



Covenant Baptist Church

Reformed and Refreshing

December 27th, 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.

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

Order of Worship

(December 27th, 2020)

Call to Worship: Revelation 21:1-5

Immortal, Invisible—36

Scripture Reading: Psalm 9:1-20

O Great God—305

Ancient Words—365

Message:

Stand Firm in This Evil Day
Ephesians 6:10-18

Prayer and Benediction

Closing Hymn: More Love to Thee, O Christ—385

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On-Call Deacon List:

- December 27: Smoak
- January 2: Kyzer
- January 9: Waddell

Church Cleaning Schedule:

- December 26: Allen
- January 2: Crapps/McSween
- January 9: Lucas/Waddell

Church Bookstore:

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

Announcements

If you would like to be added to the church cleaning list for 2021, please contact Chris Waddell at (803) 447-8257.

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We are excited to announce that Justin Peters will be with us in February for a 4-day conference. Dates are confirmed: February 14-17. Begin spreading the word and inviting others to come. This will be a very important conference on discerning truth in these troubled times.

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This (12/27/20) is the last Sunday to receive funds for the Military Bible Sticks for 2020. We have taken the lead this year for churches that contribute to this cause to reach out to our troops. The closest church to us hit \$3750. Our total thus far is today at \$3925.00 which would give us 156 Bible Sticks to the troops along with the packets sent to their families and the each is matched making a total of 312 Bible Sticks. We can break the 4000 mark for just a few dollars more. It's up to you. But thank you for all you've done to help with this ministry of Covenant Baptist Church. God bless each of you.—The Church Elders

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We would like to thank all of those at Covenant that were so generous to us during this Christmas season. We appreciate all the beautiful cards and words of encouragement. It really means a lot. We are overwhelmed with the love and support we get here at Covenant. May God Bless each of you. We love all of you.—The Swann Family

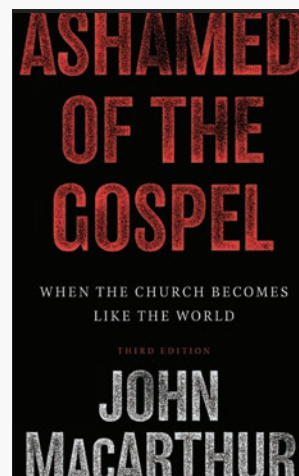
Book of the Week: Ashamed of the Gospel, by John MacArthur

The brilliance of John MacArthur's book, "Ashamed of the Gospel" is that it was written long before Rick Warren and Bill Hybels were household names. MacArthur, like Spurgeon a century ago, is one of our generation's leading apologists for defending the faith and the integrity of biblical doctrines.

Purchase at:

<https://www.amazon.com/Ashamed-Gospel-3rd-Church-Becomes/dp/1433509296>

Also available in the church bookstore.



Covenant Baptist Church Events

Greek Class—*On hold*

Biblical Counseling Class—*On hold*

Second Sunday Dinner—*January 10th. 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.*

Other Events:

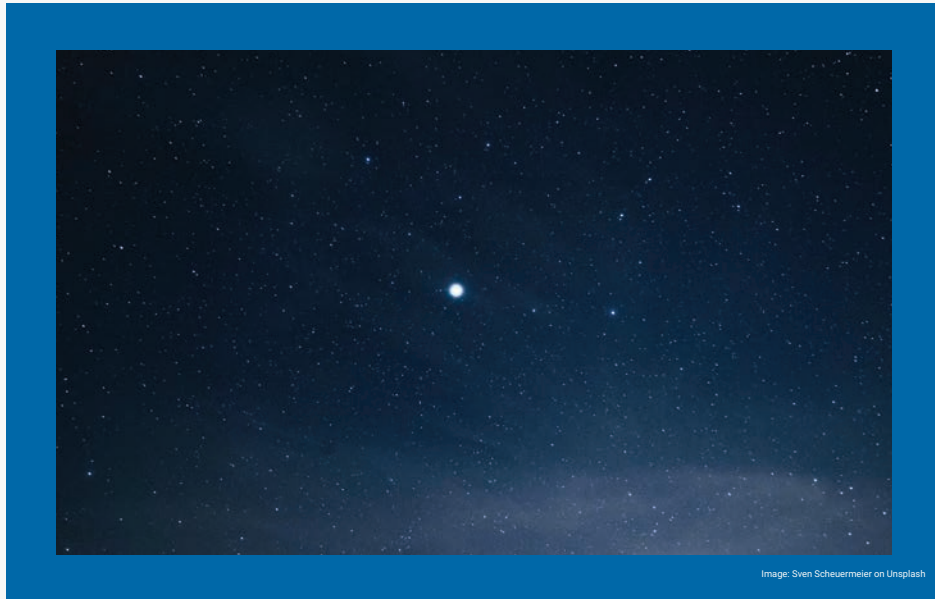
Truth: Answers for Women, March 27-28 2020—(Williamstown, KY)

