



Covenant Baptist Church

Reformed and Refreshing

November 1, 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 (Puritans and Systematic Theology)
~ 9:30 A.M.

Sunday Worship ~ 10:30 A.M.

Wednesday Prayer Service ~ 6:00 P.M., 7:00 P.M.
—RESUMING SEPT.2 (See p. 2 for more info)

*(We are not interested in traditional worship
or contemporary worship. We are only
interested in true worship.)*

Order of Worship

(November 1, 2020)

Call to Worship: I Corinthians 11:27-31

The Lord's Supper

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God—53

Scripture Reading: Psalm 15:1-5

Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy—391

Not in Me—405

Message:

The Right Focus in an Important Election
—I Timothy 2:1-7

Prayer and Benediction

Closing Hymn: He Will Hold Me Fast —388

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On-Call Deacon List:

- November 1: Smoak
- November 8: Kyzer
- November 15: Waddell

Church Cleaning Schedule:

- November 7: Lucas/Waddell
- November 14: Bristol
- November 21: Shumpert/Smoak

Church Bookstore:

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

Announcements

The Lord's Supper will be observed today, Nov 1.

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Thank you to all who helped and made the conference on Evangelism one of the best we've had. We are blessed with a faithful church.

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This Sunday evening we are having an evening of music, reading of Scripture and testimony. Plan to come and worship with us 6PM tonight.

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Please plan to attend the conference this week on the topic of evangelism. Tommy Waltz from Gospel of God Ministries is with us and will be preaching in each service. October 25-28 each evening from 7-8 PM. Refreshments will be available at 6:30 to enjoy before and after each session.

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The church elders, after studying and praying over the matter for several years, have decided to open an orphanage in Guntur, India. It will be near the church that we, thru the Mission Team, started 2 years ago named after our own church here. Pastor Prabhu and his wife, Leena, will head it up. It will take about \$3230 to get it started and then about \$41 per child, per month. This will include rent for the house, food to stock the kitchen, electricity, 10 bunk beds with mattresses, boys clothing, and a kitchen stove. For a more detailed list or if you have any questions, please see Elder Alton Crapps. Remember this: thru this effort we can get these children off the streets and into a house where they can learn about Jesus and be fed meals from a table instead of from a trash pile. (Matthew 19:14) If you would like to participate in this church project, just earmark checks or envelopes 'India Orphanage.'

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Wednesday evenings at 6pm we have a special time of prayer for any need. We gather in the fellowship area and all are invited to come and participate. At 7pm we have our worship service with 2 focused prayers, the singing of hymns and our study through the book of Romans. We would love to have you come to worship together in this midweek service.

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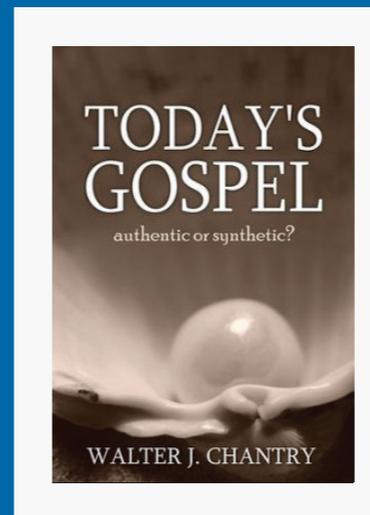
Ladies: you are welcome to join a monthly meeting up of ladies at Ruby Tuesday on Augusta Road every first Tuesday of the month at 11:30. See Diane Falsetti for additional details.

Book of the Week: Today's Gospel: Authentic or Synthetic? by Walter J. Chantry

"Differences between much of today's preaching and that of Jesus are not petty; they are enormous. The chief errors are not in emphasis or approach but in the heart of the Gospel message. Were there a deficiency in one of the areas mentioned in these pages, it would be serious. But to ignore all - the attributes of God, the holy law of God, repentance, a call to bow to the enthroned Christ - and to pervert the doctrine of assurance, is the most vital mistake."

<https://www.amazon.com/Todays-Gospel-Authentic-Walter-Chantry/dp/0851510272>

Also available in the church bookstore.



