



# Covenant Baptist Church

*Reformed and Refreshing*

*September 13th, 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

*(September 13th, 2020)*

Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine —403

Scripture Reading: Psalm 1:1-6, 2:1-12

All Hail The Power Of Jesus Name—143

Fairest Lord Jesus—107

Message:  
Jesus Is God—John 17:5

Prayer and Benediction

Closing Hymn: We Will Glorify—97

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### On-Call Deacon List:

- September 13: Kyzer
- September 20: Waddell
- September 27: Lucas

### Church Cleaning Schedule:

- September 19: Egan/Fudge
- September 26: Olds/Shealy
- October 3: Wheat

### Church Bookstore:

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

## Announcements

Today is our 2nd Sunday Fellowship Meal. If you are visiting with us, please plan to stay! There is always plenty to go around.

Our Fall Conference will be Oct 25-28th with Tommy Waltz from Gospel of God ministries. The topic is on evangelism.

Time to clean out those closets! We are having a churchwide swap Saturday, September 26th from 9am-1pm. Please bring your clean, gently used clothing & shoes (adult & children sizes), hand bags & accessories, toys, homeschool materials, and household goods to swap for free with our church family. You may drop off your items Wednesday, September 23 through Friday, September 25 from 2-4 pm. Please contact Kerri Olds at 843-819-5080 with any questions. Please come the day of to get items you could use even if you did not have anything to contribute. Last year we hauled off a large amount of unclaimed items!

Ann Shumpert (daughter of Andy & Kay Shumpert) will be married to Mr. Kirk Douglas (US Air Force) on October 9, and moving to Japan. If you would like to write a note of encouragement, or gift them with an Amazon gift card for home supplies, you can bring it to church and place in the decorated box set up for that purpose.

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. If you ordered a book and need to pick it up or pay, you can do so with Rebecca or Coie.

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. 15th and Saturday, Sept 19th*

## Other Events:

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

*DELAYED UNTIL 2021*

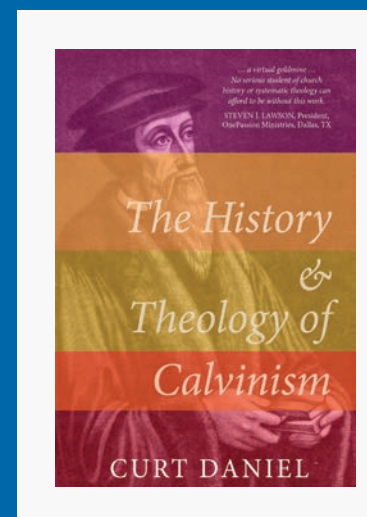
*More at: <https://answersingenesis.org/outreach/event/answers-for-women-2020/>*

**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 History and Theology of Calvinism, by Curt Daniel

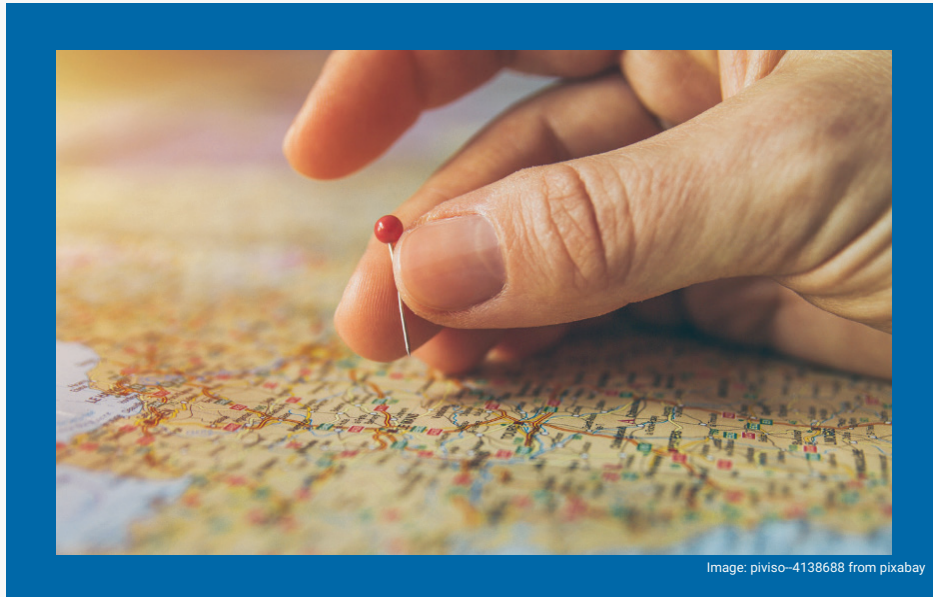
This invaluable volume is a virtual goldmine containing the rich history and theology of the Reformed truths known as Calvinism. The beauty of this book is its comprehensive breadth and accessible readability that surveys the vast landscape of this immense subject matter. Ever since these pages first appeared years ago, it has been a trusted guide to me to navigate my journey through the many pivotal individuals, strategic movements, and doctrinal issues of biblical Calvinism. No serious student of church history or systematic theology can afford to be without this work in your personal library.

