



Covenant Baptist Church

Reformed and Refreshing

December 15th 2019

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>

Covenant Baptist Church Schedule

Bible Education Hour (Systematic Theology)
~ 9:30 A.M.

Sunday Worship ~ 10:30 A.M.

Wednesday Prayer Service ~ 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 15th, 2019)

Good Christian Men, Rejoice—226

Prayer and Scripture Reading:
Luke 1:39-56

Sing We Now of Christmas—229

What Child Is This?—230

Message: The True Source of Eternal Life
—John 15:1-6

Prayer and Benediction

Closing Hymn: The Birthday of a King—251

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Upcoming cleaning volunteers:

December 21: Crapps/McSween
December 28: Bristol

Deacon on-call list:

December 15: Matt Watson
December 22: Daryl Kyzer
December 29: Chris 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—December 15th, 2019

Greek class tonight at 6 PM.

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There will be no Wednesday evening service on December 25.

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The Lord's Table observance is next Sunday. Please pray and prepare your heart for this important time of worship.

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Today, immediately after the service, we will celebrate baptism. Please plan to stay for this important part of our service.

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If you would be interested in taking some Biblical Counseling classes here at the church, please let the pastor or elders know. We are looking for both men and women to learn and participate in this important ministry.

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We will resume our Bible Ed hour on 2nd Sundays in order to avoid confusion and so that guests can know the times of services. So, we will have Bible Ed every Lord's Day.

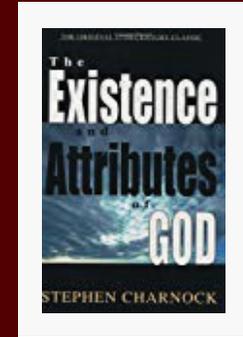
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Please contact Chris Waddell (803-447-8257) if you would like to be added to the church cleaning list for the coming year. Thank you to those that have already responded!

Book of the Week:

The Existence and Attributes of God

Stephen Charnock



Puritan divine Charnock constructs an awe-inspiring portrait of God's attributes from theology and painstaking study of Scripture.

<https://www.amazon.com/Existence-Attributes-God-Stephen-Charnock/dp/0801011124>

Reserve Your Seat G3 2020

“Worship Matters!

“...Take time to register for your seat and save the date for a big weekend focused on spiritual renewal and growth through God’s Word.

“As we make our plans for the upcoming G3 Conference, we are excited! Not only will we have three days of fellowship, ministry connections, and free resources available to us—but of most importance will be our opportunity to focus for three days on the theme of worship and to engage in the worship of God.

“Make your plans now to be in Atlanta for this extremely important conference for the local church.”

Read more at: g3conference.com

Reserve your seat at:
<https://g3conference.com/events/>

Worship is our innermost being responding with praise for all that God is, through our attitudes, actions, thoughts, and words, based on the truth of God as He has revealed Himself.

—John MacArthur



Covenant Baptist Church Events

Greek Class:

We will have Greek class tonight at 6 pm, in the fellowship hall.



2nd Sunday Fellowship Dinner:

January 12th is our second Sunday fellowship meal. Please plan to bring a dish and join us after the service! 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.

Baptism on the 15th:

Today, immediately after the service, we will celebrate baptism. Please plan to stay for this important part of our service.



Are We Called to Literally Eat Christ's Flesh and Drink His Blood? —by Cameron Buettel

All over the world, on any given day of the week, Jesus Christ's body is repeatedly sacrificed. According to the Roman Catholic Church, that's what happens every time they celebrate the Mass—their version of Communion, or the Lord's Table.

In *The Faith of Millions*—a book certified by the Roman Catholic Church to be “free of doctrinal and moral error”—Catholic priest John O'Brien explains what happens during the Mass:

When the priest pronounces the tremendous words of consecration, he reaches up into the heavens, brings Christ down from His throne, and places Him upon our altar to be offered up again as the Victim for the sins of man. It is a power greater than that of monarchs and emperors: it is greater than that of saints and angels, greater than that of Seraphim and Cherubim. Indeed it is greater even than the power of the Virgin Mary. While the Blessed Virgin was the human agency by which Christ became incarnate a single time, the priest brings Christ down from heaven, and renders Him present on our altar as the eternal Victim for the sins of man—not once but a thousand times! The priest speaks and lo! Christ, the eternal and omnipotent God, bows His head in humble obedience to the priest's command.

The supposed ability to wield such supernatural power over almighty God is one of the priesthood's most blasphemous acts. As O'Brien describes it, the priestly office is a position of immense, even ultimate power, as the priest yanks Christ out of His eternal kingdom and hurls Him once again onto the sacrificial altar.