Covenant Baptist Church Events

Greek Class—*On hold*

Biblical Counseling Class—*On hold*

Second Sunday Dinner—*November 8th. Please plan to bring a dish to share and stay for the fellowship. Also remember that we usually have visitors who stay for the meal, and you are encouraged to bring more than a small side dish so that there is plenty to go around.*

Planned Parenthood Gospel Outreach—*Tuesday, Nov 3rd and Saturday, Oct 7th*

Other Events:

Truth: Answers for Women, March 27-28 2020—*(Williamstown, KY)*

DELAYED UNTIL 2021

More at: <https://answersingenesis.org/outreach/event/answers-for-women-2020/>

2021 National Conference | Ligonier Ministries, March 18-20—*(Orlando, FL)*

More at: <https://www.ligonier.org/events/2021-national-conference/>



Is the Evangelical Movement Really “Evangelical”?

—by John MacArthur

What denominational label would best describe the following person’s religious beliefs?

He claims to be a committed, born-again Christian but isn’t sure that Jesus is truly God incarnate. He isn’t convinced that God has infallible knowledge of (much less sovereign control over) the future. He doesn’t believe the Bible is truth without any mixture of error. He doesn’t believe what the Bible says about how the universe was created. He doesn’t believe people must acknowledge Christ as Lord and Savior—or even know anything about him—in order to have God’s favor. He doesn’t believe Satan is literally real. He doesn’t believe God is full of wrath against sin. And he certainly doesn’t believe in eternal punishment. In fact, he doesn’t particularly care for words like sin, atonement, repentance, expiation, or propitiation. He dismisses such terminology as useless religious jargon that fails to communicate anything to normal people. But in reality, what he despises most of all about those words is the underlying doctrine of substitutionary atonement, which he also doesn’t believe in. He is convinced that God will forgive without demanding any payment for guilt.

Furthermore, while he isn’t certain Jesus is “perfect,” this person does believe human nature is fundamentally good. He believes God accepts the worship of all

religions. He believes acts of benevolence can make up for our moral failings. He believes science has disproved parts of the Bible. At the same time, however, he believes biology does not determine a person’s gender; that is determined solely by how the person feels.

He also believes it is wrong to regard anyone’s sexual orientation as sinful. In fact, while he is loath to call any act of personal wrongdoing “sin” or “evil,” he does believe—with all his heart—that people of European descent have inherited collective guilt because their ancestors enslaved or oppressed other ethnic groups. He doesn’t regard Adam as a historical person or the Genesis flood as true, so he sees humanity as an assortment of rival races. He further believes each race is either privileged or oppressed, and skin color is what determines the difference. He will go on to tell you that several other factors, including gender, sexual orientation, disability, body weight, and worldview can further marginalize an already-oppressed individual (or conversely, amplify the empowerment of an already-privileged person). He believes justice demands the leveling of all such socio-economic imbalances, and the chief end of religion is the pursuit of that goal.

In other words, he totally believes in Critical Race Theory and Intersectionality. He is therefore “woke,” culturally savvy, politically liberal, and (by his own assessment) deeply spiritual.

How would you classify such a worldview?

The Erosion of the Evangelical

He calls himself an “evangelical.” And leading voices in the current Evangelical Movement are happy to welcome him into their number without any serious or sustained challenge to his belief system, even though every one of his most strongly held opinions is a direct denial of one or more vital points of historic evangelical conviction.

The profile I have just described is by no means unusual. Recent surveys¹ reveal that a large percentage of people who self-identify as “evangelical” do not understand even the most basic principles of gospel truth. In a recent poll of self-styled evangelicals, 52 percent said they reject the concept of absolute truth; 61 percent do not read the Bible daily; 75 percent believe people are basically good; 48 percent believe salvation can be earned by good works; 44 percent believe the Bible does not condemn abortion; 43 percent believe Jesus may have sinned; 78 percent

believe Jesus is the first being created by God; 46 percent believe the Holy Spirit is a force rather than a Person; 40 percent believe lying is morally acceptable in certain circumstances; 34 percent accept same-sex marriage as consistent with biblical teaching; 26 percent reject Scripture as God's Word; and 50 percent say church attendance is not necessary.

Most of those views are categorically incompatible with saving faith. In other words, many who self-identify as evangelicals are not believers at all.

No matter. The media consider them evangelicals. Evangelical churches grant them membership. In some cases, evangelical presses publish and promote their writings, and evangelical conferences feature them as keynote speakers.

Consequently, evangelical has come to mean anything and everything. And that's why, as it is used today, the word hardly means anything at all.

The root of the expression is the Greek term for "gospel"—euangelion. That word and its cognates are used some 130 times in the New Testament, reflecting the apostolic commitment to the centrality of the gospel message and the importance of understanding it and preaching it correctly. "Evangelicals" are gospel people. The term is loaded with profound biblical and theological significance, and God's people must not stand by passively while it is evacuated of all meaningful import. Sadly, however, what most people today think of as "evangelicalism" bears little resemblance to the rich heritage of historic evangelicalism.

