

ACTS

Staying On Mission in a Healthy Church

Acts 6:1-7

Context – A Burgeoning Church

2:41 – 3,000 added

2:47 – The Lord added to their number daily...

4:4 – Many believed; number of men grew to 5,000...

5:14 – More and more men and women believed in the Lord and were added to their number...

6:1 – The disciples were increasing in number...

But _____ bring _____ ...

Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution.

Acts 6:1

A necessary lesson for church leaders:

A healthy _____ is necessary for a healthy, growing _____.

A couple of necessary lessons for church members:

Your _____ can be legitimate and your response to that concern still be _____.

(Phil. 2:14)

Not every _____ or _____ in the church is a result of _____. Learn to show _____.

And even if/when sin is the cause, practice _____ and _____.

Things Healthy Churches Do:

² *And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. ³ Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. ⁴ But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word."* ⁵ *And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. ⁶ These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them.*

Acts 6:2-6

A healthy church will be _____ to its _____.

What was the tool that God used to bring growth to the church?

What was the tool that God used to protect, empower, and embolden the church?

Would there even be a church without either?

Anything that threatens _____ derails, or at least detracts from, mission.

A healthy church will effectively _____ and _____.

Things that aren't _____ important are not _____.

Godly _____ are more important than good _____, but ...

A healthy church will structure itself for _____ and _____.

_____ have the biblical _____ of _____ and _____.

Prioritizing _____

Practicing _____

Gathering and _____ the flock

_____ have the biblical _____ of meeting _____.

_____ for members

_____ ministry

_____ unity

_____ have the authority and responsibility of _____.

By _____ it

By _____ it

By _____ it

At every other point of significant challenge to the early church, _____ was the ultimate outcome. Once again that proves to be the result:

⁷ *And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.*

Acts 6:7

Dr. Paul Thompson
Calvary Baptist Church
May 1, 2022

Membership Matters

Wednesday, May 4 | 5:45pm | Parlor

If you are considering membership at Calvary, please join us for this Membership Matters class.

New Grounded in the Faith Class

Grounded in the Faith is a course based on Ken Erisman's book that will address topics that are foundational to the Christian faith. This field-tested guide to growth in the Christian faith covers important topics such as justification, overcoming temptation, sanctification, evidence for the inspiration of the Bible, the value of prayer, the guidance of God, the Trinity, the uniqueness of Christ, and the attributes of God.

It is designed for believers of all levels of maturity. New Christians will begin building a Biblically-based foundation in theology and in practicing their faith. Those who have followed Christ for many years will sharpen their understanding of key Biblical principles that will aid in evangelism and discipleship.

If this is a training you would be interested in committing to for a season, please email grounded@calvarydothan.com and let us know. We will structure the format and times once we assess the interest.

Mission Trip Opportunity

Portland, Oregon | July 9-16, 2022

The mission team will help with VBS and outreach in church replant. Cost is \$1300.

Contact Randy Hunt at randy@calvarydothan.com for more information or to sign up.

Meals on Wheels Volunteers Needed

Meals on Wheels primarily provides nutritious meals, a quick safety check and much needed human connection to homebound seniors. This support enables them to remain living in their own homes, where they want to be. If you would like to volunteer to help with this program, contact Janine Ganter at 334-718-3475.

American Red Cross Blood Drive

Tuesday, May 10 | 2-6pm | Parlor

Be the lifeline patients need by giving blood. To make an appointment to donate, visit redcrossblood.org, enter the code 36303 and then choose "Dothan Community-Calvary Baptist Church" for appointment times.

Cake + Dessert Auction | May 22

Join us after worship on May 22 in the ROC for an auction to raise funds for Student camp this summer. If you would like to donate a homemade cake or dessert, please call the church office or email brooke@calvarydothan.com.

Joy Prom

Sunday, May 1 | 5-7pm | Fellowship Center

Joy Prom is a full-scaled prom designed for people ages 13 and older with developmental or physical impairments. Register online at calvarydothan.com.

Vacation Bible School

K5-5th Grade | June 13-17 | 8:30am-12noon

There are MANY volunteer positions still open. Please consider serving at VBS. For more information or to sign up, visit calvarydothan/event/vbs. Volunteer registration will close in May.

Online child registration for VBS is now open at calvarydothan.com.

