



## Covenant Baptist Church

*Reformed and Refreshing*

*January 5, 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>

# 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

*(January 5th, 2020)*

How Firm a Foundation—364

Prayer and Scripture Reading:  
Proverbs 17:14-28

Be Thou My Vision—176

In Christ Alone—177

Message:

True and False—

The Reality of What it Means to Abide in Christ  
John 15:1-6

Prayer and Benediction

Closing Hymn: There is a Redeemer—201

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## Upcoming cleaning volunteers:

January 11: Egan/Bean  
January 18: Olds/Shealy  
January 25: Wheat

## Deacon on-call list:

January 5: Kenny Lucas  
January 12: Trey Egan  
January 19: Colonel Rogers

## Church Bookstore:

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

# Announcements—January 5, 2020

Greek class meets tonight at 6 PM.

Next week is our 2nd Sunday Fellowship Meal. Please plan to bring a potluck dish and stay for the fellowship. We will also have Bible Ed as usual that morning.

In celebration of the new babies coming to the Brown and Dickerson families, we will have a gift giving event on Jan 12. Both families have requested diapers and wipes for their children. If you would like to gift those, bring them to church by Jan 12. Thank you for helping us celebrate these two beautiful lives.

If you would be interested in taking some Biblical Counseling classes here at the church, please let the pastor know. We would like to see both men and women trained in biblical counseling here at CBC.

We'd like to thank all of Covenant Baptist Church for the amazing generosity toward our family during December. Its hard to express in words the tremendous privilege we have to serve here and be so loved by all of you. May God bless you! Charles, Angela, Luke, and Lora Swann

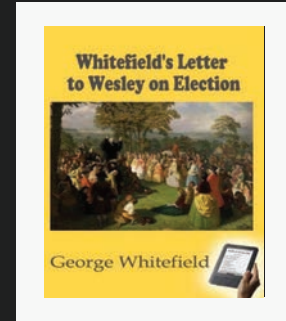
It's time to get our new 'Read Thru the Bible' in a year guides as well as turn the 2019 guides in. The new guides for 2020 will be placed on the tables in the hallway and are the same color (light green) as the 2019 guides. We make so many New Year's resolutions that we honestly don't keep, yet this is one that will certainly help us draw nearer to the Lord. So please join us by taking a guide and read thru the Bible with us in 2020. If you have your 2019 finished and signed, please give it to Alton. Read. Enjoy. Learn.

The Mission Team for India will be leaving on March 12 with big plans to work the fields of harvest in 2 places in south India. First we will be teaching at a pastors conference in Markapur with Pastor Charles, Bro. Andy, and Alton. Meanwhile Luke Swann, Andrew Shumpert and Spencer Allen work in 2 villages doing ministry. All of this is to take place during the morning to mid-afternoon hours. Then in the evening hours, the whole team will go into the outlying areas to take the gospel to 2 or more villages again. It is a tedious job that requires a lot of energy and a strong desire to do God's work. Each individual is responsible to raise their own funds for air tickets, hotel room, and meals. If you would like to help in this ministry please earmark checks or label the missions envelope either for the individual you wish to help or if you wish to help with the ministry cost, label checks or envelope India Ministry. Bibles, taxis, translators or village work would be included under this listing. The team will leave Markapur on March 20 or 21 and return to Hyderabad to travel home and the rest of the team will go for a short 2-3 day visit with our indigenous missionaries, Pastor Paul and Cathy Manoj, in Mt. Side of Bididi which is north of Bangalore. Your prayers and your support are much appreciated.

## Book of the Week:

Whitfield's Letter to Wesley on Election

*George Whitfield*



A Letter from George Whitefield to the Rev. Mr. John Wesley

IN ANSWER TO MR. WESLEY'S SERMON ENTITLED "FREE GRACE"

But when Peter had come to Antioch, I withstood him to his face, because he was to be blamed" (Gal. 2:11).

