



Covenant Baptist Church

Reformed and Refreshing

January 3rd, 2021

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

(January 3rd, 2021)

Call to Worship: Psalm 11:1-7

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee—23

Scripture Reading: Hebrews 9:1-15

Christ, the Sure and Steady Anchor—406

O Church, Arise—353

Message:

Stand Firm in This Evil Day, Part 2
Ephesians 6:10-18

Prayer and Benediction

Closing Hymn: All Glory Be to Christ—133

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On-Call Deacon List:

- January 2: Kyzer
- January 9: Waddell
- January 16: Lucas

Church Cleaning Schedule:

- January 2: Crapps/McSween
- January 9: Lucas/Waddell
- January 16: Bristol

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 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. Topics will include: “Roman Catholicism”, “Do Not Hinder Them – Children and Conversion” and “Hearing From Heaven-How God Does and Does Not Speak”

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Our pastor, Luke Swann, Spencer Allen, and Steve Lefemine will be going to Washington DC this week to be present for the January 6th stand for the Truth. We will be engaging in evangelism, handing our tracks and preaching and standing for the truth. Some of us will also be meeting up with Gospel of God ministries with Tommy Waltz who will be there too. Please pray for safety and opportunity for the gospel.

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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.

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Elders meeting will be January 12 at 6 PM

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Join us each Wednesday at 6 pm for “Prayer in the Other Room” and 7pm for our Wednesday Evening service of prayer and the Study of the Book of Romans.

Book of the Week: Why Believe the Bible, by John MacArthur

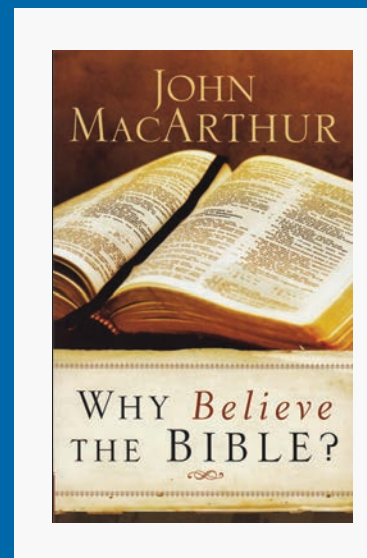
In a culture in which all truth is relative and there are no absolutes, what does it mean to trust in God’s Word? Do we really believe that such ancient texts have meaning for us today? How can we get the most from God’s Word? In *Why Believe the Bible?* esteemed Bible teacher John MacArthur examines these and other questions regarding the authority, infallibility, and trustworthiness of the Word of God.

Whether you are a new Christian or just want to brush up on some of the basic truths of Scripture, this book will give you confidence in the power of God’s Word to transform your life...and show you that the Bible does make a difference!

This book includes a Bible reading plan, a new preface, and helpful tools and resources for studying the Bible.

Purchase at:

<https://www.gty.org/store/books/451009/why-believe-the-bible>



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/>



How Do We Know There Is a God?

—by Nathan Ham

The Bible describes God as eternal (Psalm 90:2; 1 Timothy 1:17), all-powerful (Jeremiah 32:17; Colossians 1:17), infinite in understanding (Psalm 147:5; Isaiah 40:28), perfectly holy like no other (Exodus 15:11; 1 Samuel 2:2), the only God (Psalm 86:8–10), incapable of lying (Titus 1:2), Creator of the whole universe (Genesis 1:1; John 1:3), and Savior (Titus 2:13)—just to name a few attributes. How do we know such a God exists?

“Prove to Me There Is a God”

The skeptic’s condemning cry often comes as, “Prove to me there is a God.” Usually the agnostic or atheist expects physical or scientific evidence for the existence of God, but when the Bible believer cannot point to a living being and say, “There is God,” the skeptic thinks he has won.

What people often do not realize is that even if God appeared on the earth (which He has, in the person of Jesus Christ), we did not exist in eternity past and do not know the future, so we cannot prove by any human standard that He is eternal. Our understanding is limited, so we cannot prove that God knows all. And our limited perspective renders us incapable of proving God’s standard of morality as absolute and true. Not only that, but by our own fallible standards, our “telescopes

are short-sighted,” and we cannot determine if He is the only God that exists inside (or outside) the universe. So, even if we could observe and scientifically test God by our own standards of operational science, we would be unable to prove all of His divine, eternal attributes because of our own limited mortality.

