



## Covenant Baptist Church

*Reformed and Refreshing*

*December 6th, 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.

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

## Order of Worship

*(December 6th, 2020)*

Call to Worship: Psalm 46:1-7

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel—218

Scripture Reading: Luke 1:26-34

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus—216

My Heart Is Filled With Thankfulness—374

Message:

Unity in the Local Church  
Philippians 2:1-4

Prayer and Benediction

Closing Hymn: Not in Me—405

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### On-Call Deacon List:

- December 6: Rogers
- December 13: Campbell
- December 20: Shumpert

### Church Cleaning Schedule:

- December 12: Wheat
- December 19 Kyzer (K&R)/Bean
- December 26: Allen

### Church Bookstore:

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

## Announcements

Next week will be our 2nd Sunday Fellowship Meal. Please plan to bring sides, desserts, and/or drinks to share. The church will provide the meat.

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If you would like to be added to the church cleaning list for 2021, please contact Chris Waddell at (803) 447-8257.

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We are excited to announce that Justin Peters will be with us in February for a 4-day conference. Please be in prayer as we work out the details. Begin spreading the word and inviting others to come. This will be a very important conference on discerning truth in these troubled times.

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November is a month in which we recognize all that we are thankful for: our nation, our veterans, and the Bible. As the spiritual war for truth rages on in our country and around the world, we need to equip our active duty service members and veterans with the life-giving truth of God's Word in a format they can truly engage: Military BibleSticks. Every \$25.00 gift provides a valuable service member or veteran with a Military BibleStick and more... Your generosity will also equip others—those living in the outermost areas of the world who have little or no access to truth—with the vital weaponry of Audio Scriptures. Thank you for reaching out to bless our troops, veterans and their families in a practical way by providing God's Word through Military BibleSticks. \$25 sponsors one service member and their family. Please make checks payable to Covenant Baptist Church and indicate it is for Bible Sticks.

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For those who would like to participate, we will be offering a Christmas Card Exchange this year. Drop off your Christmas cards in the fellowship hall in the designated card drop box. Each week leading up to Christmas, you can drop off cards and pick up cards from our temporary mailboxes in the kitchen area.

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Mark your calendar for Friday, December 18 from 10:30am-1pm and join us for the Children's Christmas Social. We will have a time of devotion, lunch, and a service project. If you'd like to help with the social, please contact Kerri Olds at (843-819-5080. Please RSVP by December 15. The focus at the Children's Christmas Social is showing our first responders our appreciation & support for all they do for our community. The children will be assembling care packages for police officers and firemen to deliver next month along with tracts. We are asking the congregation to help by donating individually wrapped snacks, cases of water & Gatorade, packs of gum or mints, canisters of coffee, packs of HotHands, chapstick, small packs of tissues, etc. If you'd like to donate a monetary gift towards this project, please see Kerri Olds or Carrie Fudge. We are also making no-sew blankets for children that are impacted by fire or other events in which first responders assist kids. If you are able to donate fleece fabric for this project, please see Kerri Olds.

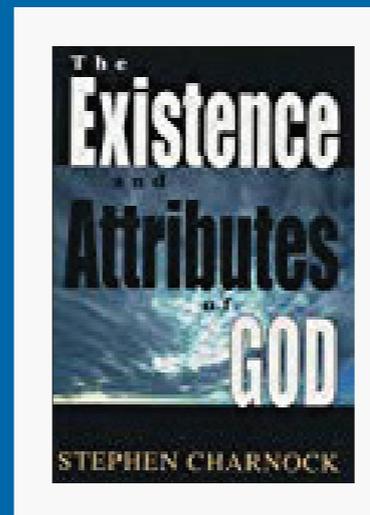
## Book of the Week: The Existence and Attributes of God

—by Stephen Charnock

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

Purchase at:

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



## Covenant Baptist Church Events

**Greek Class**—*On hold*

**Biblical Counseling Class**—*On hold*

**Second Sunday Dinner**—*December 13th. 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.*

### 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/>*



## He's Just Blind

—by *Jordan Standridge*

It doesn't matter how many times you share the Gospel, you still need encouragement from time to time.

