

What/Who is Your God?

Acts 19:21-41

The _____ was having an _____ in Ephesus and the surrounding area.
“...*God’s word continued to increase and prevail mightily.*” Acts 19:20

Demetrius’ _____ against Paul and the Way (v. 24)
Demetrius’ _____ against Paul (v.26)
Demetrius’ _____ of a riot (v. 25)
The _____ of the Crowd (v. 28)
The _____ of the town clerk (v. 35-41)

Why was Paul in Ephesus?

He had been _____ by Jesus to go to the Gentiles.
The _____ directed him.

He was fulfilling the _____ that we find in Matthew 28:20.

He was there to share the Gospel with people who were _____.

What is YOUR God?

Isaiah 44:12-17
Psalm 115:4-8

What is an idol for you today?

If you had to define what an idol was, how would you define it?

What is the Root/Basic Cause of Idols?

Sin in its truest form is _____ and is the result of a _____.
(Augustine)

Idols first and foremost _____. (Mark 7:21-23)

Ezekiel 14:3
Romans 1:24-25

WHO is your God?

“...*you thought that I was one like yourself.*” Psalm 50:21

God is not as we are. He is not defined by us.

The greatest way that we can know who God is, is by knowing His word!

Exodus 20:3,5
Deuteronomy 6:5

Do you love God that fully and completely?

There is no room in our relationship with God for _____.

1 John 2:15

The key to turning away from the allurements of this world that can become idols in our lives is to fill that desire in our hearts with a _____ and _____.

What is the greatest affection in your life?

What is the greatest passion of your life?

What is the greatest love of your life?

Psalm 107:9
John 4:13-15 (Samaritan woman at the well)
“*I suppose I must go and look for another stream... There is no other stream*”
Jill’s conversation with Aslan from the Silver Chair by C.S. Lewis – John 14:6

WHAT NOW?

Membership Matters

Dinner with the Pastor

Monday, September 26 | 6:15pm | Parlor

Meaningful Membership

Wednesday, October 5 | 5:45pm | Parlor

If you are considering membership at Calvary, please join us for Dinner with the Pastor and the Meaningful Membership class. Contact Angie in the church office or email angie@calvarydothan.com to RSVP for dinner and childcare. Childcare is provided for 6 week olds-5th grade.

Women’s Coffee and Connect

Location Change: Now in the ROC

Join us today at 3pm 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.

Prayers of the Righteous

Wednesday, September 21 | 6pm | Dothan Civic Center

The Prayers of the Righteous is a city-wide prayer gathering for Christians all over Dothan to meet together to pray. Calvary will not have our regular Midweek service this night but encourages everyone to attend this prayer service.

Senior Adult Mid-Month Service & Lunch

Thursday, September 22 | 11am | Sanctuary

Zach Daniels will be preaching the service. Lunch will be served in the Fellowship Center immediately following the service.

Calvary’s Resource Center is Now Open

Looking for solid resources for discipleship and Christian living? Look no further than the Calvary Resource Center. New resources and merchandise are added weekly so be sure to stop by often.

The Resource Center will be open Sunday mornings and by appointment. Make an appointment at calendly.com/calvaryresourcecenter/browse.

Calvary Preschool Needs You

We are growing in Preschool and we have a few volunteer opportunities.

- 2 teachers (serving every other month) during Life Group
- 2 teachers for Wednesday evening
- Life Group Substitute Teachers

To volunteer or to get more information, contact Joyce Alexander in the church office or email joyce@calvarydothan.com.

Prayer and Praise Service | October 16

The staff is seeking stories of answered prayer to highlight in our upcoming Prayer and Praise Service. If you have an answered prayer you would like to share with the congregation, please call the church office or email justin@calvarydothan.com.

Fall Family Day

CornDodgers Farm | October 9 | 3pm | \$10 per person

Load up the family and let’s meet up at CornDodgers Farm for a fun-filled time of fellowship. Concessions will be open for you to purchase. Check out their webpage for all activities and food options, <https://corn Dodgers farm.com>.

Facilitators Needed for DivorceCare and GriefShare

DivorceCare is a 13-week, video-based support group program that helps those going through a divorce to find counsel to manage the emotional turmoil and gain practical tools for decision making.

calvarydothan.com/divorcecare

GriefShare is a 13-week, video based support group program that helps those who are grieving to face challenges and move toward rebuilding your life.

calvarydothan.com/griefshare

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

Simply Divine: Worshiping a God Who Lacks Nothing

Excerpted from article by Michael Reeves, President, Union School of Theology

One of the key moments of God’s self-revelation in Scripture happens at the burning bush, when Moses asks God, “What is your name?” God answers, “I am who I am” (Exodus 3:14).