—Steven J. Lawson, President, OnePassion Ministries, Dallas, TX



<https://www.amazon.com/History-Theology-Calvinism-Curt-Daniel/dp/1783972823>





## The “Vision” Behind the Great Commission

—by James Street

What is the first thing that comes to your mind when I say, The Great Commission? If you're like me, I imagine it would be something along the lines of the gospel, evangelism, discipleship, or missions. While these terms adequately describe what the Great Commission is, they are missing a key aspect that the writers of the New Testament considered to be just as important: why the Great Commission exists. The Great Commission is more than just evangelizing the lost and making disciples—as important as those things are. The apostles were also concerned with the endgame. They cared about why the Great Commission matters, not just from a human perspective, but also from the divine. They understood that there must be something fundamental that drives the Great Commission. That something, strangely enough, is a prophecy from the Old Testament. The vision behind the Great Commission is actually a vision from Daniel 7.

In Daniel 7, the prophet Daniel sees a disturbing vision of four animals coming out of the sea (Dan. 7:2–8). Each one represents a formidable nation that would rule over the world at some point in the near or distant future. But as intimidating as each nation was, the Ancient of Days at the end of time obliterates the final beast and strips each of the other animals of its dominion (7:9–12). The vision reaches its climax when all the kingdoms are finally handed over to Jesus, the Son of Man:

*I kept looking in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven One like a Son of Man was coming, and He came up to the Ancient of Days and was presented before Him. And to Him*

*was given dominion, glory and a kingdom, that all the peoples, nations and men of every language might serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion which will not pass away; and His kingdom is one which will not be destroyed. (Dan. 7:13–14)*

While this may not seem obvious at first, stay with me and you will see that this vision of Jesus in Daniel 7 serves as the backdrop of the Great Commission. What does Jesus conquering the world have to do with taking the gospel to the ends of the earth? The truth is, it has everything to do with it. And we can be sure this is the case, because the two most familiar New Testament passages about the Great Commission—Matthew 28 and Acts 1—share many unmistakable similarities with Daniel 7. For the sake of time, I will only be able to cover four similarities each Great Commission text shares with Daniel 7. But the final result will leave no doubt that Jesus' victory at the end of time is the heart and soul of the Great Commission.

### Matthew 28

#### *Authority*

The clearest example of Daniel 7 in the Great Commission is found in Matthew 28:18, “All authority has been given to Me” (Matt. 28:18). This is almost a direct quotation of the first line of Daniel 7:14 (from the Septuagint), “And authority was given to him.” At this moment in Matthew's Gospel, Jesus brings to the foreground what has been growing in the background of the narrative: He is the Son of Man from Daniel 7. He now possesses absolute authority and will one day exercise it over the world. Until then, the Great Commission celebrates His victory by both testifying and contributing to it.

#### *All Nations*

The scope of the Great Commission explains how this works as Jesus commands His disciples in Matthew 28:19 to “make disciples of all the nations.” In the same way, the Son of Man compels “all the peoples, nations and men of every language” to worship Him (7:14). God has designed the Great Commission to reach every nation, tribe, and tongue, in order to simulate and contribute to the climactic moment when Jesus rules over all creation. In other words, the Great Commission not only rehearses this future time by taking the gospel to every nation, it also plays a part in it by helping to convert people from every nation into worshipers for that final day.