The repeated sacrificial process is called transubstantiation, wherein the bread and wine transform into the literal body and blood of Christ. It may sound cannibalistic and creepy, but they argue that it's what the Bible actually teaches:

So Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in yourselves. He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. For My flesh is true food, and My blood is true drink. He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him. (John 6:53–56)

But is that really what Jesus meant by those graphic words? Was He truly prescribing the repeated and violent sacrifice of His physical body? Is that what Christ intended when He instituted Communion?



Are We Called to Literally Eat Christ's Flesh and Drink His Blood? —by Cameron Buettel (cont.)

The simple answer is, No.

Linking Christ's discourse in John 6 with the Lord's Table is a significant leap. The events described in John 6 took place during His ministry in Galilee—it would be roughly a year before He and His disciples would meet in the Upper Room.

And even then, there are significant flaws with the Catholic interpretation. Apologist James McCarthy makes a salient point regarding Jesus' physical body and the institution of the Lord's Table. He notes that when Jesus referred to the bread, saying "This is my body" (Matthew 26:26), He was physically present with the disciples. McCarthy rightly observes: "Surely they would not have thought that Jesus' body was both at the table and on the table." [2]

In his commentary on John's gospel, John MacArthur compellingly refutes any connection between Jesus' words in John 6:53–56 and the celebration of the Lord's Table:

It should be noted that the Roman Catholic Church appeals to this passage as a proof of the doctrine of transubstantiation—the false teaching that the body and blood of Christ are literally present in the bread and wine of the Mass. Catholic theologian Ludwig Ott writes, "The body and the blood of Christ together with His soul and His divinity and therefore the whole Christ are truly present in the Eucharist" (Fundamentals of Catholic Dogma [St. Louis: B. Herder, 1954], 382). It is a false foundation for a false doctrine, however, to suggest that Jesus was referring to the Eucharist (Communion or the Lord's Table) here, since He used the word sarx (flesh). A different word, sōma ("body"), appears in the passages referring to Communion (Matthew 26:26; Mark 14:22; Luke 22:19; 1 Corinthians 10:16; 11:24, 27). Two additional considerations reinforce the fact that this passage does not refer to Communion: First, the Lord's Table had not yet been instituted; therefore, the Jews would not have understood what Jesus was talking about if He were speaking of Communion. Second, Jesus said that anyone who partakes of His flesh has eternal life. If that was a reference to the Lord's Table, it would mean that eternal life could be gained through taking Communion. That is clearly foreign to Scripture, however, which teaches that Communion is for those who are already believers (1 Corinthians 11:27–32) and that salvation is by faith alone (Ephesians 2:8–9).

And the disconnect between Scripture and the Catholic Mass runs far deeper than the nature of the elements. The author of Hebrews repeatedly states that Christ's atoning sacrifice was a "once for all" event never to be repeated:

By this will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. Every priest stands daily ministering and offering time after time the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins; but He, having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, sat down at the right hand of God, waiting from that time onward until His enemies be made a footstool for His feet. For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified. (Hebrews 10:10–14)

Are We Called to Literally Eat Christ's Flesh and Drink His Blood? —by Cameron Buettel (cont.)

There is simply no way to harmonize the idea of Christ being repeatedly sacrificed when the New Testament clearly spells out the singularity and sufficiency of Christ's perfect atoning sacrifice.

What's clear is that no amount of contorting Scripture will create any endorsement of the Roman Catholic Mass. From every angle, it is biblically indefensible.

But that doesn't give us an answer for what Jesus actually meant in John 6:53-56 regarding eating His flesh and drinking His blood. As with most interpretive challenges in Scripture, clarity is found in the surrounding context. And in this case, Christ's statement makes a lot more sense when you read the whole chapter.

John 6 begins with Christ's feeding of the five thousand (John 6:1-14). That miracle immediately won Him enormous popularity in a place where food was hard to come by. Jesus, knowing His kingdom is not of this world (John 18:36), had to go into isolation to avoid the masses from installing Him as king in Herod's place (John 6:15). Instead of capitalizing on His popularity and ability to draw a large crowd, Jesus saw it as a hindrance to His larger mission.

But a free lunch is nothing to be sneezed at, especially among the poor, so the crowds continued to pursue Christ with hopes of more bounty. Jesus was acutely aware of their superficial faith and told them, "You seek Me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled. Do not work for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life" (John 6:26-27).

A lengthy dialogue then followed where Jesus continually urged the crowds to move beyond their temporal hunger and seek eternal sustenance. But His audience relentlessly pled with Him to prove His messiahship through a sign that involved food—hinting at the manna God provided the Israelites when they were wandering in the wilderness (John 6:31).