DELAYED UNTIL 2021

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

2021 National Conference | Ligonier Ministries, March 18-20—(Orlando, FL)

More at: <https://www.ligonier.org/events/2021-national-conference/>



The Incarnation: Its Relevance

—by *William Boekestein*

To call the incarnation “relevant” almost sounds patronizing. But we need to recognize the intimate connection between this important doctrine and personal piety.

It Opens Up Scripture

Until we grasp that Christ is God-in-flesh, the Old Testament will remain a collection of stories about how men and women struggled with the call to faith. The incarnation helps us to see that the Old Testament sets the stage for God to once again live with man as He did in Eden. On every Old Testament page, God promises a human deliverer who is also stronger than Satan (Gen. 3:15); both a suffering servant and an anointed king.

The reality of God-with-us is explained and applied throughout the rest of Scripture starting with Matthew. The New Testament is not simply a collection of ethical instruction, or even a commentary on the life of a certain Nazarene. It is the real-life story of what happened when God came to men that they might belong to Him. The New Testament is the answer to the Old Testament anticipation of a redeemer. Only in the incarnate Christ, are all of the promises answered with a

resounding “yes!” (2 Cor. 1:20).

Near the story’s last chapter, John heard these words from heaven: “Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people. God himself will be with them, and be their God” (Rev. 21:3).

It Makes God Accessible

In the Old Testament, God was accessible only through the mediation of prophets, priests, tabernacle, and temple. No Israelite could properly see God (John 1:18). John Calvin said the revelation of God prior to Christ was like a pencil sketch.

In Christ, God became accessible to us in a most familiar form. Six times in the opening of His first letter, John says, “We saw him!” (1 John 1:1-4). During Jesus’ earthly ministry, the majestic God of heaven and earth cried out to the crowds, “Come to me!” (Matt. 11:28). If you want to know what God is like, study Christ. As Richard Phillips has written, Jesus’ earthly posture, tone of voice, attitude, and reaction to events were those of God. “God is Christ-like.”

It Reveals Our Only Mediator

At Mount Sinai Israel needed mediation; they were justly terrified by God’s thunders. “If we hear the voice of the Lord our God any more, we shall die.” (Deut 5:25). God gave Moses as a temporary mediator (Deut. 5:27) who admonished the people to look for a better one! (Deut 18:15). Of the man Jesus, Paul later wrote, “There is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men...” (1 Tim. 2:5). In His humanity Christ suffered our judgment for sin. In His divinity He endured that judgment to the very end.

It Reveals God’s Humility and Glory

Christ prostrated Himself to the earth because we needed rescue—that’s humbling. God lowered Himself to gather to Himself His rebellious children. Even the earthly body of Christ was lowly. It was as crude as the tabernacle in the desert compared with the pyramids of Egypt or the ziggurats of Babylon. Christ willingly compromised His reputation by becoming a man (Phil. 2:7). Paradoxically, in Christ’s humility, God also reveals His other-worldly glory. Phillips explains: “Jesus saw the event of His greatest earthly humiliation—the apex of His servant obedience—as His true glorification on earth. ‘The hour has come that the Son of Man should be

glorified' (John 12:23)." Calvin boldly states that the richness of God's glory "is invisible until it shines forth in Christ...the majesty of the Father is hidden until it shews itself impressed" on Christ's image."

It Compels Us to Godly Living

"For the love of Christ compels us...those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for him who died for them and rose again" (2 Cor. 5:14-15). True godliness is lived out in a mutually loving experience with God. With biblical warrant, we usually think of the cross as the greatest manifestation of God's love. But if on the cross, Christ's descent reached the pit of hell, the incarnation was His first step in that agonizing descent. We need to know Christ as He truly is, God and man in one beautiful, glorious person. Knowing Christ ensures being changed by Him.

