



Covenant Baptist Church

Reformed and Refreshing

February 16th, 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>

Service Times:

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:

(February 16th, 2020)

Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy—391

Scripture Reading and Lord's Supper:
Matthew 26:17-29

The Solid Rock—391

Speak, O Lord—368

Message:

True Friends of God—John 15:12-17

Prayer and Benediction

Closing Hymn: Blessed Assurance—403

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Upcoming cleaning volunteers:

February 22: Lucas/Waddell
February 29: Bristol
March 7: Shumpert/Smoak

Deacon on-call list:

February 16: Kenny Lucas
February 23: Trey Egan
March 1: 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—February 16th, 2020

We are observing the Lord's Supper today. Pray and prepare your heart and mind for the reception of this ordinance.

Greek class will meet tonight at 6 PM.

Please join us for a church work day on Sat, Feb 29 at 9 AM. We need folks to bring wheelbarrows and yard tools, including shovels and hard rakes. Also painting supplies, including brushes, rollers, and buckets. The church will provide paint and roller covers.

A special time of prayer in the overflow room/fellowship area will begin soon, taking place on Wednesdays at 6:15 PM. In an effort to have more prayer and to improve our Wednesday evening service, we are adding a time and place for men and women to pray for general needs. This is modeled after the men and women gathered together for prayer in the upper room in Acts 1. During the Wednesday evening service at 7 PM, we will have 2 or 3 men lead in a more directed prayer for specific topics or needs. Start date to be announced soon.

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 would like to see both men and women trained in biblical counseling here at CBC. We will also be live streaming the class. Just click the "live stream" link of the front page of the church website Thursdays at 7 PM.

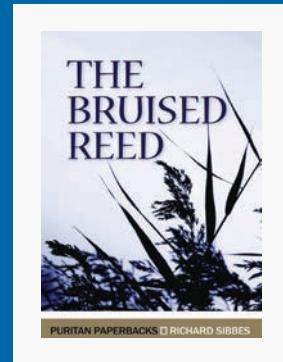
The Mission Team for India will be leaving on March 12 with big plans to work the fields of harvest in two places in south India. The team will consist of Alton Crapps, Pastor Swann, Luke Swann, Spencer Allen, Andy Shumpert, and Andrew Shumpert. Each individual is responsible to raise their own funds 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. Funds are also needed to provide Telegu Bibles. Your prayers and your support are much appreciated.

To encourage even more families to visit, the Ark Encounter and the Creation Museum are welcoming all children ten years and under for free during 2020. The Creation Museum is located in Petersburg, KY. The Ark Encounter, 45 minutes south of the Creation Museum, is in Williamstown, KY. More information can be found at ArkEncounter.com and CreationMuseum.org.

Book of the Week:

The Bruised Reed

Richard Sibbes



Richard Sibbes (1577-1635), one of the most influential figures in the Puritan movement during the earlier years of the seventeenth century, was renowned for the rich quality of his ministry. The Bruised Reed shows why he was known among his contemporaries as 'the sweet dropper'.

The Bruised Reed is now issued for the first time in a smaller format in the Puritan Paperbacks series. Some of the language and punctuation have been modernized to make the work more accessible.

[https://banneroftruth.org/us/store/christian-living/
the-bruised-reed/](https://banneroftruth.org/us/store/christian-living/the-bruised-reed/)

Patterns of Evidence: The Red Sea Miracle Part 1 & 2

Tim Mahoney investigates one of the greatest miracles of the Bible. Did a mighty sea split? What secrets will be revealed?

After leaving Egypt, the Bible describes the Israelites crossing a deep sea that was miraculously split with walls of water on their right and left. When the Egyptians and their chariot force pursued, the water came crashing back down to destroy the entire army. Are miracles of this kind even possible?...

Join Timothy Mahoney in the next chapter of the series as he retraces the steps of Moses and the Israelites, looking for answers in Patterns of Evidence: The Red Sea Miracle Part 1 & 2.

IN THEATERS
Feb. 18th—Part 1 May 5th—Part II

<https://patternsofevidence.com/redsea/>

Covenant Baptist Church Events

Greek Class:

Greek class will resume February 16th at 6 p.m., in the fellowship hall.



2nd Sunday Fellowship Dinner:

March 8th is our next 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.

The Lord's Supper:

The Lord's Table observance is Feb. 16. Please pray and prepare your heart for this important time of worship.



Are We Brainwashing Our Children? –by Dr. Tommy Mitchell

Have you ever been told that your children are Christians only because you brainwashed them? Have you been accused of keeping your children from understanding “real” science by brainwashing them with the Bible?