After over an hour-long conversation with a young Roman Catholic named Jimmy, we ended the conversation with a hug. It was obvious, though, as he walked away that spiritually we were speaking different languages.

We talked about whether Jesus was the only way. He said yes, but kept saying that Jesus' death made it possible for people who might never even hear about Him to be saved. In other words, that if they lived good lives and followed their conscience that Christ could save them.

He kept saying that it is only by the grace of Christ that he will be able to not die shortly after committing a mortal sin, but then, when asked why Jesus didn't help those who have died while committing a mortal sin, he said that it was probably their parents' fault for teaching them poorly and, therefore, God would show them leniency.

It was very clear that though Jimmy had been catechized and that he had asked

his priest many questions, in the end, he was pretty much a universalist like Pope Francis.

He explained that there were three ways to be saved. One way was through baptism, the other through doing your best with whatever information you have (which includes those who've never heard of Christ all the way down to evil people who just weren't raised well and therefore are probably excused), and the other was through being killed or dying as a martyr (this was referring to people who die through any war and especially children who are innocent).

I was very direct with him, I told him that he was trusting in his works and was self-righteous, and I told him that if he didn't trust in Christ alone for his salvation he was headed towards hell. We left with him thanking me for being direct with him and him leaving with one of my tracts. It was such an emotional conversation for me that I even hugged him before he left, and pretty much begged him to read the Bible.

As we watched him go away, my friend turned to me and said some very helpful words.

“He's just blind.”

Experience in sharing the Gospel is important. Your theology of the Lord's sovereignty in salvation is crucial. But even with those two things in place, it can still be downright discouraging to spend over an hour in conversation with someone, listening to them, answering their questions, and then watching them walk away, unchanged. Of course, they can be saved later on, perhaps even years later, but there is a shock that comes with clearly explaining the Gospel to someone and them walking away, rejecting it.

It is only amplified when it is someone you've known for more than 1 hour.

Perhaps there's someone in your life you've shared the Gospel with time and time again. You've explained the Gospel so clearly. You have poured yourself out to them, you've listened to them, and have answered their questions as best you can, and yet they simply will not believe. You need to be reminded of the blindness of man.

They love their sin, they love to be the god of their own life, ultimately, they love being able to control their eternal destiny.

In other words, they are just blind (1 Cor. 2:14).

That is what makes Jesus' conversation with the Pharisees, after He had healed the blind man and saved him from his sin, so fascinating. They were the blind ones all along, and they would not admit their need for Christ to save them from their wickedness (John 9:40-41 ).

Be encouraged that it doesn't depend on you to lead people to Christ. You are just a sower using the only Seed that can bring forth fruit, the Word of God. That is the only weapon at your disposal and God is the only one who can make it go deep into the heart of man and cause man to be born again (Rom. 10:17).

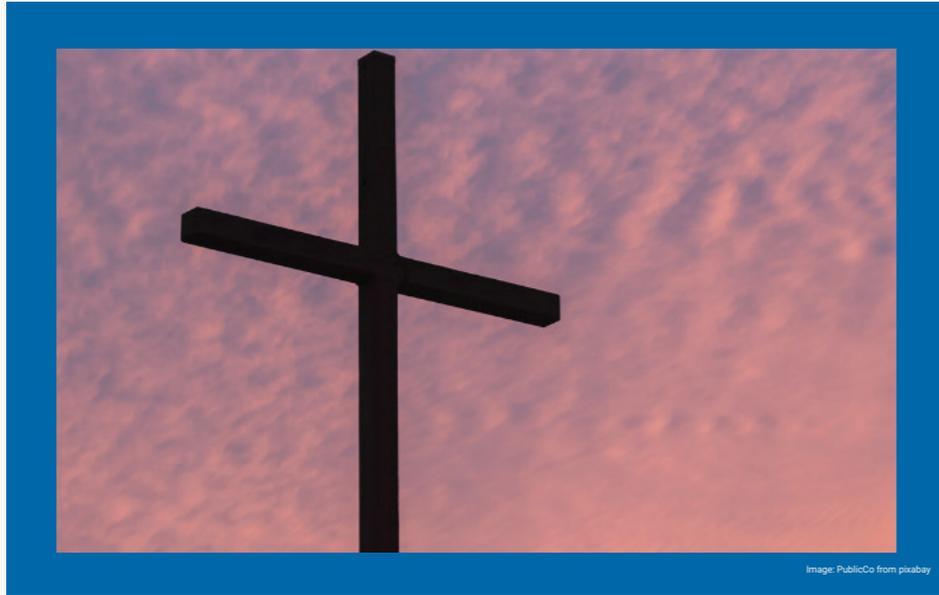
You may be doing everything right, so to speak, but the fact remains that the Lord must open the eyes of the blind; no man can do it. So, as we labor in evangelism, we must be laboring in prayer for those to whom we speak (Col. 4:2).