So any answer to the question, “How do we know there is a God?” that does not start with God’s own statements regarding Himself is self-refuting, inconsistent, and limited by human frailty because a finite, limited man can never ultimately prove the existence of an eternal, all-powerful, all-knowing God. Only an eternal, all-powerful, all-knowing being could prove the existence of the God described in the Bible.

Confirming Evidences of Faith

A critic will readily cry foul and declare, “But you are saying that only God can prove God!” It is true that only God can tell us He has always existed in the past and that He knows everything. Even if we could physically see God (Exodus 24:11), at some point we have to believe He is exactly who He claims to be in His Word, including His unlimited power and infinite knowledge. But this does not mean our faith is blind and cannot be confirmed in some way. It also does not mean that faith in the Bible contradicts operational science. God has given us confirming evidences so that our faith is not a blind faith but a rational faith. When we start from the Bible, we can see evidences that powerfully confirm what God has already said. We don’t believe God exists and is true only because He says so.

Unfortunately, skeptics seldom take time to confirm the detailed fulfilled prophecies of the Bible. Given our inability to prove the eternal God by our own human standard, ignoring these is a serious error indeed. For example, God Himself identifies accurate foretelling of the future to be what separates Him from all false ideas of God (Isaiah 41:21–23, 44:6–8, 45:1–6, and 46:8–11).

Also, Acts 1:3 says the post-Resurrection appearances of Jesus—to as many as 500 people at a time—are “many infallible proofs” that Jesus was exactly who He claimed to be: the Son of God. Matthew, Mark, John, Paul, and Peter all wrote that they saw Jesus risen from the dead. Many people believe the written testimony concerning the events surrounding the American Revolutionary War without a single photo or video, yet they fail to believe the written testimony of the 40 authors whose works we collectively call “the Bible.”

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.

Scripture makes it clear that God's eternal power and divine nature are clearly seen in the creation of the world around us (Romans 1:20; Psalm 19:1; 97:6; Job 12:7-10). God is saying that the design and complexity of nature makes it obvious that He exists. But hard hearts often refuse to accept any evidence that the Bible is true, for it makes them accountable to a Creator God.

While we may not be able to scientifically prove the eternal, almighty God exists, we can see how the Bible is consistent with operational science. With the account of the Flood, we would expect to find billions of dead things buried in rock layers laid down by water all over the earth, which is exactly what we do find! We also see the universe is logical and orderly, and our Creator, as described in the Bible, is the God of order and logic. Ultimately, love, reason, knowledge, logic, and morality are all impossible to explain in a purely materialistic universe that exists by chance.

Over and over again the statements in the Bible can be confirmed as true (especially prophecies that only God could have known) and consistent with science, showing it can be trusted on all accounts, including the existence of God. Biblical faith in God is rational, not blind.

Without Excuse

Therefore none of us have any excuses for rejecting the knowledge of God. But if that is not enough, we know from Scripture that everyone, including atheists,

ultimately knows there is a God (Romans 1:19; 2:14-15), so we are literally "without excuse" (Romans 1:20). But the statement, "Prove to me there is a God," continues to be the rallying cry no matter what argument or confirming evidences of God's Word are given. However, God did show up on the earth at one time in the person of Jesus Christ, but the skeptics crucified Him (1 Corinthians 2:8). He rose from the dead, but they tried to cover it up (Matthew 28:12-15). He performed amazing miracles, but unbelievers tried to destroy the evidence (John 12:10-11). The same continues today (Ecclesiastes 1:9-11).

In the end, as the atheist or agnostic rejects the truth in unrighteousness as though he has deaf ears, he will deny the clear evidence for God and eventually invent "rescuing devices" (Romans 1:18-21)—like the idea that aliens planted our DNA on earth. No matter what argument or proof for God is given, this is how the atheist will continue to deny the truth. Unless he repents of his unbelief and sin, the atheist will refuse (2 Peter 3:5) to accept the eternal God's eyewitness testimony concerning Himself and His creative work in the Word of God.

Summary

Are you still waiting for someone to prove to you there is a God? We encourage you to go back and read the verses in this article, in which God has already revealed Himself to you in writing before you were born, and also consider the many confirming evidences. Through the truth of God's Word, only Jesus Christ can save the blinded and unrepentant skeptic who refuses to accept the Bible, which holds him accountable to God as a sinner in need of salvation. We praise and thank God for His free gift of salvation through His Son and urge unbelievers to submit to their Creator and Savior.



