

The Alien Word

Acts 17:16-34

We're not in **Berea** anymore ...

"... *these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so ...*" (Acts 17:11)

Even in **Thessalonica** ...

"... *he reasoned with them from the Scriptures, explaining and proving that it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead, and saying, "This Jesus, whom I proclaim to you, is the Christ."* (Acts 17:2b-3)

Athens is different ...

A "Berean" culture" is _____ to the Gospel.

A "Thessalonian" culture is _____ towards the Gospel.

An "Athenian" culture is _____ of the Gospel.

Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols. (Acts 17:16)

Athens, though the _____/_____ capitol of the world, was thoroughly _____.

The Athenians for the most part were " _____", but had no sense of _____ or the _____.

Paul addressed 3 groups:

The Jews ...

The Epicureans ...

The Stoics ...

Paul recognizes a **unique opportunity**:

Now all the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there would spend their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new. (Acts 17:21)

Paul's message on Mars Hill:

There is a God, and this is _____ He is and _____ He is like ...

God is both _____ you seek and _____ you seek ...

No longer able to claim _____, your only right response is _____ ...

The *sine qua non* of his message was the _____.

What is **missing** from Paul's message?

What are our **takeaways** then?

The *weight* of the _____ must necessarily precede the *worth* of the _____.

Before Paul could *communicate* the Gospel, he had to _____ the Gospel.

There is no understanding the good news of Jesus and his resurrection unless there is a _____.

Start the conversation at the right place and pray that it will continue to the right conclusion...

*Dr. Paul Thompson
Calvary Baptist Church
August 21, 2022*

Bible Skills Thrills & Drills | Grades 4-6 | Sundays @ 6pm

We're excited to offer Bible Skills, Drills, & Thrills on Sunday evenings for Grades 4-6! This is a curriculum that offers activities to appeal to all children as they develop valuable Bible skills. Our first meeting is this Sunday evening at 6pm. Meetings will take place in the Recreation Outreach Center, Rooms 300-302 on the 2nd floor. Make plans to join us! For more information email Joann Bruley, joann.bruley@yahoo.com.

American Red Cross Blood Drive

Tuesday, August 25 | 2-6pm | Parlor

Be the lifeline patients need by giving blood. To make an appointment to donate, visit redcrossblood.org, enter your zip code, and look for the Calvary Baptist Church listing.

Elder Nominations

Calvary is accepting elder nominations during August. Nomination forms are in the Fellowship Center Foyer and can be placed in the offering boxes inside the Fellowship Center.

Facilitators Needed for DivorceCare and GriefShare

DivorceCare is a safe place where caring people come alongside you as you find healing from the pain of separation or divorce. At this 13-week, video-based support group program, you'll find helpful counsel to manage the emotional turmoil and practical tools for decision making.

calvarydothan.com/divorcecare

It may be hard for you to feel optimistic about the future right now. If you've lost a spouse, child, family member, or friend, you've probably found there are not many people who understand the deep hurt you feel. This can be a confusing time when you feel isolated and have many questions about things you've never faced before. GriefShare groups meet weekly to help you face these challenges and move toward rebuilding your life.

calvarydothan.com/griefshare

If you would like to help with either of these ministries, please contact the church office.

Midweek Meal Cook Needed

Calvary is in need of a Midweek Meal cook. If you or someone you know is interested, email Charles Uptain at charles@calvarydothan.com for more information.

Senior Adult Trip to Celebrators Conference

October 10-13 | Pigeon Forge, TN

Cost is \$375 per person and includes conference, lodging with breakfast, and transportation. Deadline to register is Sunday, August 28. Contact the church office to register.

Calvary Kids Ministry

We're almost there! Our team is nearly full, but we're still looking for a few more godly men and women to join our team to make disciples among our elementary boys and girls.

Kids Worship Leaders | Sundays at 10am

1st and 2nd Grade | Wednesday Evenings at 6pm

Reach out to Zach in person, email zach@calvarydothan.com, or call or text, 334-733-6326.

Women's Bible Study

Join us for God of Freedom - a ten-week Bible study on Exodus 19-40 by Jen Wilkin. We have two time options available: Sundays, beginning September 11, at 4:30pm in the Kids Worship Room, and Tuesdays, beginning September 13, at 9am in the Kids Worship Room. Cost is \$25 which includes the book and access to stream the video talks by Jen Wilkin. Register online at calvarydothan.com. Childcare is available on Sundays only by registration.

Women's Coffee and Connect

Join us Sunday, September 18, at 3pm in the Parlor for Women's Coffee and Connect. We will enjoy food and fellowship as we discuss the topic of generosity and how it impacts our actions and lives as women of God.