Educators and other “experts” who embrace evolution declare that children taught to reject an evolutionary worldview will never understand the world around them. Many say that such children will be academic failures. Children will grow up to be unproductive citizens of the modern world, these experts warn, if they do not accept molecules-to-man evolution over millions of years as fact.

Secularists often claim that children who reject evolution have been “brainwashed.” Is this really true? Are some children being brainwashed? If so, is it Bible-believing Christians who are doing the brainwashing?

What Is Brainwashing?

According to Webster’s Dictionary, brainwashing is “a forcible indoctrination to induce someone to give up basic political, social, or religious beliefs and attitudes and to accept contrasting regimented ideas.” The term is often used synonymously with terms like conditioning, reeducating, propagandizing, and indoctrinating. All of these terms make our blood run cold, suggesting a methodical manipulative approach to molding a mind in a way that prevents the brainwashed victim from objectively examining other views or making informed decisions.

Do Christians intentionally do this to their children? Do they purposefully hide the truth of supposedly “real” science from their children to promote biblical beliefs? Of course not.



Are We Brainwashing Our Children? –by Dr. Tommy Mitchell (cont.)

Starting Points

Christian parents are responsible for bringing up their children in the truth and “in the training and admonition of the Lord,” according to Ephesians 6:4. The Apostle Paul told Timothy that “from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work” (2 Timothy 2:15–17).

Further consider:

Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it. (Proverbs 22:6)

Clearly we see that God wants children taught to believe and understand His Word. When a person—child or adult—believes that the Bible is true from the very first verse, he or she has a framework from which to understand and evaluate the claims of scientists, philosophers, theologians, and teachers of all sorts. Teaching a child to trust God’s Word is a righteous action and, above all, is not brainwashing. Instead, it is equipping him or her with completely reliable biblical truth by which all other claims are to be evaluated.

For example, the secularist wants to take Christian children and teach them the religion of humanism with its many tenets like materialism, atheism, evolution, the big bang, and millions of years. Naturally, they get upset when children are taught the true religion found in the pages of the Bible.

Our Creator God has given us a true account of our origins, our sinful nature, the saving grace of Jesus Christ, and our eternal destiny in His Word. His Word is to be the foundation of our thinking.

The foundation of evolutionary belief is that matter/nature is all that exists (e.g., materialism and naturalism). Secularists claim that matter and eventually all life came into existence on its own, even though no one saw any of it happen, has no ancient witnesses of it, and has ever

Are We Brainwashing Our Children? —by Dr. Tommy Mitchell (cont.)

repeated it. Yet this story is presented by the secular world as fact. Absolute fact.

But if you doubt evolutionary claims, you will be called “unscientific.” If your children question the secular story, many will say they have been brainwashed.

Unscientific?

So are Christians unscientific? Is it brainwashing to teach children the truth about God and the Bible? No. What we have is a battle over starting points (or worldviews/religions). The Christian starts with God as Creator; the secularist starts with matter (usually dodging the question of how it got here). They further ignore the question that, if all things are matter, how can logic, truth, knowledge, conclusions, and reason exist? They are not matter! Then the materialistic starting point is used as a basis to interpret and evaluate the things seen

around us. The issue that so often confuses people is that the Christian and the secularist have the same evidence. However in drawing conclusions about origins, they differ in how they interpret the evidence.



Here are a few examples.

Look at the Grand Canyon. The rock layers there and the fossils in many of the layers are often used as “proof” that the earth is millions of years old. The creationist comes to an entirely different conclusion.

What we actually have to examine are the rocks and the fossils themselves. They don’t come with labels saying how old they are. We weren’t there when the rock layers were laid down.

Are We Brainwashing Our Children? –by Dr. Tommy Mitchell (cont.)

No scientist has seen the creatures, now fossils, evolving slowly over millions of years. We must “interpret” the fossils and the rock layers to make our conclusions. Our starting point determines how we interpret the evidence.

The secularists claim that it took millions of years for the Grand Canyon rock layers to be laid down slowly and for the fossils to form (assuming also that no major catastrophes occurred there in the past like major earthquakes, floods, and so on). But this is based on assumption and not on direct observation. The interpretation is based on the secularist’s worldview.