Jesus contrasted that perishable "bread out of heaven" (John 6:31-32) with Himself, "I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst" (John 6:35). In His immense patience with their unbelief, the Lord repeated that same point in an increasingly explicit manner:

I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread which comes down out of heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread that came down out of heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread also which I will give for the life of the world is My flesh. (John 6:48-51)

Are We Called to Literally Eat Christ's Flesh and Drink His Blood? —by Cameron Buettel (cont.)

Jesus' audience remained oblivious to what He was really talking about. That's why He chose such provocative language as His discourse drew to a close. Dr. James White facetiously refers to Christ's severe terminology and ghastly imagery in John 6:53-56 as "the beginning of the church shrinkage movement." And with good reason; after Jesus spoke those words many of His disciples abandoned Him (John 6:66).

Their departure was by design. The Lord was determined to drive away followers who were nothing more than shallow hangers-on. Instead of capitalizing on His popularity, He saw it as a hindrance to His mission.

His message was clear: Temporal bread would only sustain them temporarily. They needed to eat eternal bread—flesh and blood—to live eternally. John MacArthur explains the significance of Christ's metaphor in his sermon, I Am the Bread of Life:

If you want eternal life, eating is necessary. . . . You can't just come and admire. You have to eat, which is to believe fully. But eating is in response to hunger. So, the people who eat are the people who are what? Hungry! What is hunger? It's the aching of the heart of one who knows he's empty. That's the work of the Holy Spirit to make the heart hungry. That's where the Father starts to draw. The hungry heart sees the bread....

Eating is personal. It's not a group event. You can all go out to dinner, but the food has to go in your mouth. Lots of people can do lots of things for you. They can come over and change the curtains, fix the room. People can do a lot of things to help you. You have to eat. You can't do that by proxy. Eating is necessary. Eating is in response to hunger. Eating is personal and eating is transformational. If you don't eat physically, you will die. If you eat, the food you take in transforms you, and that's what Christ does.

The simple truth is our physical food cannot change our eternal destiny—not even the gruesome rituals of the Catholic Mass. Eating the body and blood of Christ was a necessary way for Him to express to an audience fixated on their physical hunger the need for all people to find salvation—to satisfy their spiritual hunger—through Him.

Iran may have killed over 1,000 protesters in last few weeks: State Dept. —by Samuel Smith

Videos and other evidence suggest that the Iranian regime could have murdered as many as 1,000 unarmed Iranian protesters since anti-government demonstrations began in November, a Trump administration official has said.

Special Representative for Iran and senior advisor to the secretary of state Brian Hook spoke with reporters last week about the ongoing situation in the Islamic Republic, where protests have shaken cities across the country in opposition to rising fuel prices and the theocratic Shia regime.

In his opening remarks, Hook stated that the agency has seen reports since the internet was reconnected in Iran of hundreds being killed in and around the capital, Tehran.

“And as the truth is trickling out of Iran, it appears the regime could have murdered over a thousand Iranian citizens since the protests began,” Hook said. “We cannot be certain because the regime blocks information. Among those murdered are at least a dozen children, including 13 and 14-year-olds.”

According to Hook, thousands of protesters have been wounded while at least 7,000 have been detained in prisons.

Hook added that reports have indicated that when family members tried to recover dead bodies, authorities have demanded they “pay the cost of the bullets they used” to kill their loved ones. In many cases, Hook said, authorities would not hand over the bodies unless families promised not to hold public funerals.

In one reported case, a family was forced to pay \$8,000 and commit to saying that their son was part of a state militia who was killed by protesters before they could receive his body.

Hook was questioned later in the press conference about his assertion that it is possible that over 1,000 people may have been killed. The United Nations recently reported that the death toll to be at least 208.

Hook explained that the figure is based in part on a collection of “crowdsourcing intelligence reports from groups that have been publishing the death toll.”

Iran may have killed over 1,000 protesters in last few weeks: State Dept. —by Samuel Smith (cont.)

“As the regime has slowly restored the internet, we have more videos and more information leaking from the country,” Hook said. “And so we know for certain it is many, many hundreds, and if you remember in the 2009 Green Revolution, which I think lasted for 10 months, you had, if memory serves, 72 people who were killed.”

“And we are now at the many hundreds, perhaps over a thousand,” he added. “Look, we had protests in a hundred cities, and we saw how the regime responded. The supreme leader referred to his own people as thugs, and this was a brutal crackdown. And so as more information comes in, we will continue to update you on the numbers, but that’s what we have now.”

Since the internet was restored in Iran, many unverified videos have surfaced that appear to show security forces attacking protesters. Meanwhile, other videos showed protesters damaging government buildings, banks, and gas stations, according to The Wall Street Journal.

Hook detailed one incident that occurred on Nov. 16 when demonstrators blocked a road in the southwestern city of Mahshahr.

“The State Department has received videos of what happened next. Without warning, the [Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps] opened fire on the protesters, killing several people,” Hook explained. “Many of the protesters fled to nearby marshlands to escape. The IRGC tracked them down and surrounded them with machine guns mounted on trucks. They then sprayed the protesters with bullets.”