Modernized and annotated by William H. Gross  
www.onthewing.org Mar 2015

<https://www.monergism.com/thethreshold/sdg/whitefield/Whitefield's%20Letter%20to%20Wesley%20o%20-%20George%20Whitefield.pdf>

# 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](http://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:

*Greek class will meet tonight at 6 in the fellowship hall.*



## 2nd Sunday Fellowship Dinner:

*Next Sunday 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.*



# How Old Does the Earth Look? —by Dr. Andrew Snelling

Insisting that the earth and the universe are young, only 6,000 years old or so, does not make the biblical view popular in today’s enlightened “scientific” culture. It would be so easy just to go along with the view believed and followed by the overwhelming majority of scientists—and taught in nearly all universities and museums around the world—that the universe is 13–14 billion years old and the earth 4.5 billion years old.

After all, many Christians and most scientists who are Christians believe in such a vast antiquity for the earth and universe. Consequently, they even insist the days in Genesis 1 were not literal days, but were countless millions of years long. Also, they claim the Genesis account of creation by God is just poetic and/or figurative, so it is not meant to be read as history.

## Why a Young Age for the Earth?

Of course, the reason for insisting on a young earth and universe is because other biblical authors took Genesis as literal history and an eyewitness account provided and guaranteed accurate by the Creator Himself (2 Timothy 3:16a; 2 Peter 1:21). Jesus also took Genesis as literal history (Mark 10:6–9; Matthew 19:4–5; Luke 17:27). So, the outcome of letting Scripture interpret Scripture is a young earth and universe.

The Hebrew language and context used in Genesis 1 can only mean literal (24 hour) days. Furthermore, as history, the genealogies in Genesis 5 and 11 provide an accurate chronology, so that from the creation of the first man, Adam, to the present day is only about 6,000 years. Since the earth was only created five literal days before Adam, then on the authority of God’s Word, the earth is only about 6,000 years old.

## Does the Earth Look Old?

Nevertheless, most people, including Christians, would still claim dogmatically that the earth looks old. But why does the earth supposedly look old? And how old does the earth really look? If we rightly ask such questions, then we are likely to get closer to the right answers.

The use of the word looks gives us the necessary clue to finding the answers. Looking at an object and making a judgment about it requires two operations by the



# How Old Does the Earth Look? —by Dr. Andrew Snelling (cont.)

observer. There is first the observation of the object with one's eyes. Light impulses then go from the eyes to be processed by one's brain. How one's brain interprets what has been seen through one's eyes is dependent on what information is already stored in the brain. Such information has been progressively acquired and stored in our brains since birth. So, for example, as a child we learn what a rock is by being shown a rock.

We observe that a sandstone is made of sand cemented together, and we see a trilobite fossil inside the sandstone, so we wonder how the trilobite came to be fossilized in the sandstone and how both the sandstone and the trilobite fossil formed. However, we never actually observed either the trilobite being buried by sand and fossilized or the deposition of the sand and its cementation into sandstone. Therefore, we don't really know how and when the trilobite fossil and the sandstone formed—so just by looking at them we really don't know how old they are.

How, then, can we work out how old they might be and how they formed? Because we can't go back to the past, it seems logical to think in terms of what we see happening around us today—in the present. Today, rivers slowly erode land surfaces and gradually transport the sand downstream to their mouths where they build deltas. The sediments also are eventually spread gradually out on the seafloor, where bottom-dwelling creatures like trilobites could perhaps be occasionally buried and then fossilized.

So with this apparently logical scenario in our minds, based on our everyday experience, when we look at that piece of sandstone with the trilobite fossil in it, it seems totally reasonable to conclude that, because it took such a long time to erode and transport the sand and then deposit it to bury and fossilize the trilobite, the sandstone and trilobite fossil must be very old. Perhaps they may even be millions of years old. However, it needs to be remembered that there are no particular intrinsic features of the sandstone and the trilobite fossil that are incontestably diagnostic of any supposed great age. The conclusion that they must be old wasn't because they actually look old, but because it was assumed they took a long time to form based on present-day experience.

## Long Age Reasoning Questioned

Now let's extend this reasoning to the earth itself. Why is it that most people think the earth looks old? Isn't it because they assume it took a long time to form based on their present-day experience of geological processes? After all, volcanic eruptions only occur sporadically today, so the vast, thick lava flows stacked on top of one another—for example, in the USA's Pacific Northwest—must have taken a long time to accumulate. However, this reasoning is wrong for three very valid reasons:

First, it ignores the fact that we cannot go back to the past to actually verify by direct observations that vast, thick stacks of lava flows—and sandstones with trilobite fossils—took a long time to form millions of years ago. The inference that the present is the key to the past is only an assumption, not a fact.

