



Covenant Baptist Church

Reformed and Refreshing

February 21st, 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

(February 21st, 2021)

Prelude

Call to Worship: Psalm 18:1–6

Crown Him with Many Crowns—129

Scripture Reading: Hebrews 11:1–16

What a Friend We Have in Jesus—164

All I Have Is Christ—389

Message:

Stand Firm In This Evil Day, Part 8
Ephesians 6:10-18

Prayer and Benediction

Closing Hymn: I Need Thee Every Hour—416

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On-Call Deacon List:

- February 21: Kyzer
- February 28: Waddell
- March 7: Lucas

Church Cleaning Schedule:

- February 27: Crapps/McSween
- March 6: Thomas/Waddell
- March 13: Bristol

Church Bookstore:

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

Announcements

We are thankful to all of our volunteers who helped with the conference with Justin Peters. Special thanks to all who helped with getting Justin transported to and from his hotel and making sure he had all the meals he needed. Also, thanks to our safety team who were faithful to ensure we were safe during the conference. The food was great and the fellowship was wonderful; from the nursery to the welcoming of those visiting our church, everything was done in a most excellent way. The most common statement was how friendly and welcoming this church is and the teaching was great. May God bless the preaching of His Word through His servant Justin Peters.

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There is a meeting after church with Marie Lucas in the fellowship area regarding the starting back of our nursery ministry. This is only for babies who are still using diapers. Here are some important details with more to follow. This is strictly a volunteer ministry, both for the workers and the parents. As parents, if you desire to keep your baby with you during worship, we fully support and encourage you to do so. But, if you desire the use of a nursery, we want to make that available to you. If you meet the qualifications below, that does not mean you are expected to serve in the nursery. This is volunteer only. Below are absolute requirements that must be met to serve in this area:

1. You must be a member of CBC; 2. You must have a background check conducted; 3. You must be a woman or young lady. Men are not allowed to serve in nursery; 4. There will be 2 attendees in the nursery at all times. If you would like to help in the nursery, please see Marie Lucas and sign up on the nursery worker sheet in the foyer.

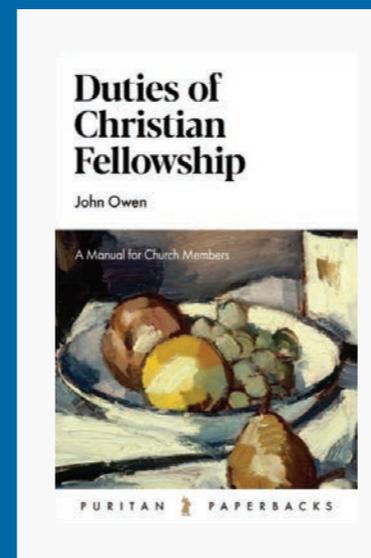
—
Regarding the India orphanage, we have supporters for all the boys in their house, but need support of \$41 per month for about 12 girls. Please pray about this and if the Lord leads, you can sign up on the blue pad on the hallway table. Thank you all for your help.

Book of the Week: Duties of Christian Fellowship, by John Owen

Duties of Christian Fellowship deals with a matter of perennial concern for every truly Christian church. In just a few pages it sets out in very concise terms the responsibilities all Christians have, first, to their pastors, and then second, to one another within the fellowship of the local church.

Purchase at:

<https://banneroftruth.org/us/store/christian-living/duties-christian-fellowship/>



Covenant Baptist Church Events

Greek Class—*On hold*

Biblical Counseling Class—*On hold*

Second Sunday Dinner—*Cancelled for Justin Peters conference.*

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/>



The Evidence Is In: We're Alone in the Universe

—by *Danny Faulkner*

ET isn't a mystery, if you're willing to examine the data from 60 years of research and take it to its logical conclusion.

Are we alone in the universe? Are other beings like us out there?

Nearly everyone has contemplated this question, including many serious scientists. But after spending billions of dollars and devoting whole careers to the search, scientists refuse to admit there is no evidence.

The problem isn't a lack of data—we're awash in it. And the problem is not that we don't have any good tests. Several great scientific minds have already suggested some solid ways to test for the existence of extraterrestrial life.

Let's examine the three most famous tests, and we'll discover that something more than cold, hard science is preventing them from reaching the logical answer.

Why Aren't They Here? (The Fermi Paradox)

One of the most famous scientists to speculate on this topic is the physicist Enrico

Fermi. Around 1950, he was having lunch with two colleagues when the topic of extraterrestrial life came up. At the time, most people realized that our civilization would soon be advanced enough to venture into space. But Fermi noted that, if intelligent life were common in the universe, it is unlikely that we are the most advanced civilization.