Also Read:

Learning from the Magi

<https://www.feedingonchrist.com/blog/post/learning-from-the-magi>



Asymptomatic transmission of COVID-19 didn't occur at all, study of 10 million finds

—by Michael Haynes

WUHAN, China, December 23, 2020 (LifeSiteNews) – A study of almost 10 million people in Wuhan, China, found that asymptomatic spread of COVID-19 did not occur at all, thus undermining the need for lockdowns, which are built on the premise of the virus being unwittingly spread by infectious, asymptomatic people.

Published in November in the scientific journal *Nature Communications*, the paper was compiled by 19 scientists, mainly from the Huazhong University of Science and Technology in Wuhan, but also from scientific institutions across China as well as in the U.K. and Australia. It focused on the residents of Wuhan, ground zero for COVID-19, where 9,899,828 people took part in a screening program between May 14 and June 1, which provided clear results as to the possibility of any asymptomatic transmission of the virus.

Asymptomatic transmission has been the underlying justification of lockdowns enforced all across the world. The most recent guidance from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) still states that the virus “can be spread by people who do not have symptoms.” In fact, the CDC claimed that asymptomatic people “are estimated to account for more than 50 percent of transmissions.”

U.K. Health Secretary Matt Hancock also promoted this message, explaining that the concept of asymptomatic spread of COVID-19 led to the U.K. advocating masks and referring to the “problem of asymptomatic transmission.”

However, the new study in *Nature Communications*, titled “Post-lockdown SARS-CoV-2 nucleic acid screening in nearly 10 million residents of Wuhan, China,” debunked the concept of asymptomatic transmission.

It stated that out of the nearly 10 million people in the study, “300 asymptomatic cases” were found. Contact tracing was then carried out and of those 300, no cases of COVID-19 were detected in any of them. “A total of 1,174 close contacts of the asymptomatic positive cases were traced, and they all tested negative for the COVID-19.”

Both the asymptomatic patients and their contacts were placed in isolation for two weeks, and after the fortnight, the results remained the same. “None of detected positive cases or their close contacts became symptomatic or newly confirmed with COVID-19 during the isolation period.”

Further evidence showed that “virus cultures” in the positive and repositive asymptomatic cases were all negative, “indicating no ‘viable virus’ in positive cases detected in this study.”

Ages of those found to be asymptomatic ranged between 10 and 89, with the asymptomatic positive rate being “lowest in children or adolescents aged 17 and below” and highest rate found among people older than 60.

The study also made the realization that due to a weakening of the virus itself, “newly infected persons were more likely to be asymptomatic and with a lower viral load than earlier infected cases.”

These results are not without precedent. In June, Dr. Maria Van Kerkhove, head of the World Health Organization’s (WHO) emerging diseases and zoonosis unit, shed doubt upon asymptomatic transmission. Speaking at a press conference, Van Kerkhove explained, “From the data we have, it still seems to be rare that an asymptomatic person actually transmits onward to a secondary individual.”

She then repeated the words “It’s very rare,” but despite her word choice of “rare,” Van Kerkhove could not point to a single case of asymptomatic transmission, noting that numerous reports “were not finding secondary transmission onward.”

Her comments went against the predominant narrative justifying lockdowns, and at the time the American Institute for Economic Research (AIER) highlighted that “she undermined the last bit of rationale there could be for lockdowns, mandated masks, social distancing regulation, and the entire apparatus of compulsion and coercion under which we’ve lived for three months.”

Swift to act, the WHO performed a U-turn, and the next day Van Kerkhove then declared that asymptomatic transmission was a “really complex question ... We don’t actually have that answer yet.”

“I think that that’s misunderstanding to state that asymptomatic transmission globally is very rare. I was referring to a small subset of studies,” she added.

However, the new Wuhan study seems to present solid, scientific evidence that asymptomatic transmission is not just rare but nonexistent. Given that it found “no evidence that the identified asymptomatic positive cases were infectious,” the study raises important questions about lockdowns.

Commenting on the study, The Conservative Tree House noted that “all of the current lockdown regulations, mask wearing requirements and social distancing rules/decrees are based on a complete fallacy of false assumptions.” The evidence presented in the study shows that “‘very rare’ actually means ‘never’ asymptomatic spread just doesn’t happen – EVER.”

