



Covenant Baptist Church

Reformed and Refreshing

September 20th, 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 and Systematic Theology)
~ 9:30 A.M.

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 20th, 2020)

God of Grace and God of Glory—92

Scripture Reading: Hebrews 1:1-14; 2:1-4

Jesus! What a Friend for Sinners—206

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross—273

Message:

Jesus Is God, Part 2—John 17:5

Prayer and Benediction

Closing Hymn: Take My Life and Let it Be —393

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On-Call Deacon List:

- September 20: Waddell
- September 27: Lucas
- October 4: Egan

Church Cleaning Schedule:

- September 26: Olds/Shealy
- October 3: Wheat
- October 10: Kyzer (K&R)/Bean

Church Bookstore:

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

Announcements

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 in the foyer 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.

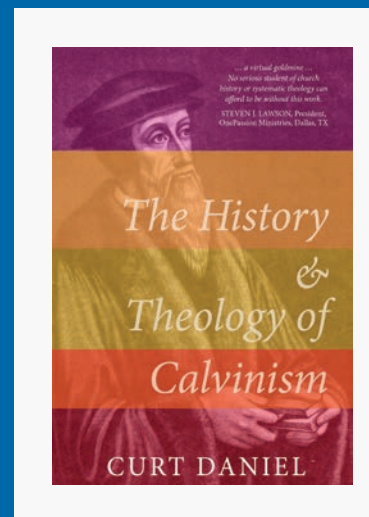
The church elders, after studying and praying over the matter for several years, have decided to open an orphanage in Guntur, India. It will be near the church that we, thru the Mission Team, started 2 years ago named after our own church here. Pastor Prabhu and his wife, Leena, will head it up. It will 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.'

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>



Covenant Baptist Church Events

Greek Class—*On hold*

Biblical Counseling Class—*On hold*

Second Sunday Dinner—*October 11th. 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. 22nd and Saturday, Sept 26th*

Fall Conference with Gospel of God Ministries—*October 25-28, 2020*

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>*



Why The Church Has Never Been More Essential

—by John MacArthur

One nation under God.

That phrase, recently and conspicuously omitted from the flag salute at some events during the Democratic National Convention, reflects the intentions of America's founding fathers. They understood the necessity of acknowledging and submitting to divine authority — and not just any god, but the God revealed in the Bible. That same understanding informs our Constitution, which itself does not grant us rights, but rather recognizes, identifies, and defends those rights granted to us by God alone.

Truth be told, the notion of a secular state is a lie; all government is ordained by God. The Bible makes that very point when it commands Christians to submit to governing authorities: "There is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God" (Romans 13:1). And even when the government opposes, abuses, and persecutes the church, Christians can take comfort in the fact that such cruelty is not outside of God's sovereign control or His divine plan.

But what happens when those governing authorities refuse to acknowledge God and ignore His law?

J.C. Ryle was bishop of Liverpool at the end of the nineteenth century. He died in 1900, but his legacy and influence live on globally throughout the church to this day. Ryle was known as a lion for the truth, and he was both intensely loved and intensely hated for his fidelity to the Bible. The scope of his writing was vast, but of particular interest to him was the relationship between church and state. He recognized the foundational principle that all people, and all nations, are called to worship the true God. He understood that it isn't an option; it is a divine command.

That understanding rests on some foundational truths. First of all, we must acknowledge that man was created by God, in the image of God, and for the glory of God. Some knowledge of the one true God and His moral law is written on our hearts (Romans 1:18-20; 2:14-15), such that unrepentant sinners "are without excuse." No one can claim ignorance for failing to seek, and know, and worship the God of the Bible. Yet while we are surrounded by evidence of His existence through the testimony of His creative work, man's fallen, unrepentant heart pulls him away from the true God. Ryle understood that sinful bent, saying, "Any worship is more pleasing to the natural heart than worshiping God in the way our Lord Jesus describes it as worshiping in spirit and truth." The apostle Paul, borrowing language from the Old Testament, put it even more bluntly: "There is none righteous, not even one; there is none who understands, there is none who seeks for God; all have turned aside, together they have become useless" (Romans 3:10-12). The natural heart flees from accountability to God at every opportunity.

