

# Jesus: God’s Final Word

## Hard Faith

Hebrews 11:32-40 (ESV)

Faith is ...

*Noticia*

*Assensus*

*Fiducia*

**Some (much-needed) clarity on “faith”:**

Sometimes God responds to our faith by acts of \_\_\_\_\_ or even accomplishing the \_\_\_\_\_.

Sometimes God responds to our faith by \_\_\_\_\_ us in the face of great \_\_\_\_\_. But God is \_\_\_\_\_ and eternally \_\_\_\_\_ either way. True faith must “see” that.

**Sometimes our faith \_\_\_\_\_ us.**

We need the sort of faith that causes us to \_\_\_\_\_ when we’re \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ when we feel \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ in the face of \_\_\_\_\_.

*Gideon*

*Barak*

*Samson*

*Jephthah*

*David*

*Samuel*

*The women*

But the good news is that we – nor our faith – need be \_\_\_\_\_ to be \_\_\_\_\_.

*Gideon*

*Barak*

*Samson*

*Jephthah*

*David*

*Samuel*

The **essence of empowering faith** is this certitude: **God is \_\_\_\_\_!**

**Sometimes our faith \_\_\_\_\_ us.**

We need the sort of faith that enables us to handle hardship, oppression, persecution, torture, and even \_\_\_\_\_ for the sake of Christ.

Their hardships were *not* because of a \_\_\_\_\_ of faith:

*“... through faith ...”*

*“... the world was not worthy ...”*

*“... commended through their faith ...”*

And though their faith in God ultimately \_\_\_\_\_ them everything, it was their faith in God that enabled them to know and trust that \_\_\_\_\_.

Our position is not that suffering is \_\_\_\_\_. It is that God – and all He has for us is \_\_\_\_\_!

That’s the **essence of persevering faith**.

*“For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.”*

- *Apostle Paul (2 Cor. 4:17-18)*

*“God himself is better than what life can give to you now, and better than what death can take from you later.”*

– *John Piper*

*“Faith is when the human heart says, ‘Although I’ve been offered everything I could possibly dream of, Jesus is better.’ Faith is when the human heart says, ‘Although I’ve lost everything I dreamed of, Jesus is better.’”*

- *Sam Storms*

**How my faith develops:**

*Dr. Paul Thompson  
Calvary Baptist Church  
October 31, 2021*

## Sunday Morning Call to Prayer

Every Sunday at 8:00-8:15 am in the Sanctuary, there is a time of prayer led by our pastors and elders. Everyone is invited to join in for part or all of the prayer time.

Children are welcome to attend with their parents.

## Women’s Coffee & Connect

**Sunday, November 7 | 3:00 pm | Fellowship Center**

All women are invited to enjoy a cup of coffee, engage in meaningful conversation, and connect with someone new.

## Dinner with the Pastor

Monday, November 8 (DATE CHANGE) | 6:15 pm | Parlor

## Membership Matters

Wednesday, November 17 | 5:45 pm | Parlor

If you are considering membership at Calvary, please join us for Dinner with the Pastor and the Membership Matters class. Contact [angie@calvarydothan](mailto:angie@calvarydothan) or call the church office to RSVP for the dinner and childcare. Childcare will be provided for 6-week-olds through 5th grade.

## Second Sunday Night Prayer Service

November 14 | 6:00 pm | Fellowship Center

Prayer Focus: Missions

## Calvary Kids Ministry

### “BUY THE FARM” MISSIONS OFFERING

Today is the deadline to give towards the “Buy the Farm” missions offering! Let’s meet and exceed our goal!

Our Goal: \$600

**WE OPEN UP OUR BIBLES OFTEN AT CALVARY KIDS.** Before leaving your home, yell out, “Bible Check!” Your children will appreciate the reminder!

## Student DNow Weekend

**Monsters in My Closet | November 12-14**

1st Student: \$100 | 2nd Student: \$85 | 3rd Student: \$75

**Deadline to Register is TODAY!**

## Senior Adult Mid-Month Veterans Day Service & Lunch

**Thursday, November 11 | 11:00 am | Sanctuary**

One of our elders, Dave Lindey, will be preaching the worship service. There will be a special time of remembering and honoring our veterans during the service. Lunch will be served as a sit down meal in the Fellowship Center immediately following worship.