The Bible gives an account of the catastrophic global Flood of Noah’s day. Thus, another interpretation is that most of these rock layers were laid down rapidly, as the result of a massive catastrophe. From the massive amount of sediment, the rock layers we see today would easily have formed. Furthermore, the billions of creatures we see in the fossil record would have been trapped in this sediment, accounting for the fossils we see in the rocks. (Of course, there have been rock layers with fossils formed since the time of the Flood, but the majority are from the Flood.)

We only have rocks to examine in the present. These two different conclusions result from two different starting points.

Here is another example.

See all the animals in the world? How did they get here?

According to the secularist, over millions of years, simpler types of creatures slowly evolved into more complex types of creatures. They believe that fossils are proof that simple creatures ultimately evolved into more and more complex creatures, and ultimately into the animals we see today. They persist in this belief even though not one instance of one creature evolving into another type of creature has ever been observed.

The Bible tells us that God created the living things “after their kind.” Then they were told to reproduce and fill the earth. That is, dogs produce dogs, cats produce cats, cattle produce cattle, and so on. This is exactly what we see in our world today. Most of the fossils are just preserved animals and plants that once lived and were buried in the Flood the same year; only the evolutionary imagination sees them

Are We Brainwashing Our Children? —by Dr. Tommy Mitchell (cont.)

caught in the act of evolving. What we directly observe in our world confirms what we are told in God's Word.

Consider the secularists and their view as being unscientific. Science is observable and repeatable. Yet millions of years, big bang, evolution, and so on are not observable and not repeatable. So their attacks are misplaced in light of the failures of their own position.

But we are told that we must accept the secular world's interpretations or else we are considered unscientific or unlearned. If we don't teach our children to believe what the world believes, we are brainwashing them. How ironic that they impose their religion on unsuspecting kids and force them to believe their worldview without question.

What the Secularists Fear

There is something that the secular world seems to fear in this debate. That something is simple questioning. You see, the secular world goes to extraordinary lengths to keep children from questioning the evolutionary worldview.

Evolution is declared to be absolute fact. Yet any attempt to critically evaluate evolution is suppressed swiftly. Many teachers fear losing their jobs if they criticize evolution or discuss creation with students. College professors avoid mentioning their concerns about evolution over fear of losing their jobs. Any attempt to teach children to think critically about evolutionary claims is usually met with a flurry of threats, lawsuits, and opposition.

It should be obvious that those who actively promote evolution as fact are the ones who wish to brainwash our youth. They seem to live in fear of children questioning evolutionary claims. Whereas Christians, like those at Answers in Genesis, are happy for children to learn about the evolutionists' origins story; however, we couple that teaching with a refutation of their false worldview.

If evolution is true, why do so many secularists fear it even being questioned? Why do they so vigorously attack those who question them? Perhaps they are still trying to convince themselves that their worldview is more than just wishful thinking—trying to find a way to explain how they got here without God.

Are We Brainwashing Our Children? –by Dr. Tommy Mitchell (cont.)

We should heed Colossians 2:8:

Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.

Do Christians Fear the “Why?”

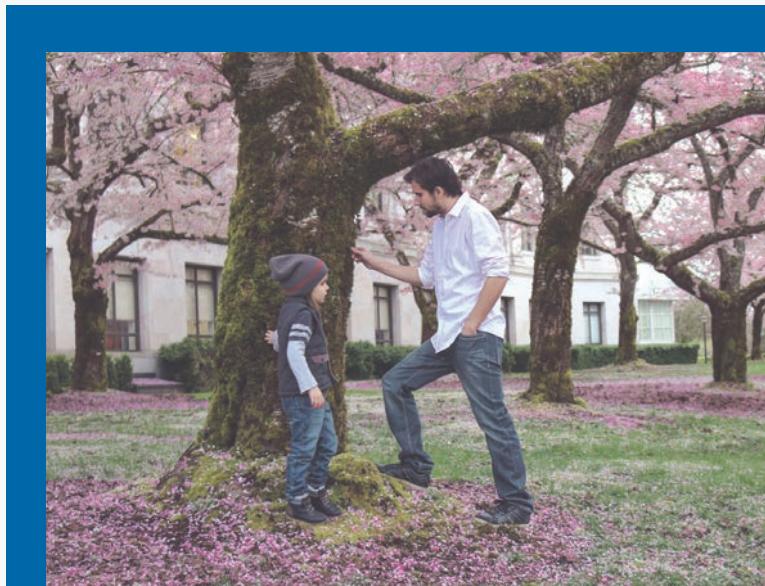
Parents who desire that their children come to know Jesus Christ as Savior and serve Him as the Lord of their lives have a great responsibility. They must not only teach them to trust God and His Word but they must also answer a lot of questions. First Peter 3:15 says,

But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear.