6 Tips for Sharing Christ with Skeptics (abridged)

By Dan Dewitt

... Evangelism in every setting should include both an affirmation of what the gospel is and a defense against certain objections, attacks, and misunderstandings. Without this balanced approach, you'll be tempted to abdicate a biblical foundation in an effort to establish some elusive common ground.

1. Present Truth as Knowable

Christians can easily grow intimidated when sharing the gospel with the "intelligentsia." Yet this shouldn't be the case, for when it comes to describing reality, the Christian worldview offers more than most people realize.

Only Christianity provides a reasonable explanation for reason itself.

2. Present God as He Reveals Himself

Don't dilute God in order to make him more marketable. Don't propagate idolatry. Present the sovereign God of the Bible as the key to understanding the human narrative.

3. Present Christ as Savior

The human epic is stained by guilt, shame, and regret. Even if some deny the reality of God, they can't functionally deny the existence of guilt. When we declare the gospel to skeptics, we speak to their innate knowledge of God and their sense of moral guilt.

But guilt is only a symptom. Sin and separation from God are the true problems—and grace the only antidote. Our evangelism of even the smartest skeptics, then, should begin and end with a simple gospel presentation.

4. Present Scripture as Authoritative

... don't compromise the trustworthiness of the Bible in word or attitude in order to placate a skeptic's objections. As you evangelize, remember where your authority is found.

Do not doubt that the gospel's power, on the authority of God's revelation, can do the same for those to whom you minister (Rom. 1:16; 1 Cor. 1:18).

5. Present Regeneration as Necessary

Sharing Christ with anyone—skeptics included—means shining the light of the gospel into the darkness of Satan's domain. If you do it in your own power, you'll fail. Like the apostle Paul, we should pray for our audience, that the eyes of their hearts might be enlightened to see the beauty of gospel grace (Eph. 1:18). Without the Spirit's work, ours is in vain.

6. Present Yourself as Humble

Superior attitudes should be remedied by taking seriously the Bible's best-known verse about defending the faith: "But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect" (1 Pet. 3:15).

As we present Christian truth, we point others to Jesus, truth and grace incarnate. When Christ is Lord, and when we're humble, we've found the sweet spot for evangelizing skeptics. When we understand the sovereignty of God, the authority of the Bible, and our need of the Spirit due to our fallenness, we're well on our way to God-honoring evangelism with atheists and agnostics.

You can read the entire article here: <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/sharing-christ-skeptics/>

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

August 21, 2022

Please complete this tab, tear it off and drop it in an offering plate, or in the boxes by the exits.

- Please update my information
- Please contact me about membership

I am a:

- First Time Guest
- Attender
- 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.

August 21, 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.

 calvarydothan.com

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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...

August 14
Life Groups: 539
10:00 Worship: 714
Hispanic Church: 126
Grace City Church (NY): 30

THE PEOPLE GAVE...

General Fund
Given August 14: \$36,748.01
Y-T-D Budget
Surplus (Deficit): (\$43,889.06)

DAILY SCRIPTURE READING

Sunday, August 21:
Jos 6:6-27, Ps 135-136, Is 66, Mt 14

Monday, August 22:
Jos 7, Ps 137-138, Jer 1, Mt 15

Tuesday, August 23:
Jos 8, Ps 139, Jer 2, Mt 16

Wednesday, August 24:
Jos 9, Ps 140-141, Jer 3, Mt 17

Thursday, August 25:
Jos 10, Ps 142-143, Jer 4, Mt 18

Friday, August 26:
Jos 11, Ps 144, Jer 5, Mt 19

Saturday, August 27:
Jos 12-13, Ps 145, Jer 6, Mt 20

Midweek Schedule

6:00pm Midweek Worship, Sanctuary
Preschool, Birth-K5, Preschool Building
Children, Grades 1-5, Kids Worship Room
Students, Grades 6-12, Student Room

7:00pm Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room

4 Ways to Give

- Give online by going to calvarydothan.com/give-online/.
- 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.....Missions

STAFF ON CALL

Sunday, August 21:
Joyce Alexander | 334-798-4791

Saturday, August 27:
Dan Tankersley | 334-655-8765

Sunday, August 28:
Dan Tankersley | 334-655-8765

SERMON SCHEDULE

Wednesday, August 24 | 6pm
The Exodus: The Person, Promise, and Power of God
Exodus 3: The Great I AM
Message by Paul Thompson

Sunday, August 28 | 10am
Acts: The Sovereignty of God and the Confidence of the Gospel
Acts 18:1-23
Message by Paul Thompson

Wednesday, August 31 | 6pm
The Exodus: The Person, Promise, and Power of God
Exodus 4: The Staff of God
Message by Paul Thompson

Sunday, September 4 | 10am
Acts: Baptism and the Spirit
Acts 18:24-19:10
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.

Because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

- Acts 17:31



WELCOME TO

Calvary

BAPTIST CHURCH