## Operation Christmas Child

**Shoebox Collection Sunday: November 14**

Pack a shoebox and send good news and great joy around the world. Shoeboxes are available in the Fellowship Center Foyer and church office.

## 6 Urgent Prayers for Afghan Christians Risking Execution

The strictest interpretation of Shariah law—this is what Afghans can expect as the Taliban re-establish their rule over Afghanistan. In a press interview, the Taliban’s former head of religious police, Mullah Nooruddin Turabi, said extreme punishments, such as executions and amputations, will resume.

Turabi told AP News that amputations and executions were “necessary for security” and that the Taliban’s cabinet ministers were now discussing whether or not punishments should be public. Under Taliban rule in the 1990s, executions were held in public. The scenes of public massacres and amputations inside Kabul’s soccer stadium are still fresh in the minds of Afghan people.

For secret believers inside the country who have left Islam to follow Jesus—considered apostates under Shariah law—the new announcement is a death sentence. Under strict Shariah law, apostates are subject to execution. Afghan Christians tell our local partners that they are afraid. They’re asking for our prayers and have even shared specific ways we can pray for them.

“For us, everything has been taken away,” says Saad, a secret believer in Afghanistan. “We need you to ask God on our behalf.”

Below, we share six prayers you can pray with our scared and suffering Afghan sisters and brothers. Take a minute each day this week to pray for one or more of these requests.

Saad’s wife, Fatimah, reminds us: “When you pray [with us], you meet us in the room of God’s throne where we can have communion together.”

**Prayers for Afghanistan and secret believers**

**Pray for the lawmakers.**

Pray for the Taliban. Ask God to move in Turabi’s heart and the Taliban lawmakers. Taliban sympathizers within the country have also expressed support for the adoption of these penalties. Pray for the lawmakers and implementers of the law to uphold and preserve human life.

**Pray for the flow of information in the country.**

More than a hundred media companies in Afghanistan have reportedly ceased operations. In the months leading up to the Taliban takeover, many reporters had already fled for their lives, and those who stayed are living in fear that reporting on sensitive information, such as the situation of women, could cost them everything. Pray that Afghanistan would not fall into news censorship and that citizens will continue to have access to reliable information.

**Pray for the hungry.**

Winter is coming, which exacerbates the already dire situation of Afghans on the cusp of starvation. The economy has virtually come to a standstill and food prices have skyrocketed. The World Food Program recently reported that 93 percent of Afghanistan’s people have not been getting enough food to eat. Ask God to have mercy and feed the hungry.

**Pray for the sick.**

The World Health Organization reports that all aspects of COVID-19 response have dropped in the country and that the health system is “on the brink of collapse.” Pray for the Lord’s provision over Afghanistan’s healthcare system and for His healing for all those who are sick.

**Pray for the secret believers.**

Saad tells our local partners that he and his fellow Christians are already known to the Taliban: “The list has been circulated with our names on it,” he says. Pray for protection for the believers who have been exposed to the Taliban and are already at risk of being killed. Pray for believers who are missing and their families as they search for their loved ones.

**Pray for secret believers attempting to flee.**

Though many believers have chosen to stay, some desperately want to flee and they face huge risks. Many Christians who want to flee are also without passports. Pray for the governments, ministries, and private individuals helping them to leave.

*Taken from [opendoorsusa.org](http://opendoorsusa.org)*

## I WOULD LIKE MORE INFORMATION ABOUT:

### My Decision Today:

I trusted Jesus as Savior.

I’d like to join Calvary Baptist Church.

I believe God is calling me into ministry/mission.

Please have a pastor or elder contact me.

If you would like to speak with someone about one of the items noted above, please visit the Next Steps Kiosk before you leave today.

### PRAYER REQUESTS:

Pastors & Prayer Team Only

Churchwide

## Connect Card

October 31, 2021

October 31, 2021



### I'm New Here

To fill out a digital Connect Card or learn more about Calvary, please use your smartphone camera to scan the QR Code.

### How to Become a Christian

Want more information about how to become a Christian? Go to [calvarydothan.com/become-a-christian/](http://calvarydothan.com/become-a-christian/).

If you would like to view a pdf of today's sermon notes, go to [calvarydothan.com/podcast](http://calvarydothan.com/podcast) or use Calvary's MobileMission app.

