

## Covenant Baptist Church

*Reformed and Refreshing*

*December 29th, 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 29th, 2019)*

Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus—179

Prayer and Scripture Reading:  
Romans 12:1-21

All the Way My Savior Leads Me—172

Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus—179

Message:

True and False—

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

Prayer and Benediction

Closing Hymn: Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine—403

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## Upcoming cleaning volunteers:

January 4: Shumpert/Smook

January 11: Egan/Bean

January 18: Olds/Shealy

## Deacon on-call list:

December 29: Chris Waddell

January 5: Kenny Lucas

January 12: Trey Egan

## 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 29th, 2019

No Greek class tonight

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There will be a Wednesday evening service on January 1.

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In celebration of the new babies being added to Kenny & Fabi Brown and Matthew & Kelsey Dickerson's families, we would like to announce a gift giving event on January 12th. Both families have requested diapers and wipes for their children. If you would like to provide some diapers and wipes for these two families, bring them to the church by January 12th. Thank you for helping us celebrate these two beautiful lives.

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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.

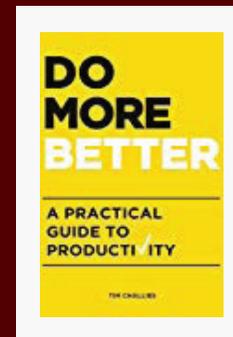
—  
We will resume our Bible Ed hour on 2nd Sundays in order to avoid confusion and so that guests can know the times of services. So, we will have Bible Ed every Lord's Day.

—  
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:

Do More Better

*Tim Challies*



“Don’t try to do it all.

“Do more good. Better.

“I am no productivity guru. I am a writer, a church leader, a husband, and a father—a Christian with a lot of responsibilities and with new tasks coming at me all the time.

“I wrote this short, fast-paced, practical guide to productivity to share what I have learned about getting things done in today’s digital world. It will help you learn to structure your life to do the most good to the glory of God.”

<https://www.challies.com/do-more-better/>

# 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:

*No Greek class tonight.*



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.*



# Overcoming the Fear of Evangelism —by Eric Davis

God has tasked every Christian with communicating the good news of the gospel to the lost. For some of us, it comes naturally. It's easy and effortless. If that's you then you probably don't need to keep reading.

For others, not so much. It's a struggle. It feels unnatural, forced, and uncomfortable. Concern floods our mind. "What if I don't say the right words?" "I know they're thinking we are completely crazy." "They are going to mock." We hear about the door-to-door evangelism ministry in our church, and there's no way we would go to that. The thought of knocking on some stranger's door and launching into the gospel seems impossible and undesirable.

Some of you don't struggle with such things. That's awesome. I've envied you before. But for those who like me have experienced butterflies in the stomach at times when you think about speaking the gospel to the lost, here are a few things that help me.

## 1. It's a privilege to speak Christ.

Better to think more about whom we are speaking than to whom. Jesus Christ is the most wonderful individual in the universe. He is the architect and sustainer of all space, time, and matter (Col. 1:16-17 [Open in Logos Bible Software (if available)] ). He made everything and us. On a good day, I might be able to make a three-egg omelet without breaking it. The Lord Jesus made several hundred billion galaxies, each of which hold on average several billion stars; each of which jets through space shining, burning, and blazing. Before there was a planet to stand on, air around it to breath, a sun above it to warm, and provision upon it to sustain, the second Person of the Trinity reigned and existed in blessed perfection. Before there was a where, he was there, and before there was when, he was (John 1:1-2).

And this Jesus happens also to be loving. He stepped out of heaven, and condescended himself to receive human nature. He actually came to this world to be among people like us. He came, not to annihilate us as we had merited, but to redeem us as we had not merited. Willingly, he subjected himself to shameful treatment by utterly weak and wicked little creatures; humans. Humans. Sinners mistreated him. And he allowed it; he used it to accomplish the work for the forgiveness, reconciliation, and eternal life of some. He died on the cross. Of course he rose from the grave. And he is exalted, mighty in heaven.



# Overcoming the Fear of Evangelism —by Eric Davis (cont.)

We get to speak about this One. Frankly, it's incredible that God would allow us to speak about his blessed Son.

