



## Covenant Baptist Church

*Reformed and Refreshing*

*January 24th, 2021*

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

*(January 24th, 2021)*

Prelude

Call to Worship: Hebrews 9:11-15

Lord's Supper: 1 Corinthians 11:23-34

The Communion Hymn—343

Scripture Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-24

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross—290

Like a River Glorious—64

Message:

Stand Firm in This Evil Day, Part 5  
Ephesians 6:10-18

Prayer and Benediction

Closing Hymn: Great Is Thy Faithfulness—86

Presentation of New Member

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### On-Call Deacon List:

- January 24: Egan
- January 30: Rogers
- February 7: Shumpert

### Church Cleaning Schedule:

- January 30: Egan/Fudge
- February 6: Olds/Shealy
- February 13: Kyzer (K&R)/Bean

### Church Bookstore:

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

## Announcements

If this is your first time worshipping with us, we want to thank you for coming today. Please make sure you get a welcome packet if you did not receive one from our greeters on the way in.

—  
We will observe the Lord's Supper today. The bread and juice will be in the foyer before the service begins. Please make sure to pick yours up as you come in.

—  
We are excited to announce that Justin Peters will be with us in February for a 4-day conference. Dates are confirmed: February 14-17. Begin spreading the word and inviting others to come. This will be a very important conference on discerning truth in these troubled times. Topics will include: Roman Catholicism, Do Not Hinder Them –Children and Conversion, Hearing From Heaven—How God Does and Does Not Speak

—  
If you are on the 2021 church cleaning list, please see Chris Waddell for a revised schedule.—Don't forget that everyone is encouraged to take a 'Read Through the Bible' Guide and join us in reading through the entire Bible this year of 2021. You'll find your copy on the hallway table.

—  
Regarding the India orphanage, we have supporters for all the boys in their house, but need support of \$41 per month for about 12 girls. Please pray about this and if the Lord leads, you can sign up on the blue pad on the hallway table. Thank you all for your help.—A number of supporters for the orphans have expressed interest in writing letters to their orphans that they support. Below is the address to Pastor Prabhu. Prabhu will receive the letters and translate to the boy or girl that the letter was intended. Some have also asked about sending their family photo so the child can see who they are exchanging letters with. All correspondence is welcomed. The only thing we don't know is how many can write a return letter. Hopefully they will be learning that and/or someone will be able to help them with it. Just to let you know, a letter to India will run about \$1.25 each. Please see brother Alton with any questions. The address is as follows:

Pastor Prabhakar Kondepogu, 304 Flat 3rd floor, Sai Sneha Residency, Santhi Nagar 3rd Lane, Chuttugunta, GUNTER 522 004, Andhra Pradesh, INDIA

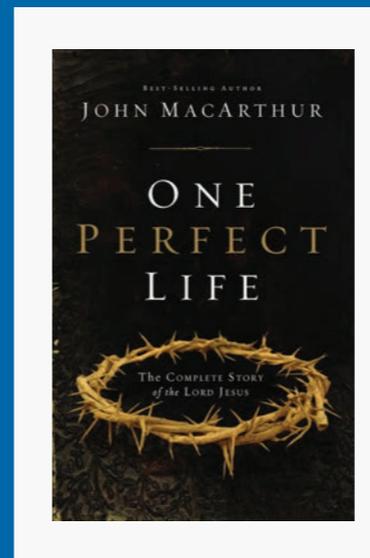
—  
Join us each Wednesday at 6 PM for "Prayer in the Other Room" and 7 PM for our Wednesday evening service.

## Book of the Week: One Perfect Life, by John MacArthur

Jesus' perfect life is the culmination of history and the theme of all Scripture. It's not surprising that John MacArthur has spent more than half his pulpit ministry preaching through the four books dedicated to that life. You know them as Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. In One Perfect Life, John weaves the life of Christ into a seamless, compelling, chronologically organized story.

You'll be amazed how the familiar stories of Jesus take on richer meaning as One Perfect Life blends the gospel accounts into a single narrative—further enhanced by key verses from the Old and New Testaments. With the addition of specially chosen, explanatory notes from The MacArthur Study Bible, One Perfect Life is a look at the Savior you've never seen before.

Purchase at:  
<https://www.gty.org/store/books/451177>



## Covenant Baptist Church Events

**Greek Class**—*On hold*

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

**Second Sunday Dinner**—*February 14th. 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/>*



### 3 Reasons Drifting From the Faith Starts With Drifting From the Church

—by Michael Kelly

Sometimes when you read the Bible, you get caught on a single verse. Sometimes a single word. You read it, and you're hung up – you can't move on. Maybe it's because that word strikes an emotional chord. Maybe that word stirs up and stokes your affections. Maybe you just sense that this small section requires further reflection.

