



Covenant Baptist Church

Reformed and Refreshing

January 17th, 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 17th, 2021)

Call to Worship: Psalm 121:1-8

God of Grace and God of Glory—92

Scripture Reading: Hebrews 9:16-28

The Solid Rock—381

He Will Hold Me Fast—388

Message:

Stand Firm in This Evil Day, Part 4
Ephesians 6:10-18

Prayer and Benediction

Closing Hymn: Oh, the Deep, Deep Love—154

Table of Contents

1. Announcements, Events, and Book of the Week—pg. 2
2. Theology: Handling Stress (article)—pg. 3
3. News: New Normal: Chinese Citizens Have to Scan a Tracking App to Re-Enter Their Own Homes (main article)—pg. 5
4. News (cont.), Quote of the Week, and Resources for Biblical Counseling—pg. 6
5. Directions—pg. 7

On-Call Deacon List:

- January 17: Lucas
- January 24: Egan
- January 30: Rogers

Church Cleaning Schedule:

- January 23: Shumpert/Smoak
- January 30: Egan/Fudge
- February 6: Olds/Shealy

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 this is your first time worshipping with us, we want to thank you for coming today. Please make sure you get a welcome packet if you did not receive one from our greeters on the way in.

—
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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We will observe the Lord's Supper Next Sunday January 24th. The bread and juice will be in the foyer before the service begins. Please make sure to pick yours up as you come in.

—
There will be some men going to Washington DC January 6 to preach and share the gospel. Please be in prayer for their safety and boldness and for the Spirit of God to save souls. Join us each Wednesday at 6 PM for "Prayer in the Other Room" and 7 PM for our Wednesday evening service.

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/>

Book of the Week: The Power of Suffering, by John MacArthur

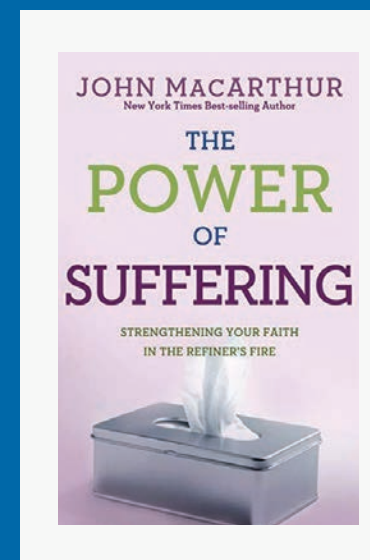
Why does God allow suffering? Where is God when I'm hurting? Can God really use pain—even tragedies—for my good? In *The Power of Suffering*, John MacArthur takes an honest look at the reality of pain in the life of a believer.

Packed with precious biblical truths and rich, practical insights, this book will equip you to experience God's glorious and transformative power—even in your most difficult trials.

Discover the tremendous encouragement, hope, and joy that comes when you embrace God's purposes in your pain.

Purchase at:

<https://www.gty.org/store/books/452006/the-power-of-suffering>





Handling Stress

—by *Nathan Ham*

Our primary goal in handling life's pressures is to learn how to depend upon God and please Him, not simply get rid of stresses.

The economy, unemployment, terrorism, politics, finances, moral decline, major sickness, a prodigal child, an unhealthy marriage—for most of us, contemplating any one of these pressures will knot our stomach. We become uneasy and tense. Our soul ceases to be quiet like the still waters but instead becomes deafeningly noisy like a wailing infant. In other words, we are “stressed.”

Our culture consistently uses the term stress to describe the mental or emotional tension we experience because of life's hardships. The more precise biblical terms that capture the essence of society's concept of stress include anxiety, fear, anger, despair, and guilt.

When we begin to understand stress from this biblical perspective, its resolution becomes apparent. Stress is not identical with the pressures of life. Nor are the pressures of life the cause of stress. Stress is the mental and emotional tension that is generated from our unbiblical responses to pressure.