How could this happen? Only by a catastrophic failure of leadership.

The biblical instructions for church leaders could not be more clear: "Preach the word ... in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort" (2 Tim 4:2). That's the task, even when people with itching ears demand to be affirmed, amused, pacified, or entertained in various ways. Paul tells Timothy to preach God's Word "with great patience and instruction"—meaning he should faithfully continue teaching sound, biblical doctrine, even when people seem unable to endure it because their ears are itching for something different. The apostle tells another protégé, Titus, "Speak and exhort and reprove with all authority. Let no one disregard you" (Titus 2:15).

The favored style of leadership in today's Evangelical Movement is precisely the

opposite. Most preachers work hard not to use a tone of authority, and they strive to be as subtle and indistinct as possible when they refer to Scripture. They crave popularity, and they know that postmodern audiences don't like emphatic truth claims, precise doctrine, or settled convictions. Unchurched people today especially don't want to listen to a preacher who earnestly contends for the exclusivity of Christ. They want their religion to be as unbounded as the open air, as soothing as a lullaby, and as fluid as the incessant stream of public-opinion polls. They also want it shallow, unchallenging, and fashionable. Evangelical leaders have willingly obliged.

Too many who would not qualify to serve as deacons or elders in the church by any biblical standard nevertheless hold positions of leadership and influence in the Evangelical Movement. That is evident from wave after wave of moral scandals that have rocked the movement for the past forty years. It is also reflected in the flamboyant superficiality that is the hallmark of most televised religion. The testimony of the true church is being drowned out by the voices of ostensibly evangelical people who are preaching themselves rather than Christ Jesus as Lord.

Meanwhile, the gospel is being neglected and, in some cases, radically modified, even by men and movements who not so long ago said they believed the gospel is the one viable basis for Christian unity. These are leaders who would describe their ministries as "gospel centered." The word Gospel is enshrined in the names of their organizations. But they are setting aside the offense of the gospel in favor of a theme that is trending in the secular world: "wokeness." According to them, one of the gravest threats to anyone's spiritual well-being today is systemic injustice—not only in secular society, but also within the church. The remedies being offered for this perceived evil are laden with stylish buzz words and politically correct dogmas—including secular doctrines with blatant neo-Marxist overtones.

I don't think it overstates the case to say that the true evangel is in danger of being swept away with a deluge of grandiloquence from some of the Evangelical Movement's best known and most influential thought leaders.

This downgrade did not happen suddenly. For decades key leaders in the Evangelical Movement, obsessed with gaining the world's applause and approval, have shown a troubling willingness to adjust their political and doctrinal stance to whatever were the prevailing opinions in the academic world, popular culture, and (more recently) social media. Seeker-sensitive pragmatism has long dominated the Evangelical Movement and marginalized biblical teaching in the name of cultural

relevance. As a result, the meaning of the term evangelical has become so thoroughly murky that it stands in urgent need of reclamation and redefinition.

The current generation of evangelicals are the malformed children of such utilitarian influences. The movement is full of preachers who use Scripture only to abuse it. They manipulate people with fables, sentimental homilies, self-help lectures, and pious vision-casting. Such methods have seduced doctrinally and biblically illiterate crowds into thinking they are Christians. There is no worse brand of soul-killing sin.

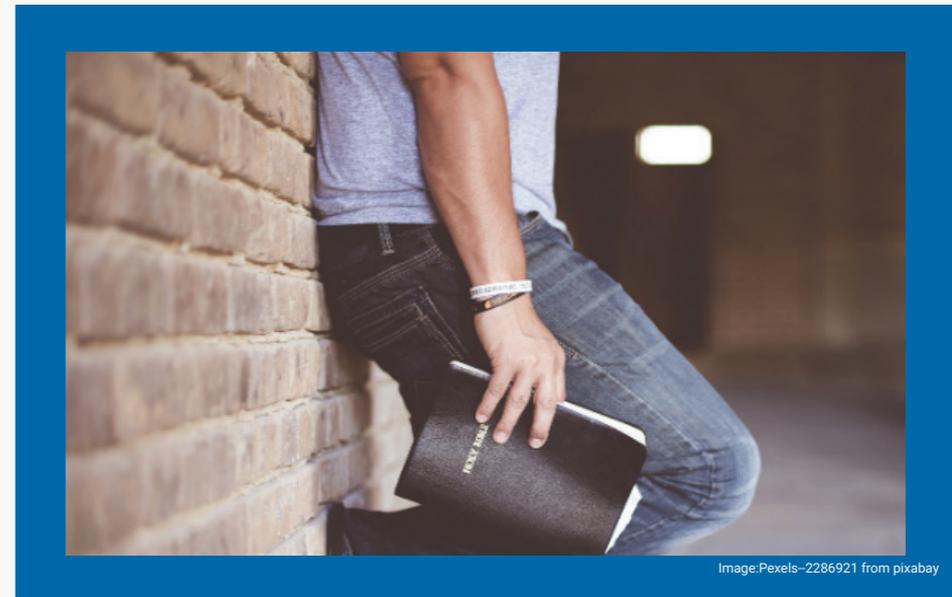
Should We Abandon the Term “Evangelical”?

