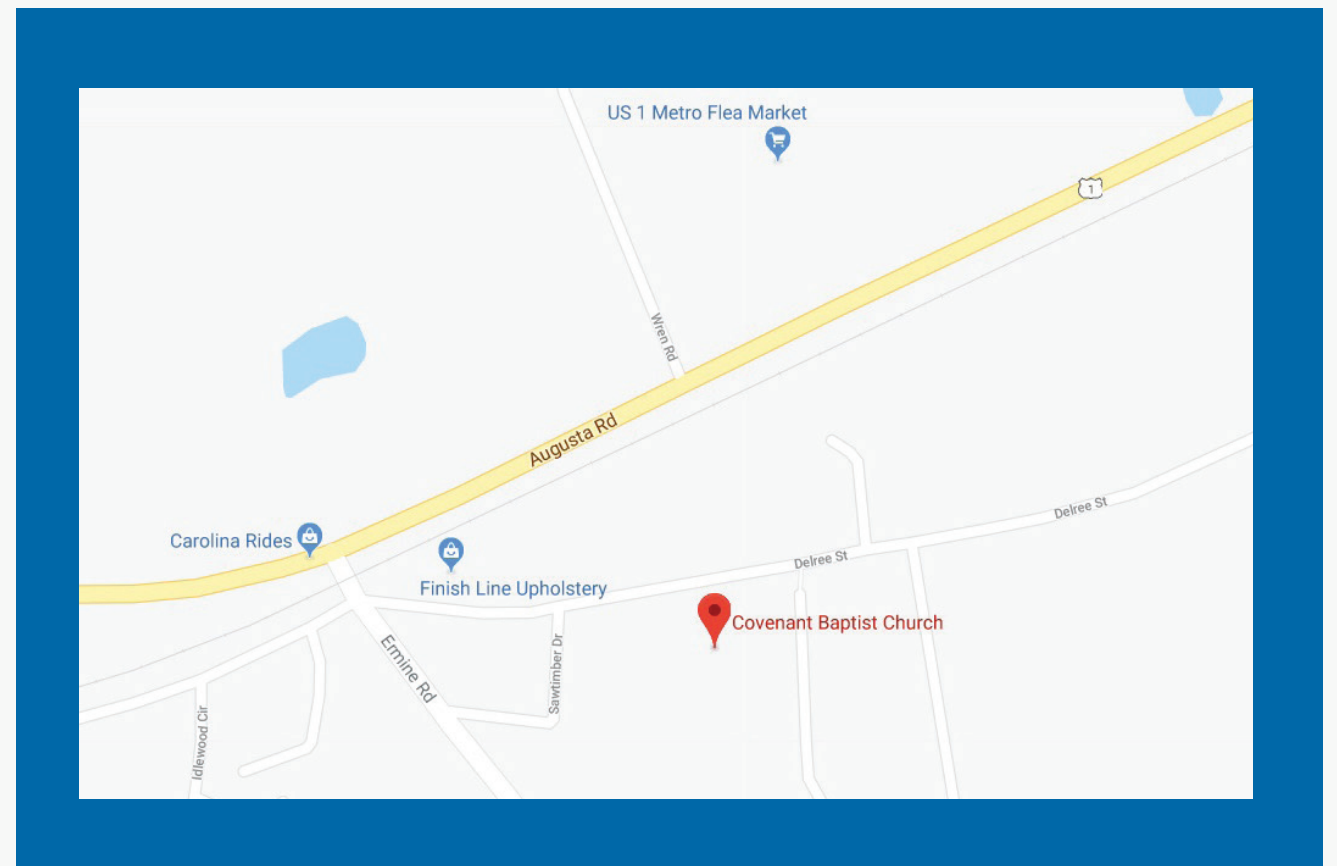
*Reformed and Refreshing*

*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.*