Imagine Paul and Silas, unfairly beaten and tossed into the Philippian jail without a fair hearing, singing praises at midnight (Acts 16:22–25). Had they experienced extreme pressure? Yes! Were they stressed? Apparently not. Their stress-free handling of the pressure led to the salvation of their jailor.

Later, writing to the Philippians from a different jail, Paul would remind them about “rejoicing always” and “the peace that surpasses understanding” (Philippians 4:4–9). Paul seemingly embodied the mature believer described in Isaiah 26:3, “You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You.” The mindsets portrayed in these two passages are the antithesis of stress. Stress-free living begins with trust in God in the midst of pressure.

But why do we face pressure in life? Genesis 3 gives the answer. After Adam fell, God cursed the ground from which Adam had been taken and over which Adam was to have dominion. Adam's dominion became filled with hardship and pressure. Why? In addition to appropriate consequences of his rebellion, God intended the hardness of life to drive mankind back to dependency upon Himself.

So our primary goal in handling life's pressures is to learn how to depend upon God and please Him—not simply to get rid of stresses. As we learn to depend on God, our soul will be quietly peaceful like a weaned child resting against his mother (Psalm 131:2). Another benefit is that unbelievers will marvel at God's peace in the believer's life, which surpasses their understanding, and they may ask to learn more.

10 Reminders to Help Believers Quiet Their Noisy, Stressed Souls

1. Trust that the sovereign God is in control of all pressures in your life, using them for His good purposes to transform you into the likeness of Christ (Genesis 50:20; Romans 8:28–29).
2. Recognize that guilt is a big “stressor” in life. Certain pressures come as consequences of our own actions (Galatians 6:7–8). Irresponsible debt is an obvious example. Confess any known sin. Begin growing in Christ, putting away the ungodly actions and attitudes that may have led to your stressful circumstances (Proverbs 28:13).
3. Pray with specific requests and thank God for His good purposes in trials (Philippians 4:6–7).

4. Repent of any self-willed efforts to change circumstances that are beyond your control. Often believers—caught up in their pride—seek to do things only God can do (such as ensuring that our kids turn out right, avoiding job loss, fixing the economy, and converting an unbelieving spouse). Clearly when we seek to control things that only God can do, we will become stressed (Psalm 131:1).

5. Seek to return good for evil when pressure arises from the sinfulness of others (Romans 12:18; 1 Thessalonians 5:15; 1 Peter 3:9).

6. Pray that God will help you to control your thinking so as not to worry, fear, or despair (Matthew 6:25–34). Cultivate the godly thinking that Paul describes in Philippians 4:8–9.

7. Work hard to solve problems within your control today (Matthew 6:34; Ephesians 4:26–27). God has given each of us enough challenges for today. We need to take proper care and concern for today's issues while we plan wisely for the future (Proverbs 6:6–8).

8. Seek wise, biblical counseling in the areas of your greatest stress. Start with the most significant issue first (Proverbs 27:9).

9. Seek regular accountability to help you respond biblically to the pressures of life (Proverbs 13:20; Hebrews 10:24–25). Attempt to establish helpful routines of diet, exercise, and adequate rest (1 Timothy 4:8).

Also Read:

Could 2 People Populate a Planet to 7 Billion People?

—by *Bodie Hodge*

<https://answersingenesis.org/adam-and-eve/could-2-people-populate-planet-7-billion-people/>



New Normal: Chinese Citizens Have to Scan a Tracking App to Re-Enter Their Own Homes

—by Paul Joseph Watson

As part of the post-COVID “new normal” in China, which has been heralded by many in the west for its lockdown policies, some citizens now have to scan a government tracking app before being allowed to re-enter their own homes.

That’s according to a LockdownSceptics.org reader who has lived in China on and off since 2002 and owns a home and company there.

According to the reader, life isn’t back to what it was before the pandemic and has in fact changed drastically.

“Prior to the crisis, the population could move around freely without restriction,” he writes. “Now, you cannot enter most major public places like a station, an airport, a mall or any government building, without scanning a tracking app on your phone that clears you for entry with a green smiley face. Most residential compounds also require scanning to enter. So after you leave your home, you need to pass a scan to come back in.”