The Bible consistently exhorts all people and nations to repent from that deviation and submit to God. Scripture reminds us over and over that there is only one true God. "I am the Lord, and there is no other; besides Me there is no God" (Isaiah 45:5). The Old Testament Law warns against the folly of idolatry, "You shall not worship any other god, for the Lord, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God" (Exodus 34:14). These aren't merely commands for God's covenant people — they apply to all nations. "Let all the earth fear the Lord; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him" (Psalm 33:8). "Praise the Lord, all nations! Laud Him, all peoples!" (Psalm 117:1).

Scripture actually reveals repeatedly what happens when a nation and its leaders refuse to obey the law of God. One example is Nebuchadnezzar, who ruled over the Babylonian empire — one of the richest and most vast the world has ever seen. In his pride, he refused to acknowledge God, choosing instead to deify himself. As punishment for his arrogance, he spent years wandering the land in a beastlike

stupor, until, as the humbled king explains, “I, Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes toward heaven and my reason returned to me, and I blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever: For His dominion is an everlasting dominion, and His kingdom endures from generation to generation. All the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, but He does according to His will in the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth; and no one can ward off His hand or say to Him, ‘What have You done?’” (Daniel 4:34-35)

Failing to acknowledge God and live in accordance with His law unleashes God’s judgment on leaders and on a society, marked by a descent into lawlessness, degradation, and corruption. The apostle Paul lays out the pattern for us in the book of Romans:

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because that which is known about God is evident within them; for 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. 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. (Romans 1:18-22)

Our nation has rejected God and His law, and we are watching the consequences play out on a daily basis, as the culture sinks lower into chaos, confusion, corruption, perversion, and wretchedness. If you want proof that we have forfeited our ability to reason and think clearly, look no further than the faulty solutions that are promoted to address our problems. It seems the answer to racism is more racism, with some calling for the re-segregation of society. Others promote various kinds of “justice” that are anything but just. The latest example I’ve encountered is called “research justice,” which is the wholesale rejection of any research done by white, heterosexual males. That kind of abject bias is a death sentence for the scientific community, blunting the edge of technological advancement for years to come — but the trend is nevertheless on the rise. Such is the futility and the irrationality of the reprobate mind that rejects God.

Postmodernism is deteriorating into outright paganism. The social justice movement is founded on the absurd idea that everything is a social construct — that each person is born without any innate characteristics, only to be shaped and



Image: Dominika Gregusova from Pexels

molded by the white, male patriarchy (or some other oppressor class). The typical person today fundamentally denies God’s image in humanity and won’t submit to His divine authority over His own creation. Meanwhile, social justicians are intent on tearing down every last element of society. They are increasingly targeting the church.

A nation that gives into and even champions such backward thinking isn’t far off from utter chaos and anarchy. Bishop Ryle understood the dire consequences that accrue when a country abandons the one true God. Regarding his homeland’s national apostasy he wrote:

In what manner God would punish England if English government casts off all connection with Him, I cannot tell. Whether He would punish us by some sudden blow, such as defeat in war and the occupation of our territory by some foreign power; whether He would waste us away gradually and slowly by loss of commercial prosperity; whether He would break us to pieces by letting fools rule over us, and allowing Parliament to obey them; whether He would ruin us by sending a dearth of wise statesmen. But one thing I am sure: The state that sows the seed of national neglect of God will sooner or later reap a harvest of national disaster and national ruin.

Does that sound familiar?

Our nation is on fire, and many of our leaders are content to fiddle and watch it burn. Those of us who are believers urgently need to pray for them — that, like

Nebuchadnezzar, their eyes will be opened to the futility of their ways and the clarity of God's law. We need to flood this dark world with the light of God's truth. We need to be the salt that preserves this rapidly rotting culture. We need to bring the truth of God's Word and His law to bear on the hearts of men and women who cannot comprehend the confusion and corruption that dominate their lives.

Historically, the church has identified three key purposes or uses of God's law. First, it shows sinful man how far short he falls of God's holy standard, revealing his desperate need for a Redeemer and Savior. Second, it provides a standard of behavior that promotes the believer's sanctification, spiritually growing him progressively in the likeness of Christ. The third purpose has a broader application — God's law restrains evil in a society. What we're seeing today is how evil is unleashed in a society when God and His law are rejected.

Now is not the time to suspend the worship of the true God, to remove the authority of His Word by silencing the voice of His church. Considering the evidence around us, you'd have to conclude that the church has never been more essential.