In his article simply titled "*Deacons*", Matt Smethurst writes about the developing role and office of deacons as seen thru the lens of Acts chapter 6 and the conflict emerging in the early church. He says,

"It's worth noting that the apostles neither dismiss nor minimize the complaint of these Hellenistic, or Grecian, Jews. In fact, they see rectifying the problem as a "duty" (v. 3). And yet, the apostles believe the interests of the whole church—widows included—will be best served through a strategic division of labor. Rather than risk getting distracted from the ministry of the word and prayer, they deputize a separate group to coordinate a resolution to the problem.

Without downplaying the importance of caring for widows, the apostles clarify the focus of their labors. They will devote their best energy to shepherding the church by means of teaching and prayer. Note the play on words, rendered literally:

It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to deacon tables ... But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to deaconing the word. (Acts 6:2, 4)

Read hastily, this might seem rather callous. Do the apostles lack concern for the welfare of the vulnerable? Are they elevating "spiritual" ministry above "practical" ministry—or perhaps not recognizing the latter as real ministry at all? No. By prioritizing Scripture and prayer, the apostles are choosing to stay focused on the whole church's spiritual welfare, even as they affirm the Hellenists' physical needs. In fact, they recognize a fundamental truth: a church whose ministers are chained to the tyranny of the urgent—which so often shows up in "tangible problems"—is a church removing its heart to strengthen its arm. It's a kind of slow-motion suicide.

... In light of the task entrusted to the seven, and the underlying conflict it was meant to solve, it's clear that deacons should be those who muffle shockwaves, not make them reverberate further. Contentious persons make poor deacons, for they only compound the kind of headaches deacons are meant to relieve. The best deacons, then, are far more than business managers or handymen. They are believers with fine-tuned "conflict radars." They love solutions more than drama and rise to respond, in creatively constructive ways, to promote the harmony of the whole."

He concludes by saying,

"A church without effective deacons may exhibit signs of health for a while, but over time its health will suffer. We rob ourselves of the benefits of God's revealed wisdom when we either unduly elevate the role of deacons (say, to pseudo-elders) or unduly reduce their role (say, to glorified janitors). Biblically understood, deacons are a cavalry of servants, deputized to execute the elders' vision by coordinating various ministries. When deacons flourish, the whole congregation wins."

May God bless us with flourishing deacons and an ever-healthier church!

Pastor Paul Thompson

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

May 1, 2022

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.

May 1, 2022



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/.

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

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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...

April 24
Life Groups: 500
10:00 Worship: 597
Hispanic Church: 124
Grace City Church (NY): 30

THE PEOPLE GAVE...

General Fund
Given April 24: \$40,453
Y-T-D Budget
Surplus (Deficit): \$18,817.48
Annie Armstrong: \$53,222

DAILY SCRIPTURE READING

Sunday, May 1:
Ex 25, Jn 4, Prv 1, 2 Cor 13
Monday, May 2:
Ex 26, Jn 5, Prov 2, Gal 1
Tuesday, May 3:
Ex 27, Jn 6, Prv 3, Gal 2
Wednesday, May 4:
Ex 28, Jn 7, Prv 4, Gal 3
Thursday, May 5:
Ex 29, Jn 8, Prv 5, Gal 4
Friday, May 6:
Ex 30, Jn 9, Prv 6, Gal 5
Saturday, May 7:
Ex 31, Jn 10, Prv 7, Gal 6

Midweek Schedule

5:15pm Midweek Meal, Fellowship Center
6:00pm Midweek Worship, Sanctuary
Preschool, Birth-K5, Preschool Building
Children, Grades 1-5, ROC
Students, Grades 6-12, Student Room
7:00pm Adult Choir

4 Ways to Give

- Give online by using the MobileMission app for Apple or Android or go to 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
Patrick Lima.....Worship
Tommy Perry.....Community

STAFF ON CALL

Sunday, May 1:
Randy Hunt | 334-791-7986
Saturday, May 7:
Randy Hunt | 334-791-7986
Sunday, May 8:
Randy Hunt | 334-791-7986

SERMON SCHEDULE

Wednesday, May 4 | 6pm
Genesis: The Shrewdness of Joseph
Genesis 47:13-26
Message by Paul Thompson

Sunday, May 8 | 10:00am
Acts: The Gospel of the Old Testament
Acts 6:8-8:3
Message by Paul Thompson

Wednesday, May 11 | 6pm
Genesis: The Last Acts of Jacob
Genesis 47:27-31
Message by Paul Thompson