As you continue to preach the Gospel to those around you, remember to always rely on the Word of God and pray that God would grant people repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth (2 Tim. 2:25 ). There's only one Man who can open the eyes of the blind and that is Jesus Christ Himself (Psalm 146:8, John 9).

**Also read:**

## **Has the Ark Been Found?**

*<https://answersingenesis.org/noahs-ark/noahs-ark-found/>*



## Salvation is of the Lord

—by *Jorge Marsano, Peru, Oct 26, 2020*

“Although this month had its share of trials and sadness for me and my family, it was not at all absent of the Lord’s help in evangelism. He does His work by His Holy Spirit in the hearts of people that have heard the gospel of salvation and of the only Savior, Christ Jesus. I recognize that apart from the grace of God working by His Spirit, there could be no advancement in evangelism. Personally, I don’t find it difficult to converse with whoever I come across, but I do find it difficult—no, impossible!—to convince anyone to recognize Jesus as Lord and Savior. This is not only because of their intellectual resistance but because of their hardness of heart.

The working of God’s Spirit in salvation is mysterious and perfect. Sometimes He saves the person that, at the beginning of the conversation, did not at all want to listen to me. Other times, the person who listens to me the whole time He does not save. Sometimes He saves the person that refused to listen to me but later listened to another Christian that spoke to them about the gospel. Glory to God for this! Salvation is of the Lord!

Regarding the advances this month in the ministry, I was able to speak more with Joshi and Jhon about the gospel. They work in the stable that is near my house.

Please, I ask you to join me in praying for them, that they would repent of their sins and confess the Savior. I will continue speaking with them.

I was also able to meet a couple that owns a different stable nearby. I have met with them twice to explain to them what true Christianity is in contrast with Roman Catholicism. Each time I’ve spoken with them they have paid close attention and we have begun to develop a friendship. I have also taken them some gospel tracts with Bible verses to reinforce the things that I have spoken to them about. This month I will continue visiting them and reminding them of the urgent need to be made right before God since the day of the Lord is drawing near. Please, pray for this couple.

## Other News:

**Major LGBT Group Urges Biden to Strip Accreditation of Christian Schools, Colleges**— <https://www.christianheadlines.com/contributors/michael-foust/major-lgbt-group-urges-biden-to-strip-accreditation-of-christian-schools-colleges.html>

**Wikipedia bans editors from expressing support for traditional marriage**— <https://www.christianpost.com/news/wikipedia-bans-editors-support-traditional-marriage.html>

**Mississippi school forbids 3rd-grade girl from wearing “Jesus Loves Me” mask**— <https://disrn.com/news/mississippi-school-forbids-third-grade-girl-from-wearing-jesus-loves-me-mask>

**Store guard stabbed 27 times for asking two women to wear masks**— <https://www.wtsp.com/article/news/nation-world/store-guard-stabbed-masks-argument-chicago/67-e537ccba-7cb3-4ea2-b11a-c8f9b405a94a>

## Quote of the Week:

No man is ever taken to heaven against his will, though I do not believe any man ever went there of his own free will till God’s sovereign grace enlightened him and made him willing.

—C. H. Spurgeon

## 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.*