That's an okay thing. Scripture is not meant to be rushed through, but instead to be thought deeply upon. Savored. Cherished.

And yet, it's helpful even in those moments to zoom out after a time and remember a few other details. It's important to remember, for example, who wrote the book to begin with. And who the book was originally intended for. And it's important to remember the overall purpose or main idea of that particular book of the Bible. Here are a couple of examples (all up for debate I'm sure):

- Genesis is about who God is, and who we are in light of who He is.
- Luke is about a Savior who came to seek and to save the lost.
- Acts is about the Spirit-empowered church fulfilling its mission.

One more example, for the purpose of this article, is the book of Hebrews. So what is Hebrews mainly about? Well, it's about faith – we see the “Faith Hall” of Hebrews 11. And it's about the power and primacy of God's Word as seen in Hebrews 4. But what is it mainly about? I think you could summarize it like this:

Hebrews is about continuing in the faith because Jesus is better. Hebrews tells us that Jesus is better than Moses. He's better than the angels. He's better than Melchizedek. And because He is, we should continue in the faith. We should persevere, no matter how difficult. When you come to understand this main idea, it helps to see how the individual commands and exhortations fit.

Under that banner of perseverance in light of the greatness of Jesus, you find a very simple command, and yet one that is being abandoned rapidly today: “And let us watch out for one another to provoke love and good works, not neglecting to gather together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging each other, and all the more as you see the day approaching” (Hebrews 10:24-25).

Contemporary translation? Don't stop going to church. And how does that fit with the main idea of Hebrews? Like this:

Wandering from the church leads to wandering from the faith.

Sounds kind of extreme, doesn't it? After all, we've all got busy schedules. We've all got competing priorities. We have travel sports, dance recitals, lake trips, and all the rest. Surely it doesn't mean that I'm wandering from the faith just because my church attendance has started to wane, does it? Perhaps it does. And perhaps it means we should be careful if indeed it's true that wandering from the faith often begins with wandering from the church. Consider these three reasons that support such a claim:

#### 1. When we leave the church, we stop being reminded.

Over and over again in Scripture, you find God telling His people to “remember.” Remember the Sabbath. Remember how you provoked God in the wilderness. Remember, I am with you always. These are commands – not suggestions – and they come because we are by nature forgetful people.

But God is kind to us, and He knows better than we do how forgetful we are of who He is and what He has done. C.S. Lewis knew this and once remarked,

“People need to be reminded more than instructed.” More times than not when we come to Scripture or gather together with the saints, we aren’t there to learn; we are there to remember. There is, after all, nothing new under the sun, but just because it’s not new doesn’t mean it’s at the top of our minds.

When we start to neglect going to church, we are also stopping the regular rhythm of being reminded of who God is, what He has told us to do, and who we are in light of Him.

## 2. When we leave the church, we embrace self-reliance.

Part of the reason we go to church is that we need to. We need to because we know we are weak. We know we need other people. And we know that other people need us. This is at least part of the reason behind the biblical metaphor of the body Paul used to describe the church. To keep with that metaphor, can you imagine the pride of a leg thinking (if a leg could do that) that it could just go off and have a sustainable experience without the rest of the body?

In a sense, that’s exactly what we are doing when we stop going to church. We are saying, “I don’t need this. I don’t need you. I only need me.” And there we find ourselves on the slippery slope of pride, which inevitably leads us not only to neglect the church but to neglect the authority of God. When there is only me, then I’m the only one I have to obey.

## 3. When we leave the church, we create a gap.

God made us to live in community with other believers. It’s in our DNA. This is at least part of what it means to be created in the image of God—that just as God exists in perfect community with Himself, so also are we created to live in relationships with other people. When we cut ourselves off from the community of faith, we create a gap, and that gap is going to be filled somehow. With someone. Or something.

This is a dangerous place to be – to leave ourselves open to whatever influence tickles our emotions and fancy at the moment and to simply embrace that thing or person because there’s no one else there. The gap is going to be filled, one way or another, with something that helps us follow Jesus or something that doesn’t.

We must not abandon the church if we want to persevere in the faith. We must keep going to keep ourselves going. The church is God’s gift to us – each one of us – not so that we have a perfect experience there, but because we are weak, and we really do need the help.



## Biden to roll back Trump's pro-life policies, introduce new pro-abortion legislation

—by Joel Abbott

The incoming administration of President-elect Joe Biden is preparing a wide-spread disbanding of pro-life policies enacted under the Trump administration, in addition to new legislation that would expand abortion rights under federal law.