Watch the full sermon on which this opinion piece is based here:
<https://www.gty.org/library/sermons-library/81-94/a-nation-under-god>



Image: Rosemary Ketchum from Pexels

Minneapolis City Council members complain about city's crime wave after proposing to defund police department

—by *Laura Mize*

Minneapolis City Council members, who vowed a few months ago to defund the city's police department, vigorously questioned the city's police chief this week about a surge in violence and property crimes.

The number of robberies, assaults, burglaries, and auto thefts are higher this year than in 2019, according to Minneapolis Public Radio. So far 2020 has seen more homicides in Minneapolis than in all of 2019 and arsons have increased 55%.

Council members reported that constituents complained about these crimes.

Andrew Johnson, who has been in favor of defunding the department, asked about the response to recent carjackings, saying "they've really terrorized residents."

"How do we stop it?" he asked. "Because it seems like a huge problem and it's something we absolutely want to stop and it also seems very difficult to stop...How [do] we actually hold these individuals accountable, get them off the streets so they aren't terrorizing the community?"

On Wednesday, Johnson told the Daily Caller News Foundation that Minneapolis should have an armed agency “to go after carjackers and violent criminals.”

Council member Steve Fletcher said constituents reported that police officers tell them there are not enough officers to work on preventing robberies.

Lisa Bender, council president, said some residents allege that police officers are refusing to enforce laws in the city, saying the violence would go on until more officers are hired.

The city council’s earlier proposal that would allow the city to replace the department with a community safety organization is under review by a group called the Charter Commission. Zero Hedge reports that more than 100 members of MPD have left their jobs this year, which is more than double the number for most years.

Police Chief Medaria Arradondo said Bender’s reports of officers refusing to enforce laws was “troubling to hear” and that he would discuss it with department leadership.

He iterated that his department has been fighting the crime wave and that some people in the city do not want to call police currently, the Star Tribune reported. He also mentioned that revamping public safety may lead to “uncomfortable” situations for residents.

“That may mean you making commitments that might be uncomfortable for some of those constituents that you represent,” the chief said, “but if your ultimate goal is to have true community safety, I will tell you right now, we have to work together in that effort.”

Also read...



Cost of George Floyd riots approaches \$1 billion, according to early estimate

<https://disrn.com//news/cost-of-george-floyd-riots-approaches-1-billion>

Other News:

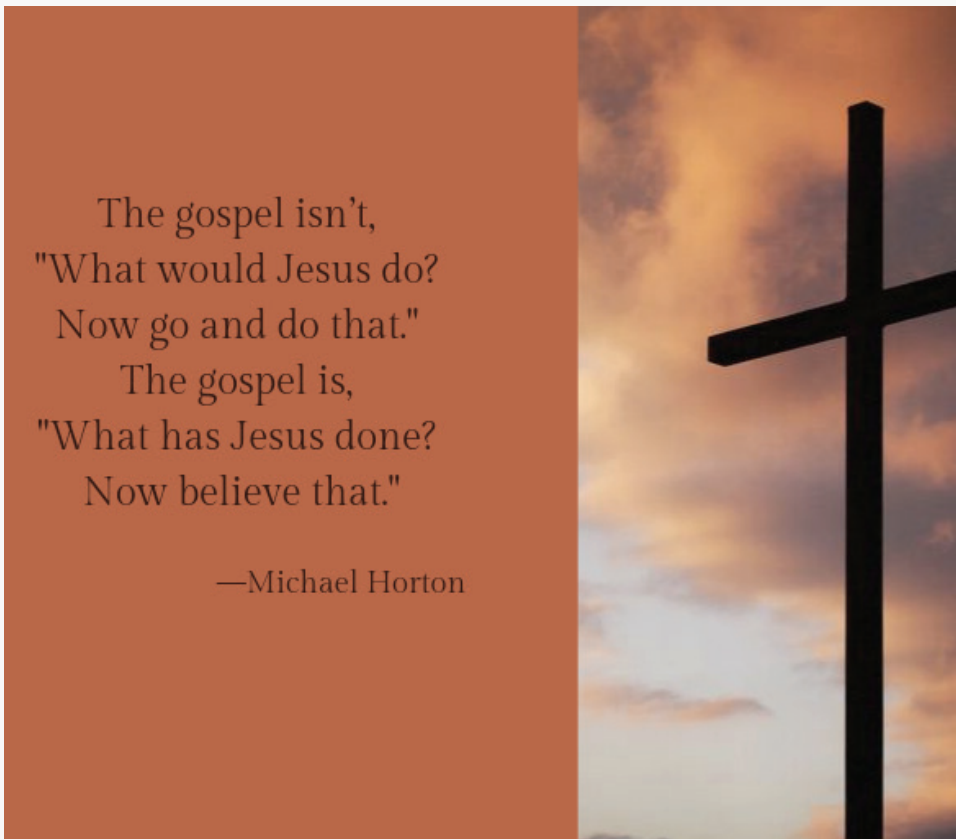
Singing 'no riskier than talking' for virus spread— <https://www.bbc.com/news/health-53853961>

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:



The gospel isn't,
"What would Jesus do?
Now go and do that."
The gospel is,
"What has Jesus done?
Now believe that."