Before he went to glory, R.C. Sproul and I had several conversations about how compromise and corruption within the visible church have ruined vital theological terms by clouding their definitions. For example, the word fundamentalist once signified someone who was committed to the defense of Christianity’s cardinal doctrines. But too many in the Fundamentalist Movement lost sight of truly essential doctrines and became obsessed instead with petty preferences. As a result, the Fundamentalist Movement was corrupted by legalism and nominalism. Today fundamentalist is a term of derision.

Similarly, the noble term Reformed has for generations been co-opted by countless churches and denominations that trace their organizational lineage back to early Protestantism, but who long ago abandoned any commitment to the biblical principles that fueled the Reformation. The fact that a church has the word “Reformed” in its name is no guarantee that the message they proclaim will have anything in common with what the magisterial Reformers were willing to die for.

The term evangelical is suffering a similar fate. The movement that wears that label has become so theologically diverse that it belies its own name. Today the evangelical swamp is chock full of charlatans, heretics, socialists, Marxists, and race-hustlers. There is nothing truly and biblically evangelical about it.

But what is the answer? Should we abandon the term evangelical in favor of a more accurate name? Those who have long lamented the degeneration of the Evangelical Movement have had difficulty coming up with a better name. R. C. once suggested the term “Imputationists,” which pays tribute to one of the chief articles of gospel truth: that the sins of all believers were imputed to Christ and his



righteousness is imputed to them. But that’s probably too obscure a term to replace “evangelical”—not to mention the fact that people unfamiliar with doctrinal terminology might think it has something to do with amputation.

So what is my preferred label? What group do I identify with? I wish we could simply reclaim the word Christian. I don’t know if you can identify any more closely with Christ than by using that term. The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch in Acts 11. We are told to rejoice that we bear the name Christian (1 Pet 4:6). But that word likewise has been so polluted that it has little more than a generic significance. I could settle for “Biblical Christian,” but that seems redundant.

I fully embrace classic evangelicalism’s commitment to the gospel, but the movement that has co-opted the name Evangelical clearly does not. Every unbiblical attack on Scripture—both overt and covert, blatant and subtle—has produced a kind of Laodicean “evangelical” lukewarmness, evoking the imagery of Revelation 3:15–22, where our Lord threatens to spit that church from his mouth.

I cannot support the trendy jargon or the pet causes that today’s stylish evangelicals are so enthralled with: systemic racism, white privilege, white guilt, critical race theory, intersectionality, socialism, neo-Marxism, reparations, same-sex attraction, abortion, homosexuality, transgenderism, and evolution. I have no regard for “Big Eva” or the celebrity culture that honors fashion more than faithfulness and es

teems big crowds more highly than sound teaching.

My Confession of Faith

So what is my confession of faith?

I am bound by Scripture and reason to declare that Jesus is Lord, in the full sense of that term, and I am his slave, also in the full sense of that term. I love him. I bow to him as God the Son in all the fullness of his deity and with faith in all the fullness of his work. My slavery to him springs from a heart of love that drives me to obey his Word gladly. This is a perfect reflection of his infinite mind and holy nature. What Christ do I love? What Christ do I preach? We preach Christ, who is the eternal Son, one in nature with the eternal Father, and one with the eternal Spirit—the Triune God. He is the Creator and Life-giver as well as the Sustainer of the universe, and all who live in it. He is the virgin-born Son of God and Son of Man—fully divine and fully human. He is the one whose life on earth perfectly pleased God, and whose righteousness is given to all who by grace through faith become one with him. He is the only acceptable sacrifice for sin that pleases God, and whose death under divine judgment paid in full the penalty for the sins of his people, providing for them forgiveness and eternal life. He is alive, having been raised from the dead by the Father, validating his work of atonement, publicly declaring him righteous, and providing resurrection for the sanctification and glorification of the elect, to bring them safely into his heavenly presence. He is at the Father's throne interceding for all believers. I approach his perfect, pure, inspired, inerrant, and true Word with objectivity, rationality, veracity, authority, incompatibility, integrity, and unreserved faith.