The rollback would include revoking the Mexico City Policy – which restricts U.S. taxpayer dollars from sponsoring abortions in other nations – in addition to restoring Title X money to clinics such as Planned Parenthood that provide abortions or refer people to abortion providers.

Biden is expected to also revive the contraceptive coverage mandate of Obama's Affordable Care Act, which forces employers to cover birth control, including “emergency contraceptives,” which are abortifacients that kill a newly formed embryo.

In addition, Biden has promised to “codify” abortion into federal law in an effort to prevent any potential Supreme Court overturn of *Roe v. Wade* and combat the increasing number of state policies that seek to protect the life of the unborn.

Both Biden and Congressional Democrats have also discussed repealing the Hyde Amendment in 2021, which would allow taxpayer dollars to be directly used for aborting children.

Planned Parenthood CEO Alexis McGill Johnson called Biden's plans “tremendously exciting.”

*“We have a ton of work to do to undo the harm over the last four years, but knowing we have champions there who understand what needs to happen in the first 100 days is tremendously exciting,” Johnson said.*

Pro-life groups lamented the planned policy changes.

*“It's certainly disheartening, but we aren't going to give up, and we will do whatever we can to stop abortion from being promoted,” said Carol Tobias, president of the National Right to Life Committee.*

Biden has also received pushback from the Catholic Church, of which he claims membership. Last week, New York Cardinal Timothy Dolan said that Catholics would continue to be “hung up” on abortion.

*“Actually, we're obsessed with the dignity of the human person and the sacredness of all human life!” said Dolan. “Yes, the innocent, helpless life of the baby in the womb, but also the life of the death row prisoner, the immigrant, the fragile elderly, the poor, and the sick.”*

## Other News:

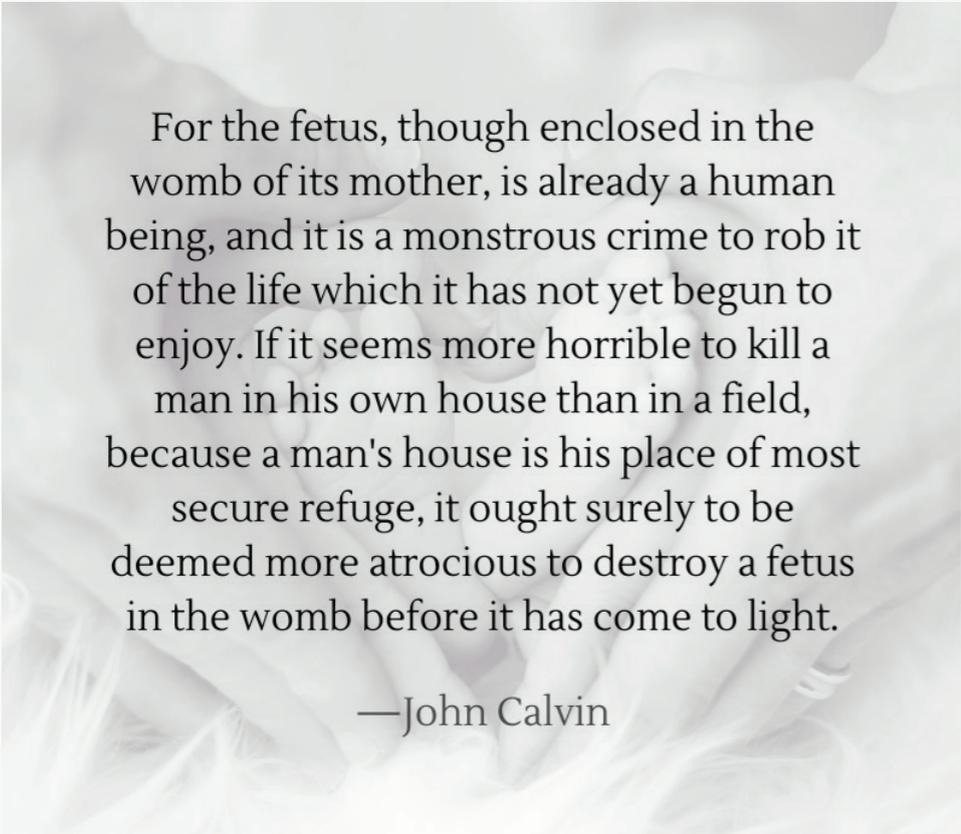
**New Normal: Chinese Citizens Have to Scan a Tracking App to Re-Enter Their Own Homes**— <https://summit.news/2021/01/14/new-normal-chinese-citizens-have-to-scan-a-tracking-app-to-re-enter-their-own-homes/>

**Indian pastor murdered in front of his wife while returning from baptizing believers**— <https://disrn.com//news/returning-from-baptizing-believers-indian-pastor-murdered-in-front-of-his-wife>