 [calvarydothan.com](http://calvarydothan.com)

 [@calvarydothan](https://twitter.com/calvarydothan)

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901 Montezuma Avenue  
Dothan, AL 36303  
Church Office 334.792.5159  
Weekday 334.793.9898

### FIRST TIME GUEST?

We're so glad you've joined us for worship today and would love to be able to share more with you about our church. Please fill out the Connect Card to the left and place it in one of the offering plates when they are passed. Be sure to stop by our Next Steps kiosk after the service for a gift from us!

### THE PEOPLE CAME...

#### October 24

Life Groups: 508  
10:00 Worship: 552  
Hispanic Church: 111  
Grace City Church (NY): 30

### THE PEOPLE GAVE...

#### General Fund

Given October 24: \$49,929  
Jan.-Sept. Budget  
Surplus (Deficit): (\$308.13)

### DAILY SCRIPTURE READING

#### Sunday, October 31:

2 Sam 16, 2 Cor 9, Ezk 23, Ps 70-71

#### Monday, November 1:

2 Sam 17, 2 Cor 10, Ezk 24, Ps 72

#### Tuesday, November 2:

2 Sam 18, 2 Cor 11, Ezk 25, Ps 73

#### Wednesday, November 3:

2 Sam 19, 2 Cor 12, Ezk 26, Ps 74

#### Thursday, November 4:

2 Sam 20, 2 Cor 13, Ezk 27, Ps 75-76

#### Friday, November 5:

2 Sam 21, 2 Cor 14, Ezk 28, Ps 77

#### Saturday, November 6:

2 Sam 22, 2 Cor 15, Ezk 29, Ps 78:1-37

### Midweek Schedule

5:30 pm Midweek Meal, Fellowship Center

6:00 pm Midweek Worship, Sanctuary  
Preschool, Birth-K5, Preschool Building (Preregister at [calvarydothan.com](http://calvarydothan.com))  
Children, Grades 1-5, ROC  
Students, Grades 6-12, Student Room

7:00 pm Adult Choir

### 4 Ways to Give

- Give online by using the MobileMission app for Apple or Android or go to [calvarydothan.com/GiveOnline](http://calvarydothan.com/GiveOnline).
- On Sundays, drop in the offering plate or in the collection boxes near the Fellowship Center exit doors
- Mail to 901 Montezuma Avenue, Dothan, AL 36303
- Bring to the church office, M-F, 8am-12noon & 1-4:30pm

### Ministry Staff

Paul Thompson.....Senior Pastor  
Charles Uptain.....Executive Pastor  
Dan Tankersley.....Discipleship  
Tommy Perry.....Community

### STAFF ON CALL

#### Sunday, October 31:

Dan Tankersley | 334-655-8765

#### Saturday, November 6:

Randy Hunt | 334-7917986

#### Sunday, November 7:

Randy Hunt | 334-7917986

### SERMON SCHEDULE

#### Wednesday, November 3 | 6:00 pm

Genesis: Where Grace Begins

Message by Paul Thompson

#### Sunday, November 7 | 10:00 am

Jesus: God's Final Word

The Founder and Perfecter of Our Faith

Hebrews 12:1-11

Message by Paul Thompson

#### Wednesday, November 10 | 6:00 pm

Genesis: Where Grace Begins

Message by Paul Thompson

#### Sunday, November 14 | 10:00 am

Jesus: God's Final Word

A Faith that Finishes

Hebrews 12:12-17

Message by Paul Thompson

### Sunday Morning Schedule

8:00 am Call to Prayer, Sanctuary

8:30 am Life Group

10:00 am Worship, Fellowship Center

Live Stream on Facebook & YouTube

Kid's Worship, Grades 1-5,

Chapel (except 1st Sunday)

11:00 am Worship Broadcast on JoyFM

94.3/96.1 with a 1 wk delay.

<sup>19</sup> If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. <sup>20</sup> Remember the word that I said to you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours.

### John 15:19-20



WELCOME TO  
**Calvary**  
BAPTIST CHURCH

Please complete this tab, tear it off and drop it in an offering plate.

- Please update my information
- Please contact me about membership

### I am a:

- First Time Guest
- Guest
- Member

Name

Address

City

State/Zip

Male  Female

Married  Single

Birthdate (mm/dd/yy)

Home Phone

Cell Phone

Spouse

Spouse's Birthdate (mm/dd/yy)

### Children:

Name / Date of Birth

Name / Date of Birth

Name / Date of Birth

Name / Date of Birth

Please complete the additional information on the back of this tab, if applicable.