He reasoned that if there were alien civilizations, many of them would have already conquered space. If so, eventually those civilizations would have ventured through space, colonizing as they went. But none of these alien civilizations have shown up on earth yet. So where are the aliens?

After 70 years, the Fermi paradox, as this observation has come to be called, remains an enigma to those who believe that life is common in the universe.

Where Are Their Radio Signals? (SETI)

A decade after Fermi, the astronomer Frank Drake took a different tack to test whether intelligent life exists elsewhere in the universe. By Drake's day, humans had been broadcasting radio waves for several decades. Many radio waves pass through the earth's atmosphere and into space, so it should be possible for alien civilizations to pick them up and become aware of our existence. Drake turned this process around—he reasoned that if other civilizations could detect our broadcasts, we ought to be able to pick up theirs as well.

In 1960, Drake conducted Project Ozma. He monitored the radio signals from two nearby solar-like stars, Tau Ceti and Epsilon Eridani. One hundred fifty hours of monitoring over a four-month period revealed no detections. In the 1970s, astronomers Ben Zuckerman and Patrick Palmer expanded Drake's work in Ozma II. Over a four-year period, Ozma II intermittently monitored 670 nearby solar-like stars. Again, no detections of intelligent radio signals.

In the 1980s, the pace of SETI (Search for Extra Terrestrial Intelligence), as this initiative came to be called, expanded greatly. Advances in technology made the search easier and more efficient. Government and eventually private funding increased. One long-lasting program is SERENDIP (Search for Extraterrestrial Radio Emissions from Nearby Developed Intelligent Populations). Since large research telescopes are expensive, SERENDIP piggybacks on existing astronomy research programs, sifting through their data to find possible intelligent signals. To keep costs down, their project SETI@home has enlisted the help of hundreds of

thousands of volunteers who allow their desktop computers to assist in the sifting process.

Another notable SETI project is the Allen Telescope Array (ATA) at the Hat Creek Radio Observatory in northern California. Funded by Microsoft cofounder Paul Allen, the ATA became operational in 2007 and consists of 42 6.1-meter radio telescopes. Although it has suffered some budget problems, it currently operates 12 hours per day.

These are just some of the major SETI initiatives, and new ones are proposed all the time. Over the years the various SETI programs have generated terabytes of data without any hint of an alien transmission.

Where Are the Other Earthlike Planets? (Exoplanets)

Fascination with the possibility of life elsewhere in the universe has fueled a third test. Presumably, aliens, if they exist at all, must live on planets orbiting stars. From what we have learned about the other planets orbiting the sun, it is clear that we are alone in our solar system. But what about planets orbiting other stars?

Until recently, we had no evidence of planets outside the solar system. Most people assumed that planets must be common but we just couldn't detect them. That changed 25 years ago. Since then, the number of known exoplanets has swelled to nearly 4,000. The driving force behind the search for exoplanets has been to show that planetary systems are common. And not just any kind of planet will do: they presumably must be earthlike to support life.

What has this treasure trove of exoplanets revealed? The data has shown that planets orbiting other stars, and even planetary systems, are indeed common. Moreover, reports claim that some of these exoplanets (though not many) are earthlike.

Yet when you look closer, there are problems with each one. What must be true for a planet to be truly earthlike? First, it must be similar in size. If a planet is too large, its strong gravity is likely to retain the wrong kind of gases to support life. But if a planet is too small, its weak gravity is unlikely to hold onto any appreciable atmosphere. Therefore, only a very small range of mass can claim the title "earthlike."

Second, an earthlike planet must have a similar composition. The earth has a lot of iron and nickel, much of which is in its core. This produces a magnetic field, which is key for protecting life from deadly particles emitted from the stars they orbit and other sources in space. But other elements are necessary as well, such as silicon. Without silicon, any planet would likely be a gas giant like Jupiter or a watery world without land for life.

Third, an earthlike planet must orbit within a narrow range called the "habitable zone." If an exoplanet orbits its star too closely, the heat will boil away any liquid water necessary for life. But if an exoplanet is too far away, all its water will freeze, making it difficult for life to survive.

But this brings up a fourth problem: orbiting the right kind of star. Even if a planet orbits within the habitable zone of its respective star, what good is that if the unstable star emits deadly radiation? Most of the "earthlike" planets that show up in the news are orbiting very dim red dwarf stars. These stars are notorious for their magnetic storms that release huge amounts of charged particles. Any exoplanet orbiting too closely will be bathed in radiation that is hundreds, if not thousands, of times greater than the earth's.