# How Old Does the Earth Look? –by Dr. Andrew Snelling (cont.)

## **5. We are commanded to share the gospel.**

This reason is enough for God's people to eagerly step into evangelism (Matt. 28:18-20). Christ is not suggesting that we speak of his death and resurrection for sinners as we wish. He is not encouraging us to evangelize if we feel good about it. It's a command from his majesty.

## **6. It brings joy to evangelize.**

Beforehand, I have not always felt excited about the obedience of evangelism. But as I look back, 100% of the time, I experienced a joy in Christ having done so. After a time of door-to-door evangelism, it's always a great joy to hear each others' opportunities to evangelize and spur one another on. There are few joys like it.

## **7. Evangelism is an opportunity to walk by faith.**

The Christian life is lived by faith not feelings (2 Cor. 5:7). We are to act on the assurance of things hoped for and the conviction of things not seen (Heb. 11:1). When I step to share the gospel despite my contrary feelings, it's a glorious moment of trusting in the unseen Jesus over my felt senses. I am acting as if he is Lord and I am not.

## **8. Evangelism is an opportunity to deny ourselves.**

In Matthew 16:24 [Open in Logos Bible Software (if available)] , Jesus said, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me." Much of the Christian life involves putting to death anything that would resist humble obedience to our loving Lord. Fear of evangelism is not of God. So, for those of us who struggle with fear in evangelism, sharing the gospel is a wonderful opportunity to deny ourselves and these ungodly fears. It's a blessing to put to death the stuff that hinders our joy in the Lord. It's best for us to empty ourselves of us. And, doing so furthers sanctification. As we give way to the Spirit over the flesh, we grow in godliness.

## **9. You're going to be glad you evangelized when you stand before Jesus.**

One day, all humanity will stand before God. Those who believed the gospel will do so in blissful righteousness, not terrifying condemnation. And when the righteous stand before him, I can't imagine that we will think, "I'm so glad that I did not share the gospel those particular times when I was too scared."



# How Old Does the Earth Look? –by Dr. Andrew Snelling (cont.)

Second, that assumption deliberately ignores the fact that we do have direct eyewitnesses from the past who have told us what did happen to the earth and how old it really is. The Bible claims to be the communication to us of the Creator God who has always existed. Its authenticity is overwhelmingly verified by countless exactly fulfilled predictions, archeological and scientific evidences, corroborating eyewitness accounts, and the changed lives and testimonies of Bible-believing Christians. In Genesis 1–11, it is revealed how to calculate the age of the earth, and how rock layers and fossils were rapidly and recently formed in the year-long, global, catastrophic Flood.

And third, there is now abundant scientific evidence that rock layers and fossils can only form rapidly due to catastrophic geological processes not usually seen today, and not on the scale they must have occurred at in the past.

## Catastrophism Today

Geologists are always studying present-day geological processes, including rare catastrophic events, such as floods, earthquakes, and violent volcanic eruptions. Such processes have been observed to produce and change geological features very rapidly; so geologists have learned not to ignore such currently rare catastrophic events when interpreting how the earth's features were produced in the past.

Further examples of why most people think the earth looks old are river valleys and canyons. Because the rivers in most valleys and canyons today seem to only slowly and imperceptibly erode their channels, even during occasional floods, most people assume it must have taken millions of years to erode valleys and canyons.

However, the observational realities are more instructive than such an erroneous assumption. For example, since the Colorado River today does not erode its channel, the only truly viable explanation for the carving of the Grand Canyon is rapid catastrophic erosion on an enormous scale by dammed waters left over from the global Genesis Flood. Such rapid catastrophic erosion carving canyons has even been observed. As a result of the 1980 and subsequent eruptions at Mount St. Helens, up to 600 feet of rock layers rapidly accumulated nearby. A mudflow on March 18, 1982, eroded a canyon system over 100 feet deep in these sediment layers, resulting in a one-fortieth scale model of the real Grand Canyon.

## Uniformitarianism Predicted

In 2 Peter 3, we read a prediction that Peter made around AD 62 that scoffers would arise who would challenge and deny that God created the earth and subsequently destroyed the earth by the cataclysmic global Flood. Peter says they would be “willingly ignorant” and deliberately reject the evidence for a



## How Old Does the Earth Look? —by Dr. Andrew Snelling (cont.)

created earth and the year-long global Flood. They would claim instead that the present is the key to the past, that present-day geological processes have always operated at today’s snail’s pace, and that they alone are necessary to explain how rock layers and fossils formed and how old the earth is.