The individual also notes that “surveillance of the population is now total and absolute,” with virtually all transactions being run through either WePay or Alipay, which links them to a government ID number.

He also asserts that the notion that face masks were common in China before COVID-19 is a myth and that they were in fact “a rare sight.”

“Masks are now ubiquitous. There is supposedly no coronavirus in China but you need to wear a mask in airports, stations, malls, large public gatherings, taxis and all government buildings.”

Mainstream media outlets have continually praised China for its draconian approach to lockdown and advocated similar measures for the west.

As we previously highlighted, China’s onerous social credit score system, which punishes people who criticize the government by restricting their ability to engage in commerce, travel or even Internet use, has now been connected up with the post-COVID surveillance system.

In the age of social media deplatforming, an identical system is gradually being introduced in the west, where people who have been banned by social media networks for ‘offensive’ views are then also deplatformed by companies, insurance firms and banks.

Other News:

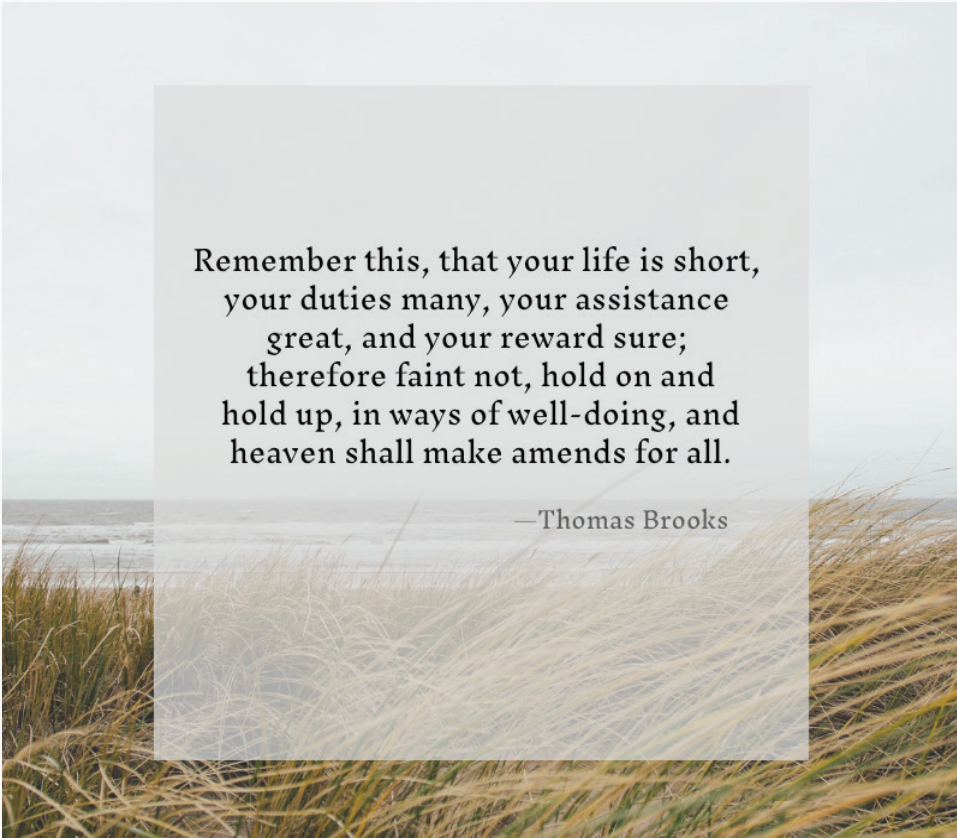
Indian pastor murdered in front of his wife while returning from baptizing believers— <https://disrn.com//news/returning-from-baptizing-believers-indian-pastor-murdered-in-front-of-his-wife>

Hungary upholds traditional marriage, bans LGBT adoption with new constitutional amendment— <https://disrn.com//news/hungary-upholds-traditional-marriage-bans-lgbt-adoption-in-new-constitutional-amendment>

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/>

Quote of the Week:



Remember this, that your life is short,
your duties many, your assistance
great, and your reward sure;
therefore faint not, hold on and
hold up, in ways of well-doing, and
heaven shall make amends for all.