Because red dwarf stars are so small, the habitable zone is very close to the star. That creates another problem: it likely eliminates the possibility of a protective magnetic field. How? Because such planets orbit their parent stars so closely, tidal forces probably slow the rotation of these planets, which would prevent any appreciable magnetic fields coming from a fluid core. Without a magnetic field, then charged particles likely strip any atmosphere from the exoplanet.

Fifth, such a strong tidal force would probably lock these exoplanets into synchronous rotation, with one side of the planets perpetually facing the star and the other side perpetually facing away. Half of the planet would be too hot for life, while the other half would be perpetually iced over. Only a narrow range along the boundary could support life, assuming the other problems weren't an issue. At any rate, none of the supposed earthlike planets are like earth at all.

If you had asked most scientists 30 years ago how many earthlike planets they would expect to find among 4,000 exoplanets, few would have said none. Instead, most would have opined that we would find many earthlike planets.

Why No Negative Conclusions?

The three lines of evidence are compelling: all three point to the fact that we are alone in the universe. So why haven't you heard any scientists (before me) say this?

Many scientists would complain that not all the data is in yet. But when is all the data ever in? We can always collect more data. Furthermore, scientists frequently make conclusions based upon far less data. So why the reluctance to reach a conclusion in this case? The conclusion that is warranted by the data does not support the evolutionary worldview of most scientists. There's a term for that: bias. And extreme bias at that.

It's not a matter of evidence or science. If you believe in evolution, then evolution must be common in the universe. Period. And this negative answer is out of the question, not because of what scientists find but because of their unwavering commitment to a belief.

If you believe in the Creator of the Bible, however, you have no qualms following the data to its logical conclusion. Biblical creationists understand that life doesn't just happen (and good science agrees with that conclusion). God created it just 6,000 years ago.

The three lines of evidence presented here—the Fermi paradox, the null SETI results, and the lack of earthlike planets—amount to scientific data. And all three agree with the prediction from biblical creation: we're alone in the universe. To reach the right conclusion, evolutionary scientists do not need more data about life elsewhere in the universe, but the right starting belief about life here on earth.

Playing the Probabilities

Almost all discussions about the possibility of life elsewhere rely on probabilities. Perhaps the best-known summary of the probabilities is known as the Drake equation, published in 1961, a year after Frank Drake ran his Project Ozma to detect alien radio signals. The Drake equation includes the seven factors we must consider when weighing the probability that life evolved on another planetary system somewhere in our galaxy.

Here are the seven commonsense factors, written up in formal symbols:



$$N = R \times f_p \times n_e \times f_l \times f_i \times f_c \times L$$

N = the number of civilizations in our galaxy that might be able to communicate with us

R = the average rate of star formation in the galaxy

f_p = the fraction of stars that have planets

n_e = the average number of planets per star that could support life

f_l = the fraction of habitable planets that develop life at some point

f_i = the fraction of planets with life that develop intelligent life (civilizations)

f_c = the fraction of civilizations that develop a technology that releases detectable signs of their existence into space

L = the length of time for which such civilizations release detectable signals into space

Notice the evolutionary assumptions. The equation assumes that life arises spontaneously (f_1). More than that, most scientists assume the chance of this evolution is high. Why? Because if life developed naturally on earth, then it must be common elsewhere too.

Since we have never observed life arising spontaneously, doesn't good science lead to the conclusion that f_1 is equal to zero? We really don't know any of these numbers, though information that we know so far about the exoplanets can give us some idea of a few of these numbers. That data seems to lead to the conclusion that n_e is zero too.

Evolutionary scientists refuse to insert estimates that are vanishingly small because that would make life unique to earth. That would make earth and its life very special, supporting belief in creation. Most scientists reject the possibility of creation out of hand, which would make f_1 not just small but zero.

Yet we know from God's Word, which infallibly documents how life came to be, that life didn't evolve here or elsewhere. The product of the Drake equation is zero. Ergo, life doesn't exist anywhere else.

This simple theoretical approach matches what we see in the world. Therefore, it's time to call it: apart from God and angels, we're alone in the universe.

FOR MORE: See [https://creationresearch.org/extraterrestrial-life/alien radio signals](https://creationresearch.org/extraterrestrial-life/alien-radio-signals).