This prediction was actually fulfilled about 200 years ago—about 1,750 years after the prediction was made. James Hutton, a doctor and farmer-turned-geologist, claimed in his 1785 Royal Society of Edinburgh paper and 1795 book *Theory of the Earth* that he saw “no vestige of a beginning” for the earth because present-day geological processes have slowly recycled rock materials over vast eons of time. This was a deliberate rejection of the biblical account of the recent, catastrophic global Flood, up until that time accepted by most scholars to be the explanation for fossil-bearing rock layers. Indeed, Hutton insisted that “the past history of our globe must be explained by what can be seen happening now” (emphasis mine).

It was Charles Lyell, a lawyer-turned-geologist, with his three-volume *Principles of Geology* (1830–33) who eventually convinced the geological establishment to abandon the biblical Flood in favor of this “principle” he called uniformitarianism. Lyell openly declared that he wanted to remove the influence of Moses (the human author of *Genesis*) from geology, revealing his motivation was spiritual, not scientific. He insisted on the uniformity through time of natural processes only at today’s rates, a belief that was later encapsulated in the phrase “the present is the key to the past.”



This is the belief that now underpins virtually all modern geological explanations about the earth and its rock layers. And it is a belief because it cannot be proved that only today’s geological processes can explain the earth’s history and determine its age. No one has ever observed past geological processes, except for God—and Noah and his family—during the Flood when these processes were definitely catastrophic on a global scale. Yet most people today, even Christians, have unwittingly imbibed this uniformitarian belief, having been brainwashed by the constant barrage of teaching globally over many decades by the world’s education systems (schools, colleges, and universities), museums, and media (news-papers, magazines, television, and even Hollywood). Indeed, most people automatically see the earth as old because they have accepted it is a proven scientific fact that it is old!

# How Old Does the Earth Look? —by Dr. Andrew Snelling (cont.)

## Using the Right Glasses

However, based on the authority of God’s Word, we can dogmatically say they are absolutely wrong. Looking at the world through “glasses” that are based on human reasoning alone (man’s word) makes people wrongly think the earth looks really old. On the other hand, when we as Christians see the world through the biblical “glasses” provided by God’s inerrant Word—so that we see the world as God sees it—we can assert unashamedly that the earth does not really look that old at all, being only about 6,000 years old (which, of course, is young). Indeed, the earth we see today is the way it looks because it is the destroyed remains of the original earth God created, still marred by the subsequent Curse.

Furthermore, not only should we understand that the Bible provides the true history of the earth, but that history tells us the earth only looks the way it does today because of what happened in the past. In other words, the past is the key to the present!

## Conclusion

Paul, in 2 Corinthians 11:3, warns us about the way Satan subtly beguiled the mind of Eve in the Garden of Eden by questioning and twisting God’s Word. Today, Satan has subtly beguiled so many people, including Christians, by twisting the clear testimony of God’s Word that “the past is the key to the present” into “the present is the key to the past.” And just as he used the appealing look of the fruit on that tree to entice Eve, so he uses the snail’s pace of geological processes today to make people doubt or deny what God has told us about the young age of the earth and His eyewitness account of the formation of the rock layers and fossils.

It also must be emphasized that even though we must trust God and His Word by faith alone (Hebrews 11:3), it is neither an unreasonable nor a subjective faith. This is because God is not a man that He should lie, so the evidence we see in God’s world will always ultimately be consistent with what we read in God’s Word. Thus, when we put on our biblical “glasses,” we should be able to immediately see and recognize the overwhelming evidence that the earth looks (and is) young and that the earth’s fossil-bearing rock layers are a product of the catastrophic global Flood.

After all, if the Genesis Flood really did occur, what evidence would we look for? Genesis 7 says all the high hills and mountains under the whole heaven were covered by the water from the fountains of the great deep and the global torrential rainfall so that all land-dwelling, air-breathing creatures not on the Ark perished. Wouldn’t we, therefore, expect to find the remains of billions of plants and creatures buried in rock layers rapidly laid down by water all around the earth? Yes, of course! And that’s exactly what we find—billions of rapidly buried fossils in rock layers up on the continents, rapidly deposited by the ocean waters rising up and over the continents all around the earth. This confirms that the rocks and fossils aren’t millions of years old—and neither is

# How Old Does the Earth Look? —by Dr. Andrew Snelling (cont.)

—and neither is the earth.