#### *Worship*

Before Jesus entrusted His disciples with the Great Commission, Matthew says that they worshiped Him, “When they saw Him, they worshiped Him” (Matt. 28:17, cf. 28:9). Daniel 7:14 describes a similar reaction from all of humanity before the Son of Man, “And

to Him was given dominion, glory and a kingdom, that all the peoples, nations and men of every language might serve Him” (Dan. 7:14, cf. 7:27). The Aramaic word for “serve” in Daniel 7 means “veneration” or “respect.” Daniel 7 indicates that the whole world will one day worship the Son as He should be. The disciples in Matthew 28 give us a sneak peak of this future moment when they worship Jesus. They are rehearsing what all of creation will one day do. They are foreshadowing the chief end of the Great Commission.

### *Clothing*

A little earlier in the chapter, Matthew describes the angel who rolled back the tombstone with vivid imagery, “And his appearance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow” (28:3). Daniel illustrates the Ancient of Days in the same way. He too was wearing clothes that were “like white snow” (7:9). In addition, Daniel says in chapter 10 that the angel he encountered also had “the appearance of lightning” (Dan. 10:6). It is not a coincidence that one figure from Jesus’ resurrection bears a resemblance to two individuals from Daniel’s interconnected visions. Matthew portrays the angel at the tomb as an opening cue; he is meant to signal that what is about to take place (i.e., the Great Commission) is related to Daniel’s visions. The day Jesus takes back the world is just around the corner, and the Great Commission is going to play a crucial role in preparing the way.

### *Acts 1*

#### *Times and Epochs*

Before Jesus ascended to heaven, the disciples asked Him, “Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?” (Acts 1:6). Jesus replied, “It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority” (1:7). The combination of “times” and “epochs” as Jesus uses them in Acts 1 is a unique phrase found only in the book of Daniel. For example, when the mystery of Nebuchadnezzar’s dream was revealed to Daniel, He prayed to God, “It is He who changes the times and the epochs; He removes kings and establishes kings” (Dan. 2:21). What Nebuchadnezzar dreamed in Daniel 2 was a preview of the vision Daniel would have years later about the Son of Man in Daniel 7. Just as the stone shattered a statue representing the nations (Dan. 2), the Son of Man will strip the nations of their sovereignty (Dan. 7). Jesus tells His disciples that their job is not to decipher when the Son of Man will have His final victory (Acts 1:7), but rather to testify that it will happen (1:8).



#### *Watching into Heaven*

As Jesus ascended into heaven, Acts 1:9 says that the disciples, “were looking on.” Daniel 7:13 shows Daniel doing the exact same thing, “I kept looking in the night visions.” Even the posture of the disciples traces the portrait of Daniel 7. Although the Great Commission moves outward to reach the world, it starts with a gaze upward to look for Christ. The Great Commission is motivated by earnest anticipation for His return, because the Great Commission is all about the victory He possesses when He returns.

#### *Coming on a Cloud*

What both Daniel and the disciples see is also the same: Jesus riding on a cloud. Daniel 7:13 says, “I kept looking in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven One like a Son of Man was coming.” Acts 1:9 echoes, “He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.” The angels explain two verses later, “This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven” (1:11). In other words, Jesus is going to return on a cloud just like He was taken up in one. The angels draw attention to Daniel 7 to encourage and motivate the disciples to start the work of the Great Commission, as if to say, “Jesus will reign. So, go and tell the world about it!”

#### *Angels Standing*

The way the angels are standing next to the disciples also bears a striking resemblance to Daniel 7. Acts 1:10 explains that the angels “stood beside” the disciples. Daniel 7:10 also depicts “myriads upon myriads” of angels “standing before” the Ancient of Days. By their

very posture, the angels are recreating the scene of heaven in the vision of Daniel 7. By standing next to the disciples, the angels add them to the chorus of worshipers standing before God's throne. In this way, the angels give the disciples a sneak peak of this climactic moment in history, so that they will be motivated to carry out the task of the Great Commission.

### Why Does This Matter?

When all the evidence is considered, there is no question that Daniel's prophecy about Jesus, the Son of Man, is the "vision" behind the Great Commission. But what difference does it make? What kind of impact should this have on Great Commission work? While more could be said, might I briefly suggest three ways it changes our understanding and application of the Great Commission?

#### *It Keeps Christ Central*

It's easy to make evangelism about winning the lost to Christ. As good and important as that is, it is not the ultimate reason or goal behind the Great Commission. Instead, the victory of Christ is the reason for the Great Commission and the glory of Christ is its goal. We long to see people come to know Christ. We hate to imagine what their eternity will be like without Him. But at the end of the day, Daniel 7 reminds us that we preach Christ, first and foremost because we love Him and want to see Him exalted, whether people come to saving faith or not.