Also Listen To:

Renewing Your Mind | How to Deal with Guilt

<https://renewingyourmind.org/2021/01/26/how-to-deal-with-guilt>



YouTube Bans Pro-Life Website, LifeSite News, Deletes All Pro-Life Content

—by Jeff Maples

It is no secret that the secular world is against Christ. Right now, the world stands with homosexuals, transgenders, and abortionists. But God opposes them. Jesus said, “If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you.”

As Big Tech continues its crackdown on conservatives, one of the leading pro-life websites in the nation just had its entire YouTube channel, along with all its content, completely erased from the online memory hole. LifeSite News reports that they have been informed that this “isn’t a temporary ban” and “every single one of our videos is completely gone.”

In 2019, Reformation Charlotte reported that the video giant, Vimeo, deleted a church’s account because the church did not support homosexuality.

There is no doubt that the agenda to silence conservatives — particularly Christians — is being carried about before our eyes. With the onslaught of the coronavirus pandemic, which has been blown way out of proportion, churches and their congregations have become dependent upon Big Tech to transmit their messages. Yet, these congregations are at the mercy of these tech giants which, at a whim,

can decide a church’s content is incompatible with their own agenda, and silence them.

We now live in Fascist society controlled by corporate and government elites and dictators who own the airwaves, the internet, and even the businesses we work for. The Constitution of the United States no longer serves as a defense against attacks on our freedoms and livelihoods.

Other News:

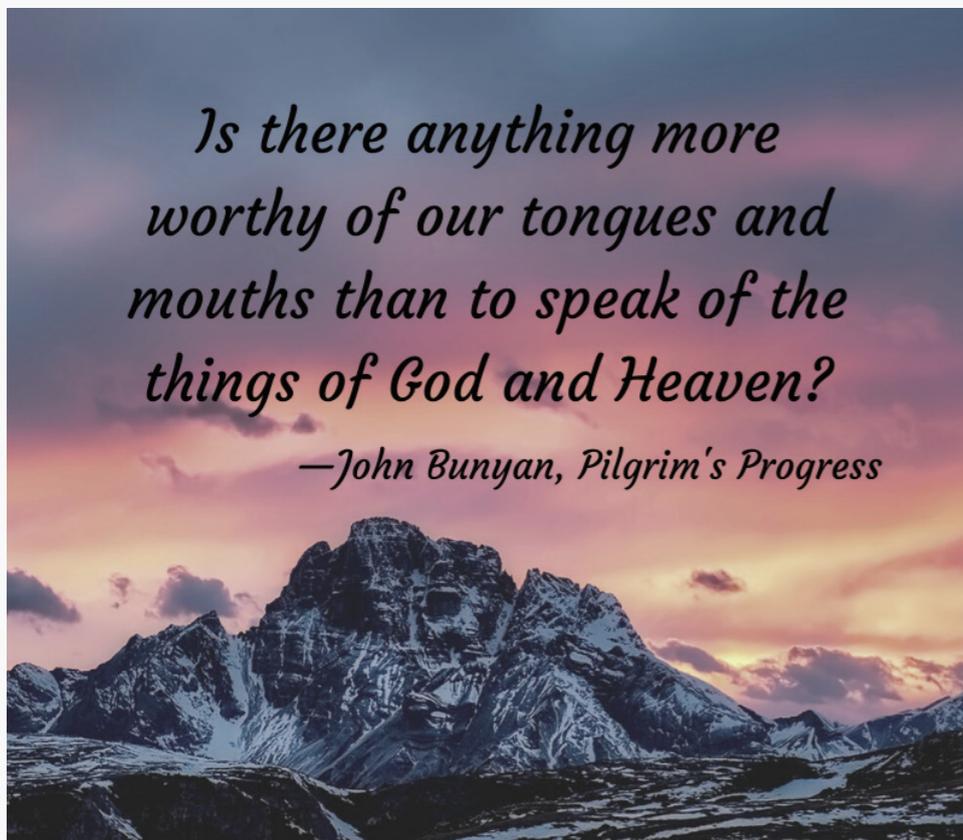
White House: “Biden-Harris administration is committed to codifying Roe v. Wade”— <https://disrn.com/news/white-house-biden-harris-administration-is-committed-to-codifying-roe-v-wade>

Head of U.S. Strategic Command warns of a “very real possibility” of nuclear war with China, Russia— <https://disrn.com/news/head-of-us-strategic-command-says-there-is-a-very-real-possibility-of-nuclear-war-with-china-russia>

Biden Signs Executive Order Allowing the U.S. to Fund Global Abortions—<https://www.nationalreview.com/corner/biden-signs-executive-order-allowing-the-u-s-to-fund-global-abortions/>

Biden to roll back Trump’s pro-life policies, introduce new pro-abortion legislation— <https://disrn.com/news/biden-to-rollback-trumps-pro-life-policies-introduce-new-pro-abortion-legislation>

Quote of the Week:



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/>

Counseling Self-Injuring Teens
<https://biblicalcounseling.com/resource-library/conference-messages/counseling-self-injuring-teens/>

Enduring Dark Providences
<https://biblicalcounseling.com/resource-library/articles/enduring-dark-providences/>

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 live-stream the class. Just go to the website at <https://covenantbaptistsc.org> and click the live-stream button on home page at 7pm Thursdays.

