

# Law, Grace, and the Gospel

Acts 21:17-36

## Part 1: Paul’s Mixed Greeting in Jerusalem – v. 17-26

Context: Pentecost and a bifurcated Church ...

The good: They \_\_\_\_\_ God for the advance of the \_\_\_\_\_!

The bad: They \_\_\_\_\_ Paul for misinformation they received from other Jews.

The ugly: They proposed a \_\_\_\_\_ ‘solution’ that involved \_\_\_\_\_ rites and \_\_\_\_\_ vows.

*The question: Should Jewish believers continue to observe Jewish cultural practices?*

## Part 2: Paul’s Assault and Arrest – v. 27-36

2 accusations ...

1 result ...

A glaring contrast ...

A striking similarity ...

### 4 Lessons:

\_\_\_\_\_ via \_\_\_\_\_ discredits individuals, diminishes the church, and damages the Gospel.

*See: Eph 4:1-6*

We must never sacrifice \_\_\_\_\_ for “\_\_\_\_\_”.

*See: 1 Cor. 1:10; 2 Cor. 11:4; Gal. 1:8*

\_\_\_\_\_ requires us to sometimes sacrifice our own \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

*“A truly emancipated spirit such as Paul’s is not in bondage to its own emancipation.” (F.F. Bruce)*

*See: 1 Cor. 9:20-23*

The \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ cannot be removed.

*See: 1 Cor 1:21-25*

## Next week – the first of Paul’s 5 Defenses

Dr. Paul Thompson  
Calvary Baptist Church  
October 16, 2022

## Night of Prayer and Praise

October 16 | 6pm | Fellowship Center

Join us for a Night of Prayer and Praise. You will hear testimonies of answered prayers, sing songs of praise, and boldly approach the throne of grace. Childcare is available for babies-Kindergarten.

## Member Meeting

Wednesday, October 26 | 6pm | Sanctuary

All members are encouraged to attend this important meeting. D-groups and Midweek Bible Study will begin after the meeting at approximately 6:15.

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

Thursday, November 10 | 11:00 am | Sanctuary

One of our elders, Eric Donop, 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 immediately following the service in the Fellowship Center.

If you would like to include a picture of you or your loved one who served in the military, please call Angie or Caren in the church office.

## Presentation of Elder Candidates

The council of elders are presenting three men to the congregation as elder candidates. Tyler Campbell, Jed Downs, and David Glover were nominated by the congregation in August, vetted in September by the council of elders, and now the church is asked to provide written, signed comments relating to these three men during the month of October. Email comments to charles@calvarydothan.com or drop them off in the church office.

## SABA Fall Food Drive

Kickoff fall with a food drive for YOUR Ministry Center. This food drive for non-perishable foods will run through the entire month of October. Drop boxes have been placed in the ROC, Fellowship Center Foyer, and the Children and Preschool areas. Thank you in advance for your generosity in serving our community.

## Student DNow Weekend

Stranded | November 11-13 | 6th-12th Grade

Cost to register is \$100 (additional students/siblings \$85 each). Register online at calvarydothan.com. The deadline is Sunday, October 30.

## Membership Matters Schedule

Dinner with the Pastor | Monday, November 7 | 6:15 pm | Parlor

Meaningful Membership | Wednesday, November 16 | 5:45 pm | Parlor

If you are considering membership at Calvary, join us for Dinner with the Pastor (introduction to membership) and our Meaningful Membership Class. Both classes are required for membership. To sign up or for more information, call Angie in the church office or email angie@calvarydothan.com.

## October Missions Spotlight

Steve and Toni Chambers (Neighborhood Church UWS)

Steve and Toni moved to NYC in the Fall of 2017 with the intent of planting a church in the city. By God’s grace that became a reality and Neighborhood Church was born. Steve’s mission for the church is simple: Love God and Love Your Neighbor. If you would like to learn more about the ministry work of the Chambers’ in NYC, you can visit facebook.com/neighborhoodchurchuws or neighborhoodchurchuws.com.

## Fostering Hope (Local Missions Partner)

The leadership of Fostering Hope has a desire to support, encourage, and assist foster families and children of the Wiregrass. Their mission: Fostering hope by sharing Christ’s love with foster families and children of the Wiregrass. If you would like to know more about the ministry work of Fostering Hope you can visit facebook.com/fosteringhopewiregrass or fosteringhopewiregrass.com.