We must not shrink from our children’s questions. Why is the Bible true? What about the millions of years? How do you explain dinosaurs? If God is good, why is there death and suffering? Where did Cain get his wife?

Giving children biblical answers is not brainwashing—it is far from it. Biblical answers equip them with the tools to understand the world and the God who made it.

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. (Psalm 111:10)



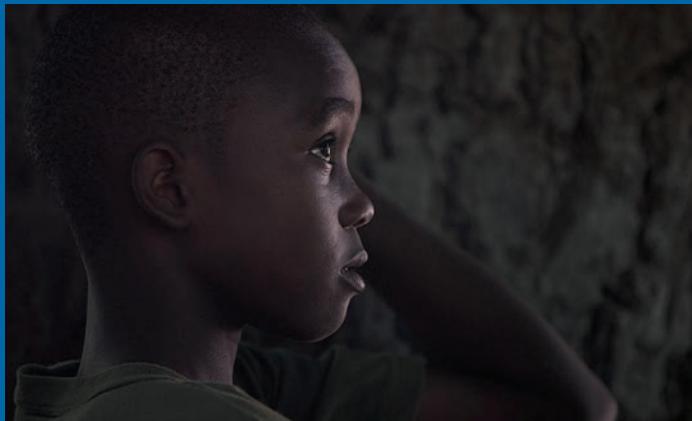
Boko Haram reportedly responsible for nearly 120,000 orphans, widows in Nigeria —by Daniel Payne

Islamic terrorist group Boko Haram has been responsible for creating nearly 120,000 orphans and widows, a Nigerian official said recently, a number underscoring the fundamentalist insurgency's reign of terror there and in Africa more generally.

Babagana Umara Zulum, the governor of Borno state, reportedly claimed that the group has helped create 59,311 orphans and 59,123 widows. Zulum made the comments while criticizing what he said was the central Nigerian government's inaction in fighting the terrorist organization.

Nigeria has been rocked by terrorist violence in recent months and years. Last Sunday, millions of Christians in that country marched in opposition to numerous recent anti-Christian killings.

Nigeria has been rated as the second-most dangerous country in the world for Christians, coming only behind Pakistan.



Other News:

Africa's Worst Locust Plague in Decades

Threatens Millions—<https://www.wsj.com/articles/africas-worst-locust-plague-in-decades-threatens-millions-11580475600>

Virginia Senate passes bill removing abortion safety standards; governor expected to sign—
<https://www.christianpost.com/news/virginia-senate-passes-bill-removing-abortion-safety-standards-governor-expected-to-sign.html>

Fox won't show abortion survivors' Super Bowl ad but OKs drag queen commercial—
<https://www.christianpost.com/news/fox-wont-show-abortion-survivors-super-bowl-ad-approves-drag-queen-commercial.html>

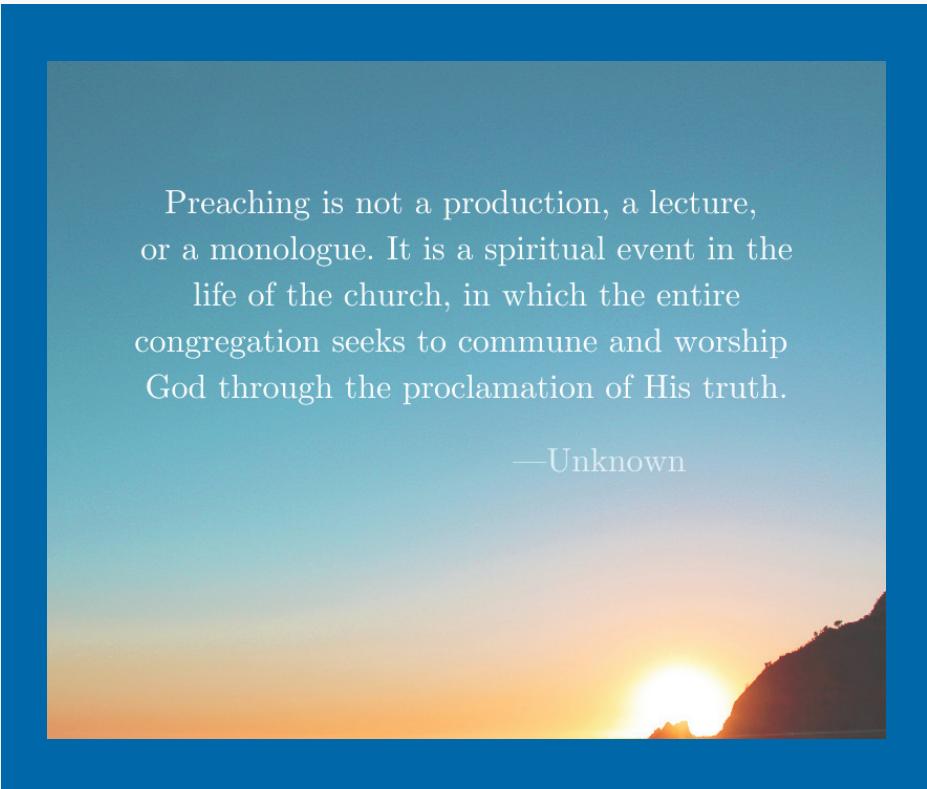
ISIS child soldier executes Nigerian Christian student, declares 'we will not stop'—<https://www.christianpost.com/news/is-child-soldier-executes-nigerian-christian-student-declares-we-will-not-stop.html>