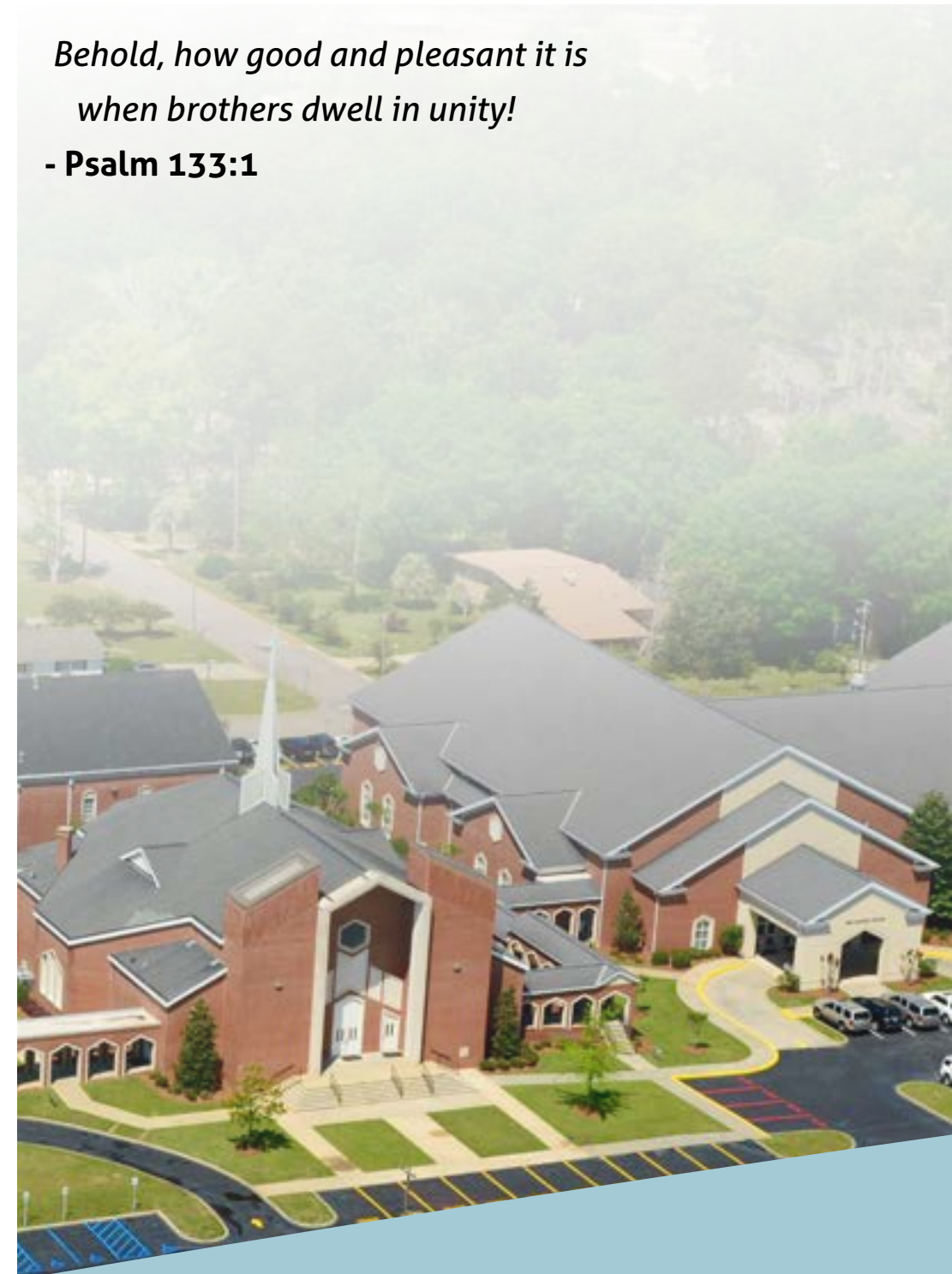
Sunday, May 15 | 10:00am
Acts: Salvaton and the Spirit
Acts 8:4-25
Message by Paul Thompson

Sunday Morning Schedule

8:00am Call to Prayer, Sanctuary
8:30am Life Group
10:00am Worship, Fellowship Center
Kid's Worship, Grades 1-5,
Chapel (except 1st Sunday)
11:00am Worship Broadcast on JoyFM
94.3/96.1 with a 1 wk delay.

Behold, how good and pleasant it is
when brothers dwell in unity!

- Psalm 133:1



WELCOME TO
Calvary
BAPTIST CHURCH