So how old does the earth look? If we look at the earth through the “glasses” of human reasoning—that only snail-paced present geological processes can explain the past—then the earth does indeed look old. However, that autonomous human reasoning blatantly denies what God’s Word clearly tells us about the true age of the God-created earth and about what happened in the recent past during the cataclysmic global Flood, which is the key to understanding why the earth looks the way it does today.

## **“We’re going to die”: 7- and 8-year-old schoolchildren terrified after being shown Greta Thunberg climate change video —by Daniel Payne**

A Toronto mother said her daughter recently came home from school terrified by a video the school had her watch featuring activist Greta Thunberg warning about humanity’s impending extinction due to climate change.

In the footage, which was of Thunberg’s speech at the U.N. Climate Action Summit in September, the Swedish teenager berates the adult leadership, telling them:

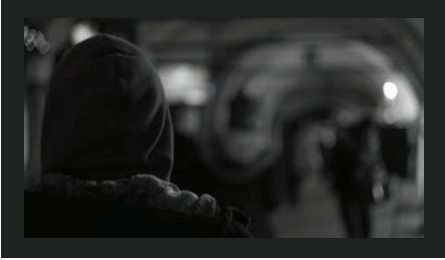
“You all come to us young people for hope? How dare you! You have stolen my dreams and my childhood with your empty words...People are suffering. People are dying. Entire ecosystems are collapsing. We are in the beginning of a mass extinction, and all you can talk about is money and fairy tales of eternal economic growth. How dare you!”

One of the attendees of the screening of the video, a young elementary-age girl, was reportedly deeply affected by the presentation, coming home to tell her mother: “They said that we’re going to die in eight years.”

Students were also shown a projection of a clock ticking down from 26 years, reportedly the amount of time at current fossil fuel usage rates until the world warms two degrees Celsius.

New York psychologist Elizabeth Allured told The National Post that the ticking clock imagery “just scares children — and understandably.”

“Children need to know that there is a way to resolve this problem, rather than thinking that we’re all doomed,” Allured said.



## **Strategies for Fighting Depression Well—by Jim Newheiser**

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



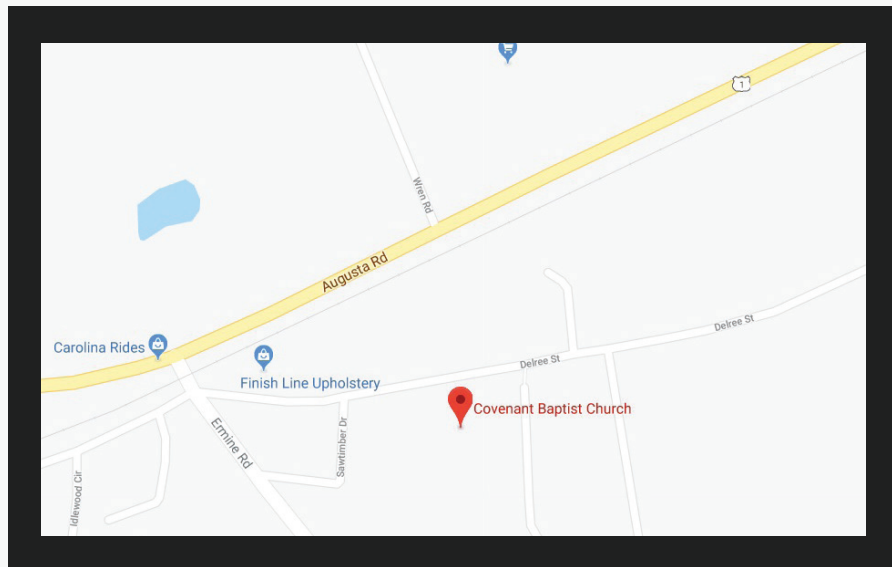
## **Covenant Baptist Church**

*Reformed and Refreshing*

*3535 Delree Street*

*West Columbia, SC 29170*

*<https://covenantbaptistsc.org>*



*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.*