Chinese Christian details how govt harassed family after shutting down church (interview)—<https://www.christianpost.com/news/chinese-christian-details-how-govt-harassed-family-after-shutting-down-church-interview.html>

Quote of the Week:

Preaching is not a production, a lecture, or a monologue. It is a spiritual event in the life of the church, in which the entire congregation seeks to commune and worship God through the proclamation of His truth.

—Unknown



The Pastoral Point—Proclaiming Truth in a World of Uncertainty (Feb. 2020)

—Pastor Charles Swann

Unspeakable Evil...Why?

Therefore, hear me, you men of understanding: far be it from God that he should do wickedness, and from the Almighty that he should do wrong.—Job 34:10 (ESV)

This past week has captured our minds and our hearts with the tragic disappearance and subsequent murder of Faye Swetlik. A beautiful 6-year-old girl who was full of life and smiles. My immediate reaction was that this was such an “unspeakable evil.” I was reminded of another time an unspeakable evil captured the nation’s attention when Susan Smith killed her 2 children by strapping them in the car and deliberately allowing the car to go down the boat ramp into a pond drowning both her boys.

How do we explain such evil? How do we reasonably understand this without going insane? For the unbeliever, there is no hope in finding answers. These events and many like them would be just a meaningless collision of choices that purposeless people make. It is utterly hopeless. And even for the Believer, this can sometimes shake us deeply and we wonder, “How could a loving God allow such evil to take place?”. If He is an all-knowing God and all-powerful, how can He know this evil is happening and have the power to stop it, and yet not act? And since God is the Sovereign Ruler of this universe and rules in the affairs of men, then is this the plan and purpose of God? These are hard questions and many of us find our minds going right here.

So...when unspeakable evil happens, it is natural that we often find ourselves asking lots of questions. How can a beautiful 6-year-old girl be taken from the protection and love of her mother and father and be murdered and discarded as meaningless garbage? We wonder, why God would allow such evil in the world and how is it that His fiery wrath is not dispensed from Heaven with speed to satisfy the Justice of God?

Although it would take much more to explain all that Holy Scripture says



The Pastoral Point (cont.)

about evil and its allowance and purpose by God, I give you a few points to keep in mind as you navigate through your thoughts about such an unspeakable evil.

1. We live in a fallen sin cursed earth.

Sadly, this is the natural result of a fallen and sinful world. We are reminded of this every day with the reality of how fragile life is and how sin and death permeate our world. Not long after the fall of man in the garden, blood was spilt with the murder of Abel. Also by the time we get to Genesis 6 the earth is full of evil and violence to the point that God says he was sorry that he had made man and decides to destroy them all with a flood. The fact that evil happens should not shock us, but sometimes the degree to which man can go with his evil heart does. Because of sin, men are capable of the worse forms of evil as Jeremiah says, "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; Who can know it?" (Jer. 17:9)

2. The Devil is the god of this age.

The Devil works tirelessly to blind people to the truth and lead people into evil as Paul reminded us in I Corinthians: "But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded...", 2 Corinthians 4:3-4 (NKJV). Jesus said he was a murderer from the beginning (John 8:44). And lost people are identified as "children of the Devil" in I John 3:10.