Such a large scientific study of 10 million people should not be overlooked, Jeffrey Tucker argued in the AIER, as it should be “huge news,” paving the way “to open up everything immediately.” Yet media reports have been virtually nonexistent and “ignored,” a fact that Tucker explained: “The lockdown lobby ignores whatever contradicts their narrative, preferring unverified anecdotes over an actual scientific study of 10 million residents in what was the world’s first major hotspot for the disease we are trying to manage.”

The recent findings should enable society to reopen once more, according to the AIER. Without asymptomatic transmission, “the whole basis for post-curve-flattening lockdowns,” life should resume and “we could take comfort in our normal

intuition that healthy people can get out and about with no risk to others.”

“We keep hearing about how we should follow the science,” Tucker added. “The claim is tired by now. We know what’s really happening.”

He closed his commentary with the question: “With solid evidence that asymptomatic spread is nonsense, we have to ask: Who is making decisions and why?”

Also Read:

World-Renowned Microbiologist Dr. Sucharit Bhakdi Has Urgent Warning of COVID-19 Vaccine Risks

<https://welovetrump.com/2020/12/20/world-renowned-microbiologist-dr-sucharit-bhakdi-has-urgent-warning-of-covid-19-vaccine-risks/>

Other News:

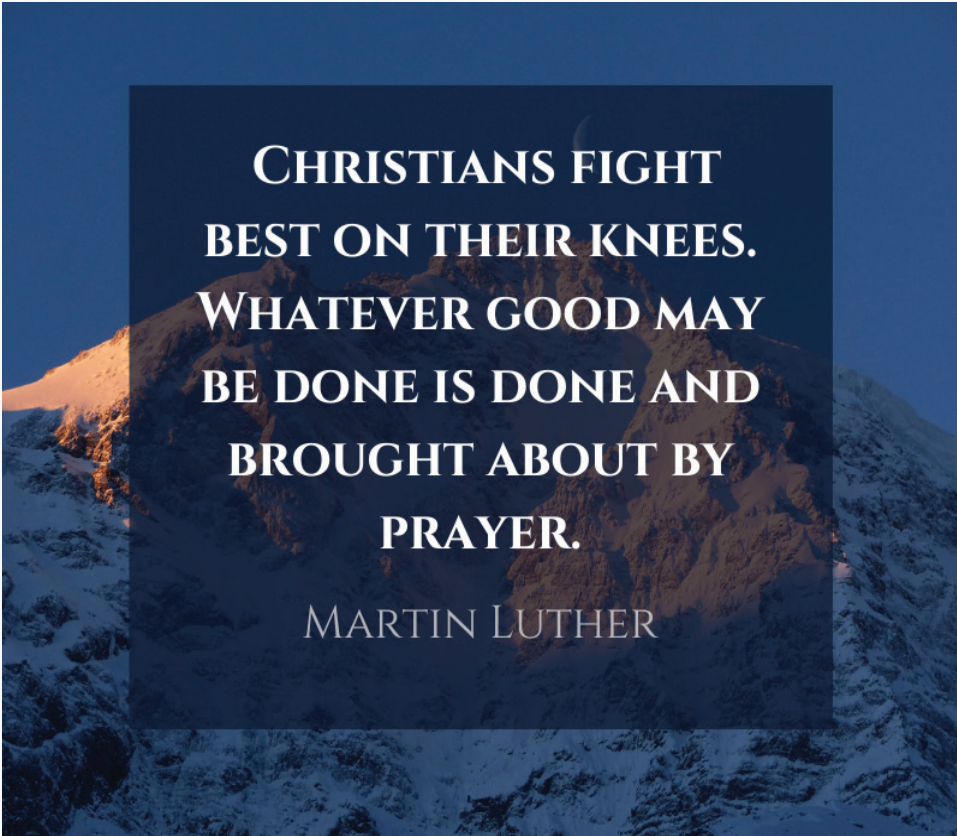
Jupiter, Saturn merging in night sky, closest in centuries— <https://www.wistv.com/2020/12/18/jupiter-saturn-merging-night-sky-closest-centuries/>

Salvation is of the Lord— <https://heartcrymissionary.com/mission-updates/salvation-is-of-the-lord/>

Major LGBT Group Urges Biden to Strip Accreditation of Christian Schools, Colleges— <https://www.christianheadlines.com/contributors/michael-foust/major-lgbt-group-urges-biden-to-strip-accreditation-of-christian-schools-colleges.html>

Wikipedia bans editors from expressing support for traditional marriage— <https://www.christianpost.com/news/wikipedia-bans-editors-support-traditional-marriage.html>

Quote of the Week:



**CHRISTIANS FIGHT
BEST ON THEIR KNEES.
WHATEVER GOOD MAY
BE DONE IS DONE AND
BROUGHT ABOUT BY
PRAYER.**

MARTIN LUTHER

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.