Therefore, when I search for a term to describe this confession of faith, I realize that this is historically what was meant by the term evangelicalism. This is the faith once for all delivered to the saints through the inerrant Scriptures—the true gospel of God's sovereign grace poured out on sinners through faith in Christ alone. This is evangelical doctrine. Those who have turned aside from these truths to the cheap substitutes of worldly immorality, socialist politics, or personalized, designer doctrines that remake God in the image of man are the ones who have abandoned the gospel. Whatever they call themselves, they are not evangelicals. Those of us who hold to genuinely evangelical doctrine—to the fundamentals of the faith in the only saving gospel—we must stake our claim on this doctrinal foundation, and we must withstand those who, while comprising and corrupting the true gospel,

would lay claim to the name evangelical.

The biblical record and church history both reveal that apostasy is common, yet the Lord always preserves his truth through the testimony of a faithful remnant. My desire is only to be part of that unwavering remnant, “steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain” (1 Cor 15:58).

[1] The statistics in this article are general reflections of recent surveys done by Lifeway and Ligonier (“The State of Theology”) and the Culture Research Center (“American Christians are Redefining the Faith: Adherents Creating New Worldviews Loosely Tied to Biblical Teaching”).

Also Read: Why Luther?

<https://tabletalkmagazine.com/posts/why-luther/>



Store guard stabbed 27 times for asking two women to wear masks

—by Michael N. and Stephen P.

CHICAGO — Two sisters accused of stabbing a West Side Chicago store security guard 27 times with a knife after he asked them to wear face masks and use hand sanitizer have been ordered held without bond.

The alleged attack late Sunday by 21-year-old Jessica Hill and 18-year-old Jayla Hill left the 32-year-old victim hospitalized in critical condition.

Police spokeswoman Karie James said Tuesday an argument that began after the women refused the guard's request to wear masks became physical when one of the women punched the man. Jessica Hill allegedly pulled a knife and began stabbing the man, while Jayla Hill held him by his hair.

During a Tuesday bond hearing, the women's court-appointed attorney said both women suffer from bipolar disorder.

Also Read: SC family is working to get COVID-19 removed from their mother's death certificate

<https://www.wistv.com/2020/10/20/sc-family-is-working-get-covid-removed-their-mothers-death-certificate/>

Other News:

Middle East Student Ministry Update— <https://heartcrymissionary.com/mission-updates/middle-east-student-ministry-update/>

Texas man who took down church shooter cleared of all charges by grand jury— <https://disrn.com/news/texas-man-who-took-down-church-shooter-cleared-of-any-charges-by-grand-jury>

Entire Bible translated into 700 languages; 5.7 billion people now have access to Scripture— <https://www.christianpost.com/news/entire-bible-translated-into-700-languages.html>

American Atheists outraged at Betsy DeVos' new rule defending religious liberty at colleges— <https://www.theblaze.com/news/atheists-devos-religious-liberty-college>

Quote of the Week:

We talk about predestination because the Bible talks about predestination. If we desire to build our theology on the Bible, we run head on into this concept. We soon discover that John Calvin did not invent it.

—R. C. Sproul

Biblical Counseling Resources

Strategies for Fighting Depression Well—by Jim Newheiser
<https://biblicalcounseling.com/fighting-depression-well/>

Identity Language in Counseling—by Martha Peace
<https://biblicalcounseling.com/identity-language-in-counseling/>

The Pursuit of Peace—by Sam Stephens
<https://biblicalcounseling.com/the-pursuit-of-peace/>

Defeating Despair—by Tim Pasma
<https://biblicalcounseling.com/defeating-despair/>

Gracious Words Amid Sword Thrusts—by Jim Koerber
<https://biblicalcounseling.com/gracious-words-amid-sword-thrusts/>

You Can Please God—by Kyle Gangel
<https://biblicalcounseling.com/you-can-please-god/>

Crafting Temptation and Repentance Plans to Help Addicts—by Keith Palmer
<https://biblicalcounseling.com/crafting-temptation-and-repentance-plans-to-help-addicts/>

Covenant Baptist Biblical Counseling Class:

A Biblical Counseling class started February 13th at 7 PM here at the church. If you would be interested in participating, please let the pastor know. We are going to livestream the class. Just go to the website at <https://covenantbaptistsc.org> and click the livestream button on home page at 7pm Thursdays.