Hungary upholds traditional marriage, bans LGBT adoption with new constitutional amendment

—by Joel Abbott

The Hungarian Parliament passed a constitutional amendment this month to formally define legal marriage as a union between one man and one woman.

“Hungary protects the institution of marriage as the association between a man and a woman and the family as the basis for the survival of a nation,” read the amendment. “The foundation of the family is marriage and the parent-child relationship. The mother is a woman, the father is a man.”

The amendment to Hungary’s Fundamental Laws also “protects the right of children to self-identify according to their gender of birth” and mandates that educational curriculum is based on the nation’s “constitutional identity and Christian culture.”

Justice Minister Judit Varga – who sent the resolution to the Hungarian Parliament in November – said that the amendment aims to address “the ‘modern’ set of ideas that make all traditional values, including the two sexes, relative.”

Varga also specified that the bill bans adoption by same-sex, transgender, or unmarried couples, who could previously adopt if one of the partners applied as a

single individual.

“The main rule is that only married couples can adopt a child, that is, a man and woman who are married,” she said.

The move drew sharp criticism from pro-LGBT organizations and public figures, such as Amnesty International.

“These discriminatory, homophobic, and transphobic new laws – rushed through under the cover of the coronavirus pandemic – are just the latest attack on LGBTQ people by Hungarian authorities,” said Amnesty Hungary Director David Vig.

The justification section for the amendment – authored by Varga – argues instead that the growing acceptance of modern movements such as gender theory and same-sex marriage pose a “threat” to the natural order, stability, and growth of society.

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“The constant threat to the natural laws of the forms and content of human communities, to the concepts arising from the order of Creation that harmonize with them and ensure the survival of communities, and, in some cases, the attempt to formulate them with a content contrary to the original raises doubts as to whether the interests, rights and well-being of future generations can be protected along the lines of the values of the Fundamental Law,” Varga wrote.

Other News:

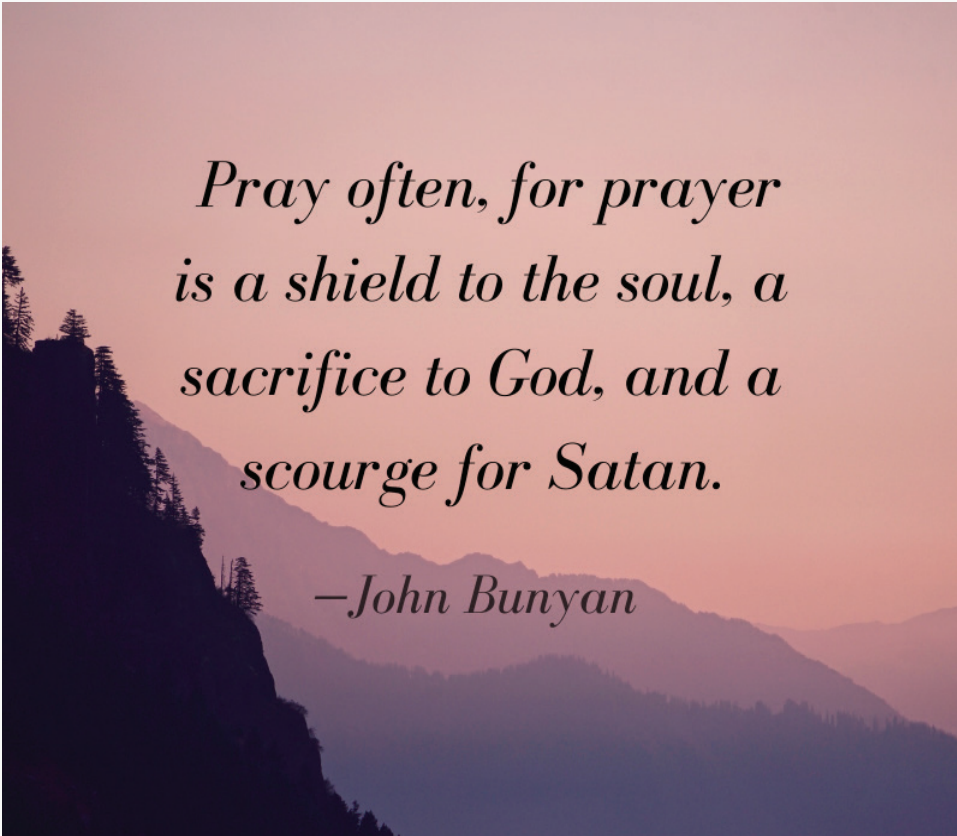
Asymptomatic transmission of COVID-19 didn't occur at all, study of 10 million finds— <https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/asymptomatic-transmission-of-covid-19-didnt-occur-at-all-study-of-10-million-finds>