Biblical counseling class on hold while teacher recovers from surgery.



Covenant Baptist Church

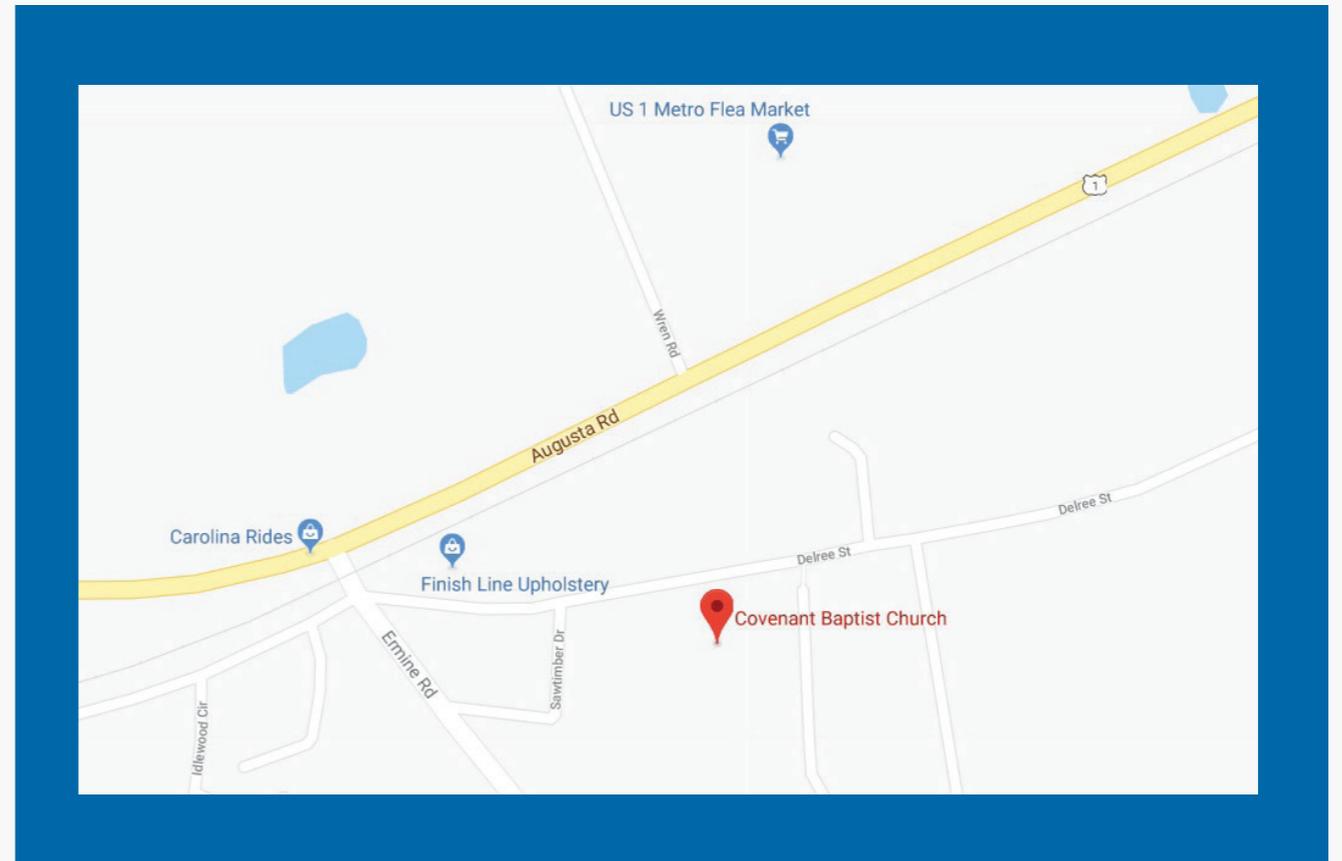
Reformed and Refreshing

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.*