## 2. Jesus is not ashamed of his people.

Few things are more discouraging to me. When I fear speaking the good news of Christ crucified and risen to people, it has at times been because I was ashamed to do so. I felt embarrassed and uncomfortable. In light of who Jesus is, embarrassment is the single most illogical feeling to feel.

Even more, Jesus is not embarrassed of us. Considering who we are; that we are made of dirt; have to be animated; just a slight turning of the dial on things like sunlight, oxygen and nitrogen content of the atmosphere, water, heat/cold, and we expire. And we sin. We disobey Christ. Yet, Hebrews 2:11 [Open in Logos Bible Software (if available)] really is in the Bible: "For both He who sanctifies and those who are sanctified are all from one Father; for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren."

What?! Someone like Jesus is not ashamed to associate with people like us? Why professional athletes want to associate with other profession athletes makes sense. Why kings wish to associate with other kings is easy to understand. What is unfathomable beyond all things unfathomable is why the Sovereign King of kings would want to associate with us.

And we get to speak the good news about him.

## 3. It's a huge act of love to evangelize.

Think about how loving it is to speak the gospel to people. Should someone trust in the Person and finished work of Jesus Christ, they experience the greatest benefit, receive the greatest gift, and obtain the greatest eternity. They are released from every single sin. They are reconciled to God. They are no longer bound by death and Satan. They are headed to a life of unending joy. Every great problem man has labored to solve is solved by this message you bring them. So, evangelizing the lost is a massive gesture of love.

## 4. The gospel is amazing.

It helps us overcome fear when we give more consideration to the gospel than to what people think about us. The gospel is incredible. Some have remarked that it's too good to be true. Well, the good news is that it is true.

# Overcoming the Fear of Evangelism —by Eric Davis (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."

# Overcoming the Fear of Evangelism —by Eric Davis (cont.)

## 10. Evangelism glorifies God.

When we speak the pure gospel, we can be sure that we are glorifying God. We are speaking the news which gives all praise and honor to him. The gospel lassos all glory and hands it to God. If we want to glorify God, evangelism is a great way to do so.

## 11. Sometimes people get saved.

Evangelism is the means God often uses to save people. “So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ” (Rom. 10:17). Few things top the privilege of being used of God to rescue a soul from eternal hell; of bringing about the great miracle of soul rebirth; of making a child of Satan a child of God. That’s motivation to evangelize.

## 12. Pray.

We can always ask God to strengthen us here. He’s a good Father who listens.

There are other practical things we can do to address the fear of sharing the gospel with others. Ask a church leader to help you. Get training in your local church. Evangelize with people in your church. Take biblically sound material to hand out.

It’s normal to fear evangelism. But, speaking the gospel is a great privilege on so many levels. We get to speak of Christ; of his Person and work. We get to deny ourselves and ungodly fears, and live by faith. Perhaps for some of us who struggle, these things will help us towards the joy of speaking of his majesty, the Lord Jesus Christ.

### **Southwestern fires professor for preaching Gospel, talking about sex abuse and sexuality —published by Capstone Report**

Bad news for conservative Christians. First, Chick-Fil-A abandoned its pro-Christian stand and caved to LGBTQ+ activists. Next, the president of the Southern Baptist Convention urged pronoun hospitality where Christians should use the preferred pronoun of a Trans person. Now, a conservative, pro-Trump, Latino professor who believes God can change sinners was fired by a Southern Baptist seminary over this issue. And the ERLC's fingerprints are all over this.

In fact, Professor Robert Lopez was told he could not speak nor publish about the ability of Jesus to change sinners, according to a statement released by the professor.

"I was preaching publicly that with the help of Jesus Christ people could overcome homosexuality, and I was discussing same-sex sex abuse," Lopez said in a release.

The statement continues: According to Lopez, his supervisors cited opposition to him from the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission and the Southwestern administration. In September, Lopez was told not to continue to discuss homosexuality or sex abuse in any capacity while employed at the Seminary. "I stated that the demands from the Seminary violated my conscience and would force me to disobey God. I was told that if that was the case, I had to resign. I refused to resign." Lopez was then laid off.