Biblical counseling class on hold while teacher recovers from surgery.



Covenant Baptist Church

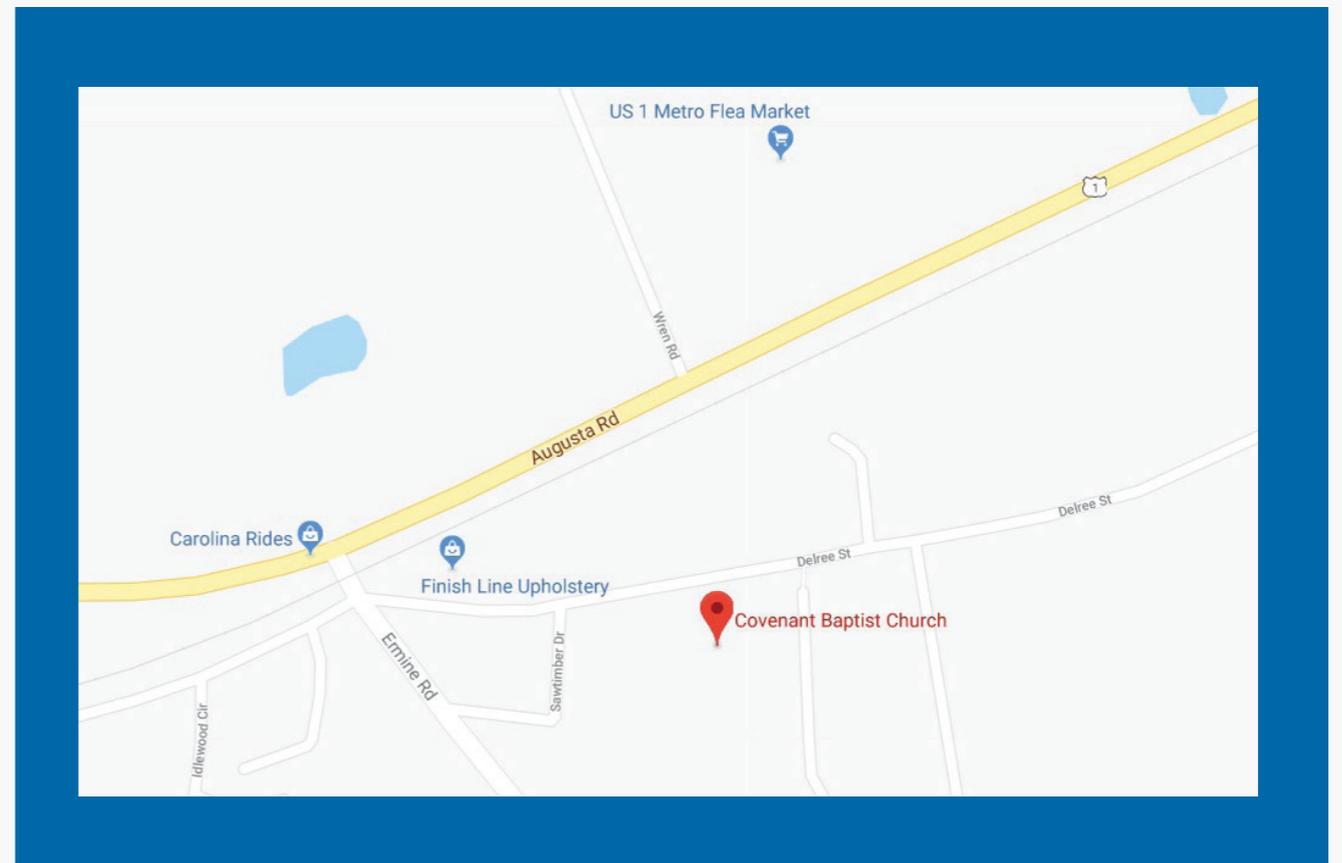
Reformed and Refreshing

3535 Delree Street

West Columbia, SC 29170

<https://covenantbaptistsc.org>

Location:



*If you are interested in joining our church, please speak to one of our elders or deacons.
They will be happy to give you the information you need.*