#### *It Increases Your Confidence*

If Jesus wins at the end of history, there is no way to fail in the work of the Great Commission. When an unbeliever rejects the gospel, it is not a loss, because the gospel has not been rendered powerless. When it seems like an atheist wins the argument, it is not defeat, because Christ has not been defeated. If the gospel is proclaimed accurately and faithfully, it is victory. The church is not responsible to save souls; it is responsible to proclaim good news. The Great Commission looks less like an army fighting to advance in battle and more like a parade celebrating a victory that's sure to come. The vision of Daniel 7 should fill you with confidence to get out into the world and let the gospel loose.

#### *It Guards Against Dangerous Methodologies*

One of the dangers that the "social justice gospel" poses to the Great Commission is that it assumes the church is responsible to change the world. Nothing could be further from the truth. The church is responsible to bear witness to the One who will change the world, not change it itself. Granted, through our witness, some people will change, and

we praise God for it. But that is never the goal stated in Scripture; that is merely a by-product. When the church switches its primary role as a witness to an activist, it robs Jesus of the glory He deserves when He finally returns to take back the world. If the church makes it its mission to change the world, it will always fail. What's more, it will fail to be the church. When Matthew 28 and Acts 1 anchor the Great Commission in Daniel 7, it reminds us that Christ is the hero, not the church. Jesus will save the day, not us. We are just God's ambassadors asking the world to join us in celebrating the future victory of His beloved Son.





## Police tell pastor not to offend gay pride as mob threatens to burn down his church

—issued by *Christian Concern*

Devon and Cornwall Police have told a Christian pastor that if he offends the LGBT community he could be breaking the law after he posted a comment on a social media thread that welcomed the cancellation of a local gay pride event.

Pastor Josh Williamson, 34, of Newquay Baptist Church, was warned by police to keep his views in a 'safe environment' after being targeted by a wave of anti-Christian abuse – including threats of violence and calls for his church to be burnt down.

### Quoted the Bible

On 13 August 2020, Pastor Williamson responded to an article on a local news outlet's Facebook page, which reported that this year's Cornwall pride would be cancelled. He simply posted: "Wonderful news!"

Asked by an online user why the news was wonderful, he responded saying "because I don't think sin should be celebrated." Answering further questions on his views he quoted from the book of John, James, and 1 Corinthians 6:9-11.

On his personal Facebook page Pastor Williamson then shared the news article and commented:

"Hallelujah!! We prayed at our prayer meeting on Tuesday night that this event would be cancelled. We also prayed that the Lord would save the organisers. One prayer answered, now we wait for the second prayer to be answered."

Organisers of Cornwall Pride searched his personal page, took a screenshot of the post, and then tagged Newquay Baptist Church and posted it along with negative comments made by other users about gay pride.

By blocking out the names on each comment and mentioning Newquay Baptist Church, it appeared that they had all been made by Pastor Williamson.

Online threats followed against the pastor's wife and his head was superimposed onto an image of homosexual pornography, which was then shared online.

### Reported for hate crime

Cornwall Pride then called on as many supporters as possible to report the pastor to the police for hate speech/crime.

LGBT sympathisers threatened that they would protest at his Sunday services, would seek to have the church's charity status revoked and have Pastor Williamson deported to his native Australia.

Following these threats, Pastor Williamson was invited to a meeting by a transgender member of the community.

Pastor Williamson accepted the invitation, in effort to share his actual beliefs, and met for an hour with two members of Cornwall Pride to discuss matters.

At the meeting, Pastor Williamson reiterated his stance and Christian beliefs and welcomed members of the LGBT community to attend his church.

Hoping to help them understand his position and beliefs, Pastor Williamson ended the meeting by sharing a leaflet, with permission, on what the Bible says about homosexuality.

### 'LETS BURN A CHURCH'

Images of the leaflet were then shared throughout the LGBT community, creating a perception that Pastor Williamson was distributing them widely, which he was not.

With further calls for police to investigate Pastor Williamson for a 'hate crime', a post in an LGBT group called for Newquay Baptist Church, which often houses families, to be

burnt down. Another user agreed, responding: “LETS BURN A CHURCH! LETS BURN A CHURCH.”

Another user threatened to perform a mass sexual orgy at the church, calling on the group to assault anyone who handed them the leaflet.