—Michael Horton

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

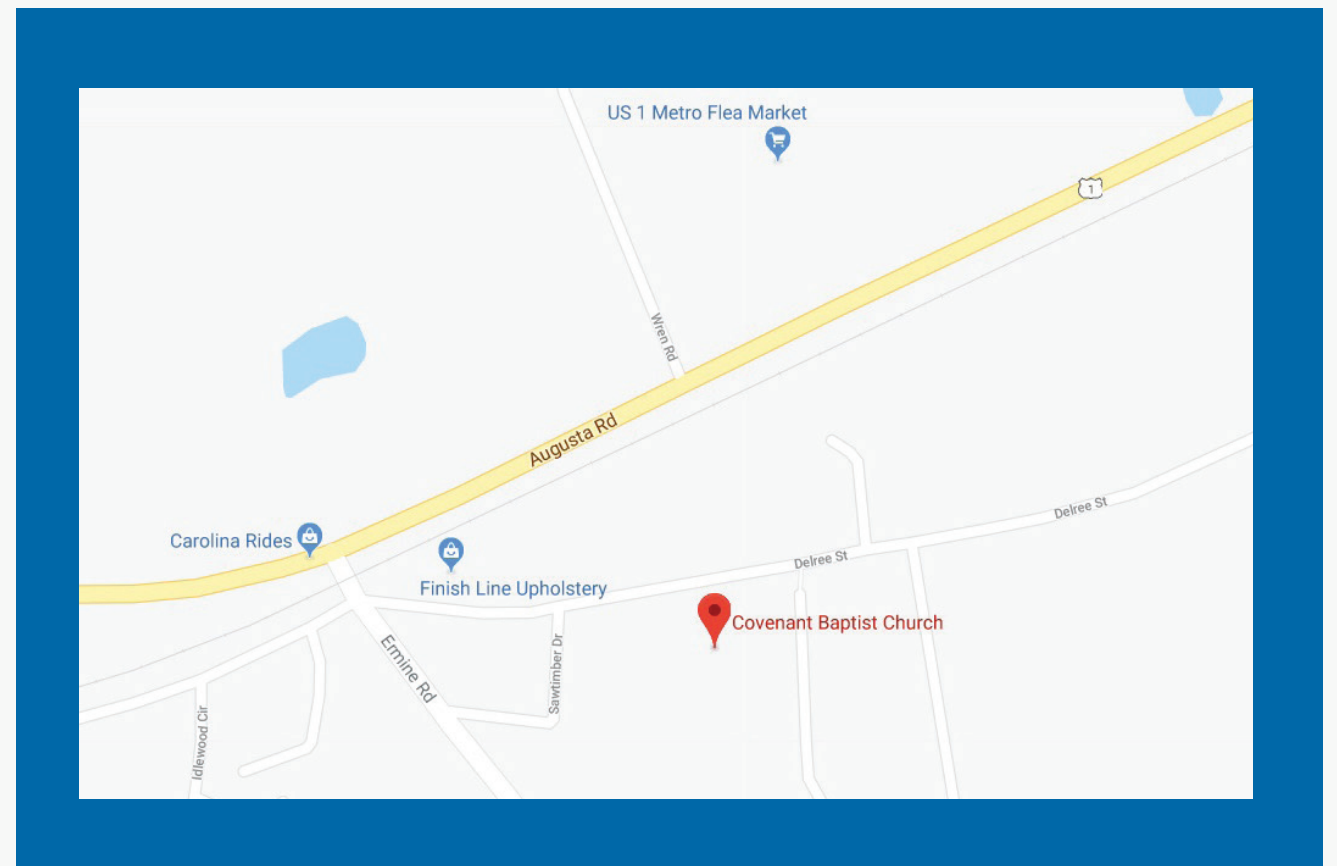
Reformed and Refreshing

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.*