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>

Quote of the Week:



*Pray often, for prayer
is a shield to the soul, a
sacrifice to God, and a
scourge for Satan.*

—John Bunyan

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

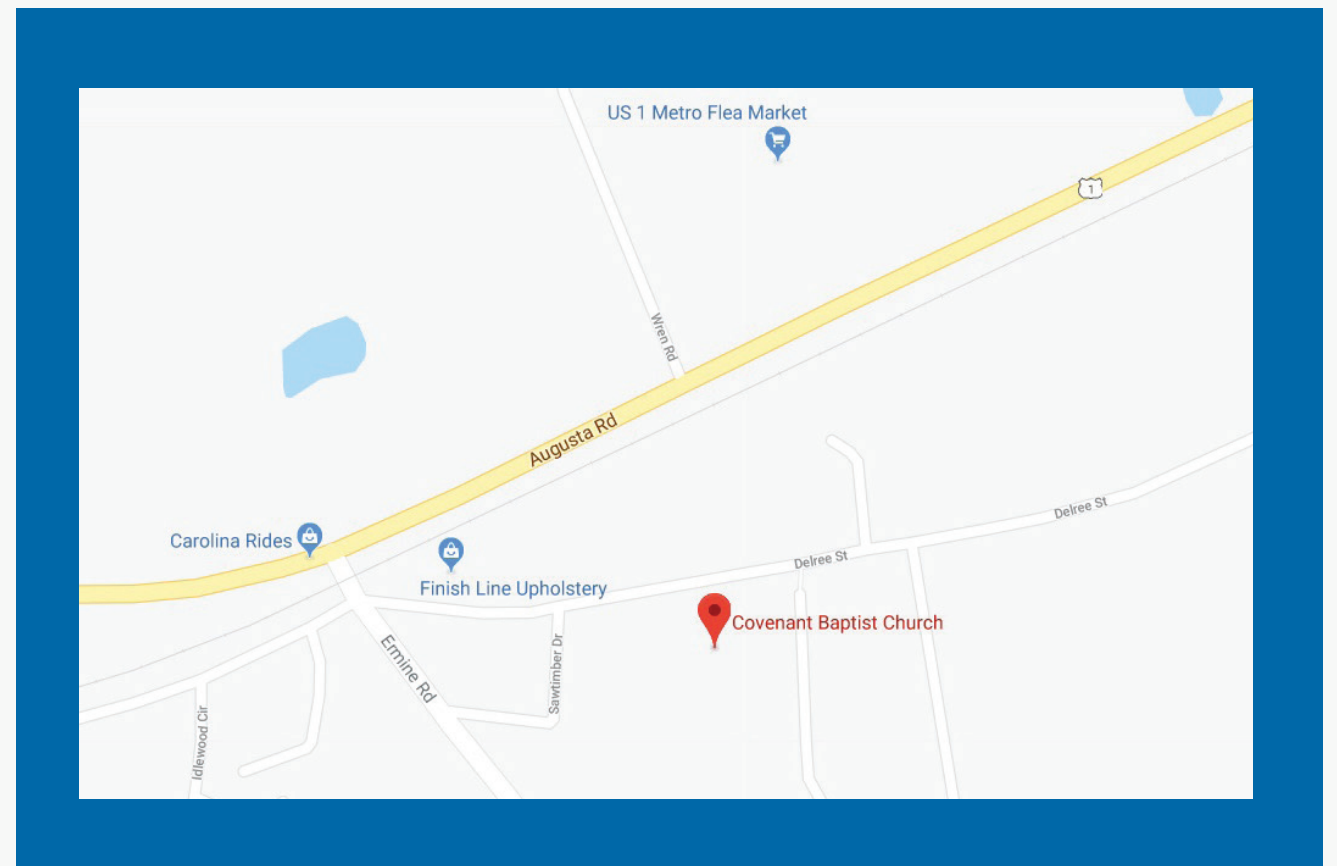
Reformed and Refreshing

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.*