Here we see that God does not receive his name, identity, or existence from anyone or anything else. He does not depend on anything to be who he is. He simply and eternally is. It is a truth picked up many times in Scripture, for example in John’s Gospel, where we see that the Word (who again calls himself “I am,” John 8:48) does not *acquire* life but has “life in himself” (John 5:26).

This is why Paul can tell the Athenians, “The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, nor is he served by human hands, *as though he needed anything*” (Acts 17:24–25). The living God isn’t in any need. He doesn’t need anything to be better, to be more God, or to be more fully himself. He depends on nothing. He has fullness of being. He has life in himself.

Theologians call this the doctrine of God’s self-existence or *aseity* (from the Latin *a se*, meaning “from/of himself”). From this characteristic of God, we will see, flows all the graciousness of the gospel.

In this lack of need, God is utterly different from idols.

In Acts 19, in Ephesus, Demetrius the idol-maker makes a striking admission. He complains that if Paul is allowed to say that man-made gods are no gods at all, then there is danger not only that this trade of ours may come into disrepute but also that the temple of the great goddess Artemis may be counted as nothing, and that she may even be deposed from her magnificence, she whom all Asia and the world worship. (Acts 19:27)

In other words, the divine majesty of Artemis is *dependent* on the service of her worshipers. For all her apparent magnificence, she needs her minions. In herself she is empty and parasitic.

In absolute contrast, God does not need the world in order to satisfy himself or to be himself. The divine majesty of God is not dependent on the world. God did not create the world because of any lack in himself. He created because he was so happily self-existent, so bursting with benevolence. God is so overflowing, superabundantly full of life in himself that he delighted to spread his goodness.

Because of God’s blessed aseity, we can know that the very creation is a work of grace. Grace, then, is not merely his kindness to those who have sinned. Before there was sin, God brought creation into being *out of grace*. With the self-existent God, love is not a reaction. God’s love is creative. He gives life and being as a free gift, for his very life, being, and goodness are yeasty, spreading out that there might be more that is truly good.

Where idols *need* worship and service and sustenance, God needs nothing. He has life in himself — and so much so that he is brimming over. His glory is overflowing, radiant, and self-giving. Because God is self-existent and does not need us, he relates to us by sheer grace. No other god can do that.

(<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/simply-divine>)

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

September 18, 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.

September 18, 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...

September 11

Life Groups: 529
10:00 Worship: 633
Hispanic Church: 120
Grace City Church (NY): 30

THE PEOPLE GAVE...

General Fund

Given September 11: \$36,714.17
Y-T-D Budget
Surplus (Deficit): (\$43,889.06)

DAILY SCRIPTURE READING

Sunday, September 18:

Jgs 15, Acts 19, Jer 28, Mk 14

Monday, September 19:

Jgs 16, Acts 20, Jer 29, Mk 15

Tuesday, September 20:

Jgs 17, Acts 21, Jer 30-31, Mk 16

Wednesday, September 21:

Jgs 18, Acts 22, Jer 32, Ps 1-2

Thursday, September 22:

Jgs 19, Acts 23, Jer 33, Ps 3-4

Friday, September 23:

Jgs 20, Acts 24, Jer 34, Ps 5-6

Saturday, September 24:

Jgs 21, Acts 25, Jer 35, Ps 7-8

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, September 18:

Joyce Alexander | 334-798-4791

Saturday, September 24:

Dan Tankersley | 334-655-8765

Sunday, September 25:

Dan Tankersley | 334-655-8765

SERMON SCHEDULE

Wednesday, September 21 | 6pm

Community-Wide Prayer Service

The Prayers of the Righteous

Dothan Civic Center

Sunday, September 25 | 10am

Acts: The Life-Giving Gospel

Acts 20:1-12

Message by Paul Thompson

Wednesday, September 28 | 6pm

Exodus 7: When God Hardens Hearts

Message by Paul Thompson

Sunday, October 2 | 10am

Acts: My Life Purpose

Acts 20:13-38

Message by Don Mills

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.

And you see and hear that not only in Ephesus but in almost all of Asia this Paul has persuaded and turned away a great many people, saying that gods made with hands are not gods.

Acts 19:26



WELCOME TO
Calvary
BAPTIST CHURCH