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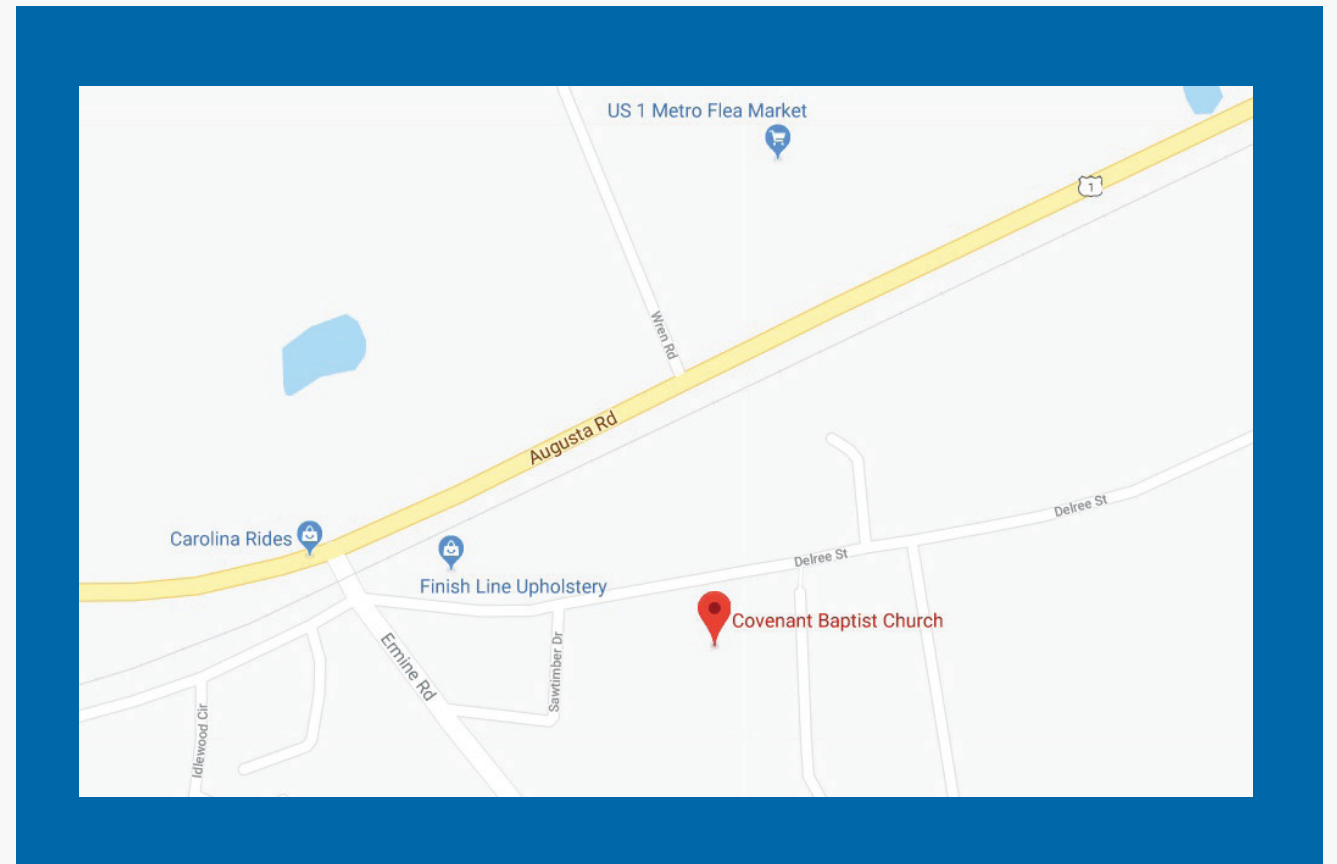
Reformed and Refreshing

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.*