Reporting the threat to Devon and Cornwall Police, who are Cornwall Pride’s sponsor, Pastor Williamson was told that the situation was ‘complex’ and that they did not believe the threat would materialise.

The police stated that they were working with both sides to pacify the situation, but also stated to Pastor Williamson that he should make sure he did not offend anyone in the LGBT community in future to avoid breaking the law.

### Speaking truth in love

Pastor Williamson said: “My family and I, and our church community, have been very concerned by the level of anti-Christian abuse and threats of violence that we have been targeted with over the past few weeks. The police have not formally spoken to me about any hate crime or sought a witness statement to look at the various online comments which have included threats to burn down our church.

“As Christians we seek to speak the truth in love and would readily welcome all people to our services. The Bible, however, proclaims a message of repentance which calls on all people to turn from their sin and to trust in Christ. It would be unloving for us to remain silent about what God’s Word says in relation to human sin, including all forms of sexual sin. We therefore, must proclaim the truth that homosexuality is a sin, but that God loves sinners and Jesus can forgive all our sins.

“Newquay Baptist Church is made up of sinners who have been forgiven by a wonderful Saviour; since this is the case, we would invite all people, including the LGBT community, to come to our services. Our desire is that all would come to know and love Jesus.”

### Dangerous times

Andrea Williams, chief executive of the Christian Legal Centre, who are supporting Pastor Williamson, said: *“It’s becoming worryingly common in the UK to see threats and calls for violence against Christians for voicing their simple opposition to LGBT Pride. Police forces should show Christians they take this seriously by protecting their free speech against mob threats rather than by seeking to keep Christians quiet.”*

*“Christians are called to repay evil with good – I have no doubt that Pastor Williamson will continue to share the reality of sin and the good news of Jesus Christ with the people of Newquay.”*



## Other News:

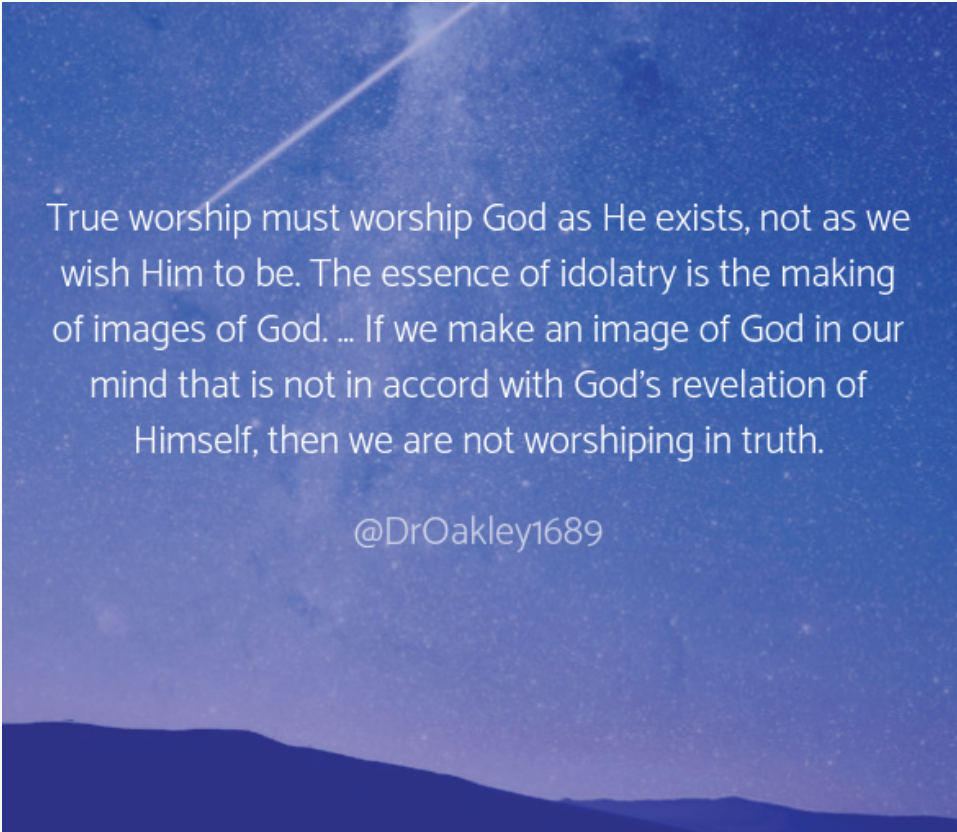
**Singing ‘no riskier than talking’ for virus spread**— <https://www.bbc.com/news/health-53853961>

**China orders hospitals to abort, kill newborn babies of religious and ethnic minorities**— <https://www.christianpost.com/news/xinjiang-hospitals-forced-to-abort-kill-newborn-babies-born-outside-family-limits.html>

**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>

**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>

## Quote of the Week:



True worship must worship God as He exists, not as we wish Him to be. The essence of idolatry is the making of images of God. ... If we make an image of God in our mind that is not in accord with God’s revelation of Himself, then we are not worshiping in truth.