When Lopez told the administration of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary he would continue to speak and write according to biblical orthodoxy, the administration told him to resign.

"I was let go after preaching the Gospel and talking about sex abuse and sexuality," Lopez alleged.

Lopez authored a resolution calling on the SBC to protect whistleblowers exposing sex abuse and other misconduct in the Southern Baptist Convention.

The pressure culminated in demands he resign.

Lopez rejected the administration's attempt to control what he said and wrote. He told the administration that such attempts to control him was inappropriate.

## Southwestern fires professor for preaching Gospel, talking about sex abuse and sexuality —published by Capstone Report

This is the Christian higher education you are funding if you attend a Southern Baptist church. Compare the treatment of Lopez and other conservatives at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary with how an Anti-Trump professor is feted at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Lopez refused to resign, and the administration omitted his name from teaching any classes next semester. Lopez asked if he were fired (because to be told to resign and then not assigned any classes to teach is an effective termination), but the administration refused to respond to repeated written and email requests during the month of November. He didn't receive official notification of his layoff until Friday, November 29.

They left him twisting in the wind.

So, Lopez becomes the fourth conservative Latino to lose his full-time teaching position at Southwestern under the Greenway Administration. It is interesting to see how the desire for diversity manifests itself in hiring and firings at the institution.

Compare how the Pro-Trump, conservative professor was treated with the recently hired Never Trump professor and you'll see the influence politics plays in the SBC. (<https://capstonereport.com/2019/11/23/baptists-hire-anti-trump-professor-fire-pro-trump-professor/33344/>)

### QUESTIONS FOR PERSONAL EXAMINATION:

Does our style of life or manner of living reflect a growing conformity to what God has revealed to us in the Scriptures about His nature & will?  
Is there a detectable or real distinction between our manner of living and that of an unbeliever?

—Paul Washer

**A Reminder...**



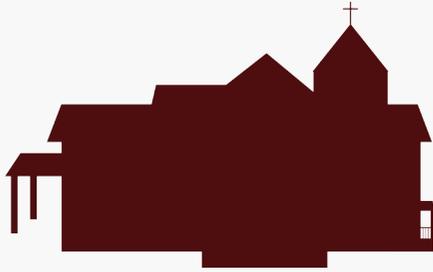
From:

<https://capstonereport.com/2019/12/03/southwestern-fires-professor-for-preaching-gospel-talking-about-sex-abuse-and-sexuality/33367/>



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

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



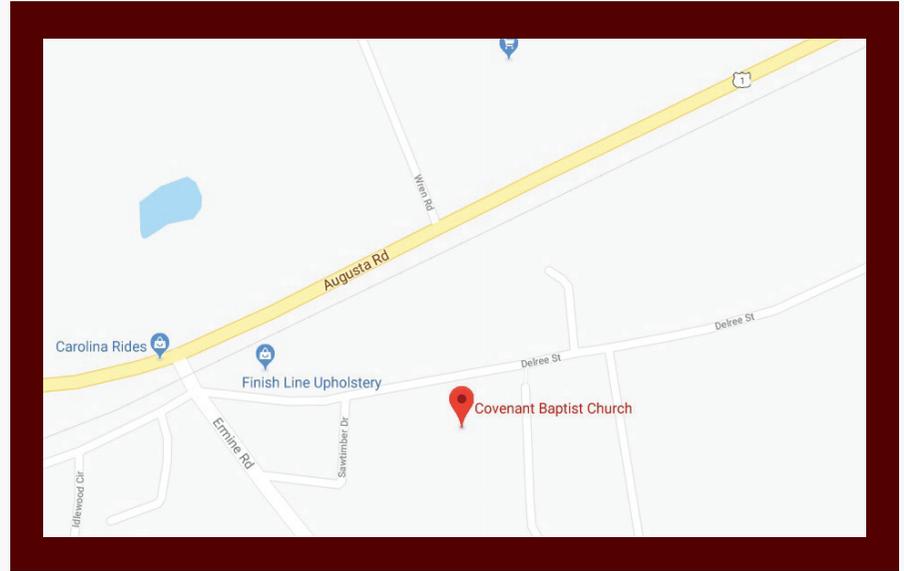
## **Covenant Baptist Church**

*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.*