“Between the rounds of machine-gun fire, the screams of the victims can be heard,” Hook continued. “In this one incident alone, the regime murdered as many as a hundred Iranians and possibly more. When it was over, the regime loaded the bodies into trucks. We do not yet know where these bodies went, but we are learning more and more about how the Iranian regime treats its own people.”

Last week, President Donald Trump accused Iran of killing “thousands of protesters” and called on the international community to take notice during his trip to London for a NATO summit.

“That is why they cut off the internet so people can’t see what is going on,” Trump said, according to Reuters.

Iran may have killed over 1,000 protesters in last few weeks: State Dept. —by Samuel Smith (cont.)

According to Hook, many protesters were sent to the Great Tehran Penitentiary known for its inhumane living conditions or Qarchak Prison, the largest women’s prison in Iran that holds a number of religious minority communities and is also known for “unbearable conditions.”

“We have seen reports that protesters have been subject to abuse and mistreatment during interrogations, arbitrary beatings, and rape,” Hook said.

Hook called for the release of all detained protesters and all political prisoners held by the regime.

“There has been overwhelming support for the Iranian people by the American people,” Hook declared. “It is clear there is a bipartisan consensus that the regime’s treatment of the Iranian people is abhorrent and unacceptable. We are unified here in the United States, and the international community likewise should be unified and support the Iranian people.”

For years, the U.S. State Department has labeled a “country of particular concern” for egregious religious freedom violations.

Iran is currently ranked as the ninth-worst country in the world when it comes to Christian persecution on Open Doors USA’s 2019 World Watch List.

According to Open Doors, Christians are forbidden from sharing their faith with non-Christians and converts from Islam regularly face persecution from the government.

Many Christian converts have been sent to prisons such as Iran’s notorious Evin Prison, where they have been subject to abuse.

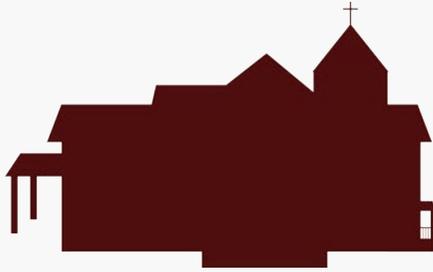
Recently, concerns were raised that an Iranian Christian convert serving 10 years in Evin Prison for practicing his faith has been denied medical treatment despite his deteriorating health.

“Together with many Christians around the world, we are closely following Saheb’s situation and are concerned about his deteriorating health,” Article 18 advocacy director Mansour Borji said in a statement. “The Iranian authorities must stop this repeating pattern of neglect and denial of medical treatment for prisoners of conscience. Saheb has a wife and a daughter who are looking forward to him returning home in full health.”



Strategies for Fighting Depression Well—by Jim Newheiser

<https://biblicalcounseling.com/fighting-depression-well/>



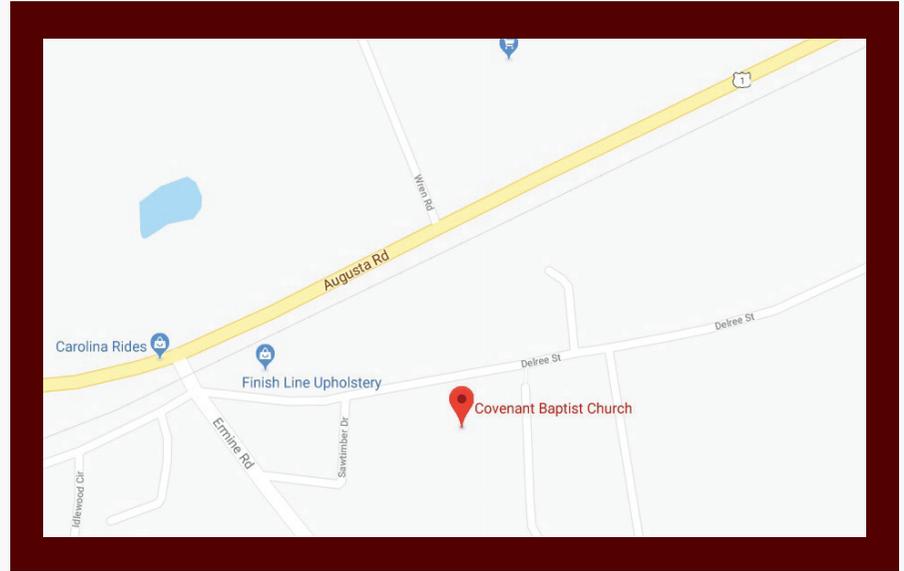
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West Columbia, SC 29170

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*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.*