3. Evil men are getting worse and worse.

Scripture is clear that as man and society move away from God and His Word, men will manifest more and more evil (Romans 1:18-28); Two things can occur in this situation. First, the grace of God is removed and the restraint that God gave for evil is removed. Second, the evil that is resident in all of our hearts is allowed to express itself with no internal restraint of the conscience and no external restraint due to the collapse of a moral society governed by the principles in the Word of God. (2 Tim 3:1-5)

4. God is Sovereign over the worst forms of evil.

The fact that God is Sovereign is not a debatable issue. God is not God if He is not sovereign. The issue is how do we understand God's rule over evil. Scripture clearly teaches that while God is not the author or efficient cause of evil, He does exercise control over it. He doesn't in any sense approve of

The Pastoral Point (cont.)

evil, ratify it, look on it with favor, give it His blessing, or delight in it; but nothing happens outside of His sovereignty. Consider the case of Job—God turned Satan loose for horrendous evil in the life of Job. All the suffering Job endured at the hands of Satan happened under the Lord's authority; none of it occurred outside the plan and power of God. None of it could have occurred if God had not willingly permitted it. (*The Truth About Evil*, by John MacArthur Tuesday, January 17, 2017)

Hope and comfort can only be found in the fact that God is ultimately in control of the existence and purpose of evil. Consider this... there are only 4 possibilities for who is in control of evil; Man, the devil, chance or God. The only one that brings comfort and hope is God, and that is exactly what the Bible affirms, "I form the light and create darkness, I make peace and create calamity; I, the Lord, do all these things." (Isaiah 45:7). Also the greatest evil ever conceived of in the mind of man was the murder of the Son of God on the cross, yet this is clearly said to have been under the control of God. (Acts 2:23; 4:26-28, Gen.50:20, Rom. 8:28)

5. This is gracious reminder of the need for Christ.

The most important thing you can learn from this tragic event is that you need to saturate your family with the gospel of Christ. We will all die...us and our children, so we need to be prepared to meet God. In response to some unspeakable evil and a tragic event Jesus had a important reminder for all of us, "Do you suppose that these Galileans were worse sinners than all other Galileans, because they suffered such things? I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish. Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them, do you think that they were worse sinners than all other men who dwelt in Jerusalem? I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish." (Luke 13:2-5) It must be stated that all of the thoughts I offer are an affirmation that the Bible is true, and it is the only means by which we can understand the existence of such evil and most importantly that the Gospel of Christ is our greatest need.



Strategies for Fighting Depression Well—by Jim Newheiser

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

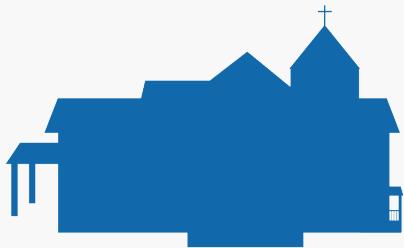


Identity Language in Counseling—by Martha Peace

<https://biblicalcounseling.com/identity-language-in-counseling/>

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.

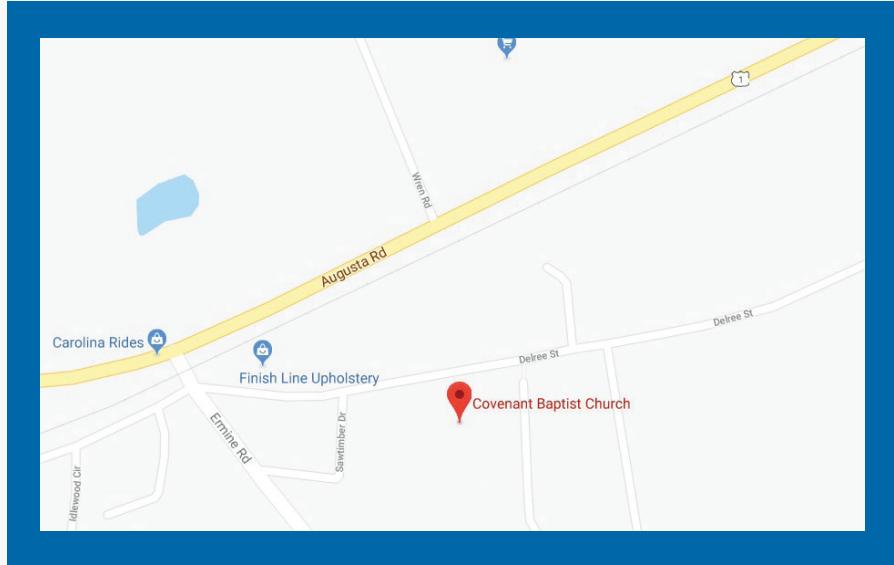


Covenant Baptist Church

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.*