@DrOakley1689

## 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

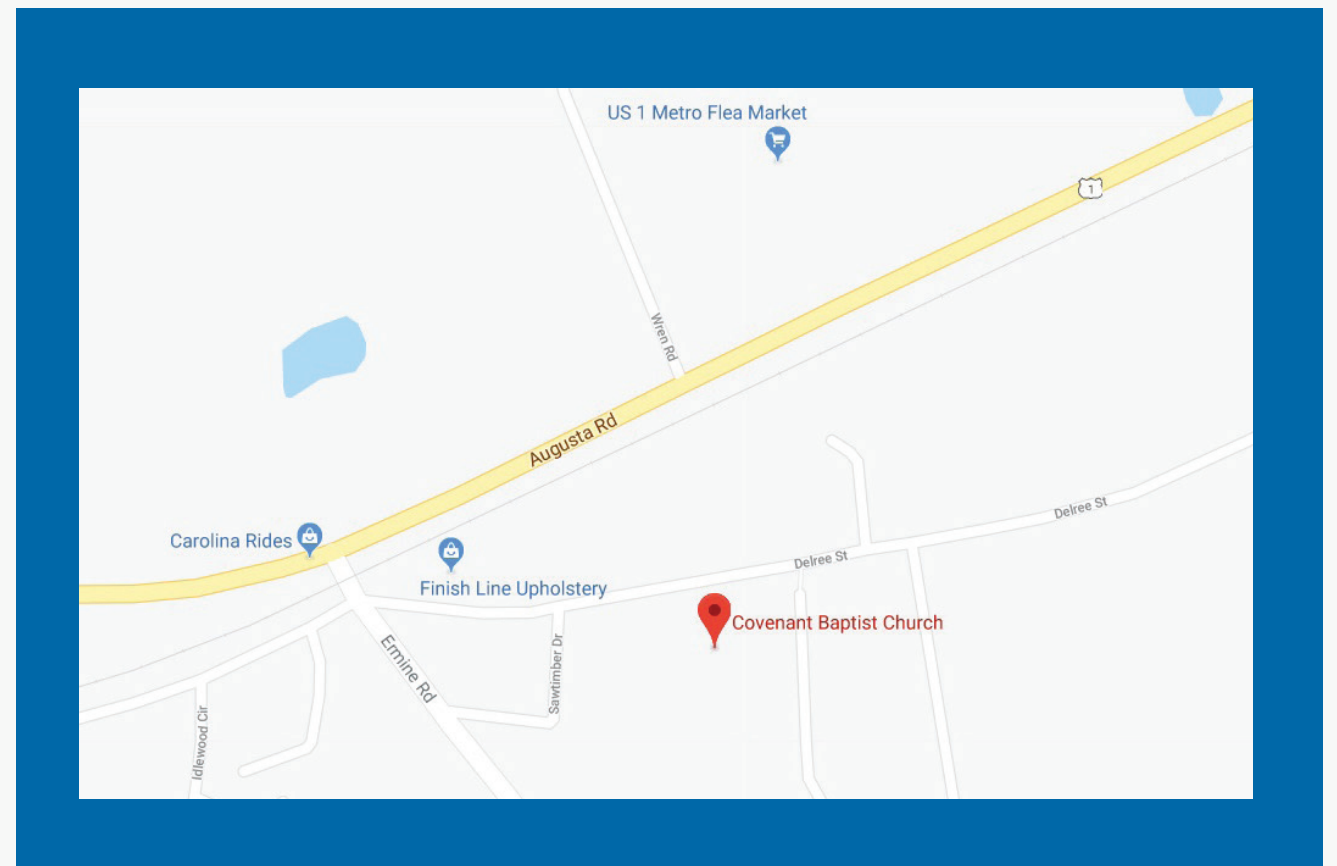
*Reformed and Refreshing*

*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.*