—Thomas Brooks

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

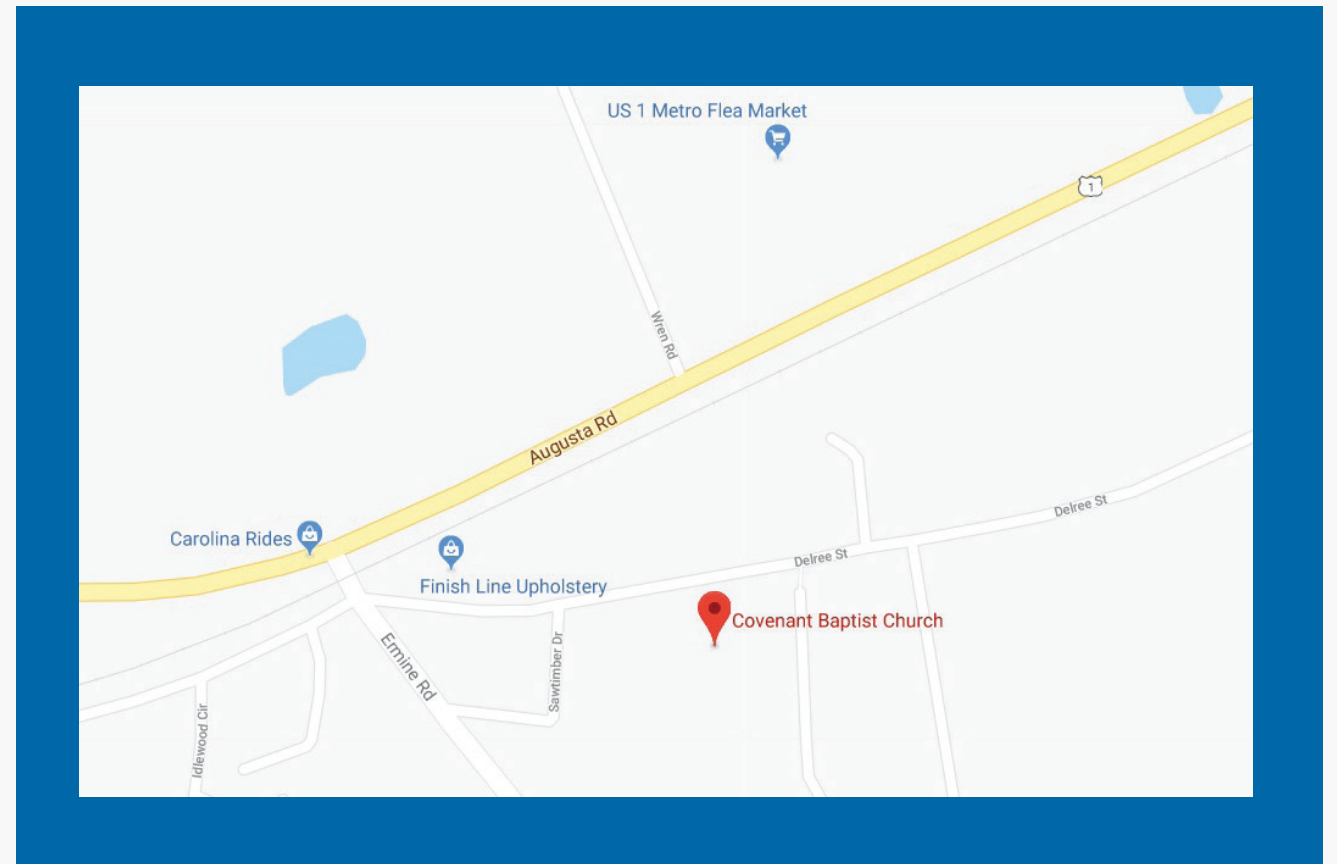
Reformed and Refreshing

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.*