**Hungary upholds traditional marriage, bans LGBT adoption with new constitutional amendment**— <https://disrn.com//news/hungary-upholds-traditional-marriage-bans-lgbt-adoption-in-new-constitutional-amendment>

**Asymptomatic transmission of COVID-19 didn't occur at all, study of 10 million finds**— <https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/asymptomatic-transmission-of-covid-19-didnt-occur-at-all-study-of-10-million-finds>

## Quote of the Week:



For the fetus, though enclosed in the womb of its mother, is already a human being, and it is a monstrous crime to rob it of the life which it has not yet begun to enjoy. If it seems more horrible to kill a man in his own house than in a field, because a man's house is his place of most secure refuge, it ought surely to be deemed more atrocious to destroy a fetus in the womb before it has come to light.

—John Calvin

## 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

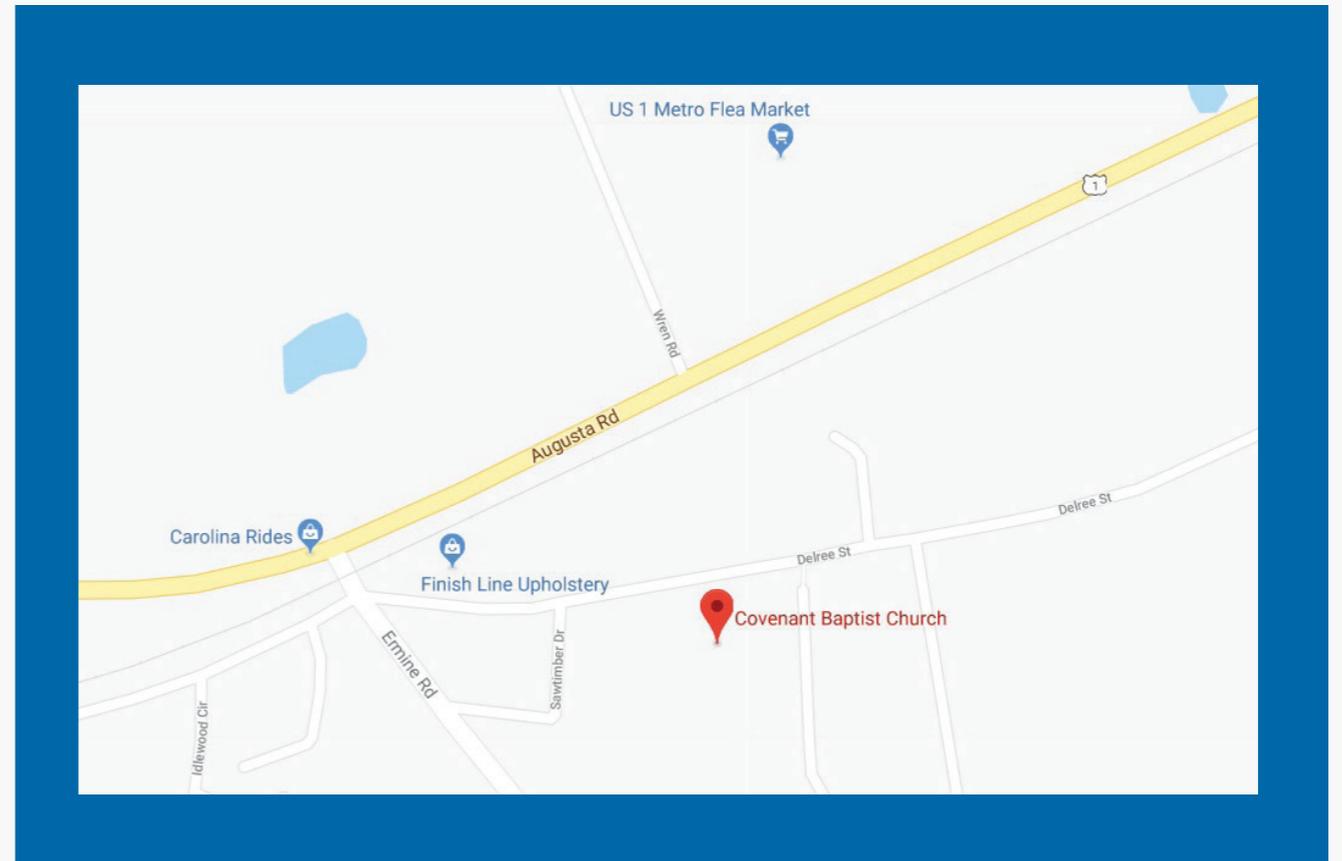
*Reformed and Refreshing*

*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.*