## What is grace?

The first thing that we understand about grace is what it’s not—it’s not something we merit. In fact, if that is all we ever understand about grace, I’m sure God will rejoice that we know His grace is unmerited. So, here’s our working definition of grace—it is *unmerit*.

Paul’s epistle to the Romans sheds light on what we mean when we say that grace is *unmerit*. In 1:18–3:20, the Apostle explains that on the final day, for the first time in our lives, we will be judged in total perfection, in total fairness, in absolute righteousness. Thus, every mouth will be stopped when we stand before the tribunal of God. This should provoke fear in the hearts of fallen people, as condemnation is the only possible sentence for sinful men and women: *“All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (3:23)*.

But those who trust in Christ Jesus have hope, for if we are in Him by faith, we have been “justified freely by His grace.” Note that justification is accomplished not by obligation, but freely through grace on account of the redemption purchased by Jesus alone. There’s no room for boasting, for we are justified not by our works but by grace alone through faith alone.

Romans 4:4-8 is a key passage here:

*Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness, just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works: “Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin.”*

That’s grace. Paul couldn’t say it any other way. To him who works, it’s debt; if you merit something, it means that someone is obligated to pay you. If I hire you as an employee and promise to pay you one hundred dollars if you work eight hours, I must pay you for working the eight hours. I’m not doing you a favor or giving you grace. You’ve earned your pay. You’ve fulfilled the contract, and I’m morally obliged to give you your wages.

With respect to the Lord, we are debtors who cannot pay. That’s why the Bible speaks of redemption in economic language—we were bought with a price (1 Cor. 6:20). Only someone else—Christ—can pay our debt. That’s grace. It’s not our good works that secure our rescue but only the works of Christ. It’s His merit, not ours. We don’t merit anything. He grants us His merit by grace, and we receive it only by faith. The essence of grace is its voluntary free bestowal. As soon as it’s a requirement, it’s no longer grace.

Grace should never cease to amaze us. God has an absolute, pure, holy standard of justice. That’s why we cling with all our might to the merit of Jesus Christ. He alone has the merit to satisfy the demands of God’s justice, and He gives it freely to us. We haven’t merited it. There’s nothing in us that elicits the Lord’s favor that leads to our justification. It’s pure grace.

- R.C. Sproul

Taken from: <https://www.ligonier.org/learn/articles/what-grace>

## 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 16, 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

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

October 16, 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/](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).

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

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

[@calvarydothan](https://www.instagram.com/calvarydothan)

[/calvarydothan](https://www.facebook.com/calvarydothan)



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 9

Life Groups: 503  
10:00 Worship: 569  
Hispanic Church: 114  
Grace City Church (NY): 30

### THE PEOPLE GAVE...

General Fund

Given October 9: \$43,410.67  
Y-T-D Budget  
Surplus (Deficit): (\$27,014.79)

### DAILY SCRIPTURE READING

Sunday, October 16:

1 Sam 21-22, 1 Cor 3, Ezk 1, Ps 37

Monday, October 17:

1 Sam 23, 1 Cor 4, Ezk 2, Ps 38

Tuesday, October 18:

1 Sam 24, 1 Cor 5, Ezk 3, Ps 39

Wednesday, October 19:

1 Sam 25, 1 Cor 6, Ezk 4, Ps 40-41

Thursday, October 20:

1 Sam 26, 1 Cor 7, Ezk 5, Ps 42-43

Friday, October 21:

1 Sam 27, 1 Cor 8, Ezk 6, Ps 44

Saturday, October 22:

1 Sam 28, 1 Cor 9, Ezk 7, Ps 45

### 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/](http://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, October 16:

Joyce Alexander | 334-798-4791

Saturday, October 22:

Dan Tankersley | 334-655-8765

Sunday, October 23:

Dan Tankersley | 334-655-8765

### SERMON SCHEDULE

Wednesday, October 19 | 6pm

Exodus 10: Why the Plagues?

Message by Paul Thompson

Sunday, October 23 | 10am

Acts: What's Your Story?

Acts 21:37-22:22

Message by Paul Thompson

Wednesday, October 26 | 6pm

Exodus 11: The Dreadful Wonders of God

Message by Paul Thompson

Sunday, October 30 | 10am

Acts: Tested and Proven -

The Unshakeable Faith of Paul

Acts 22:22-23:11

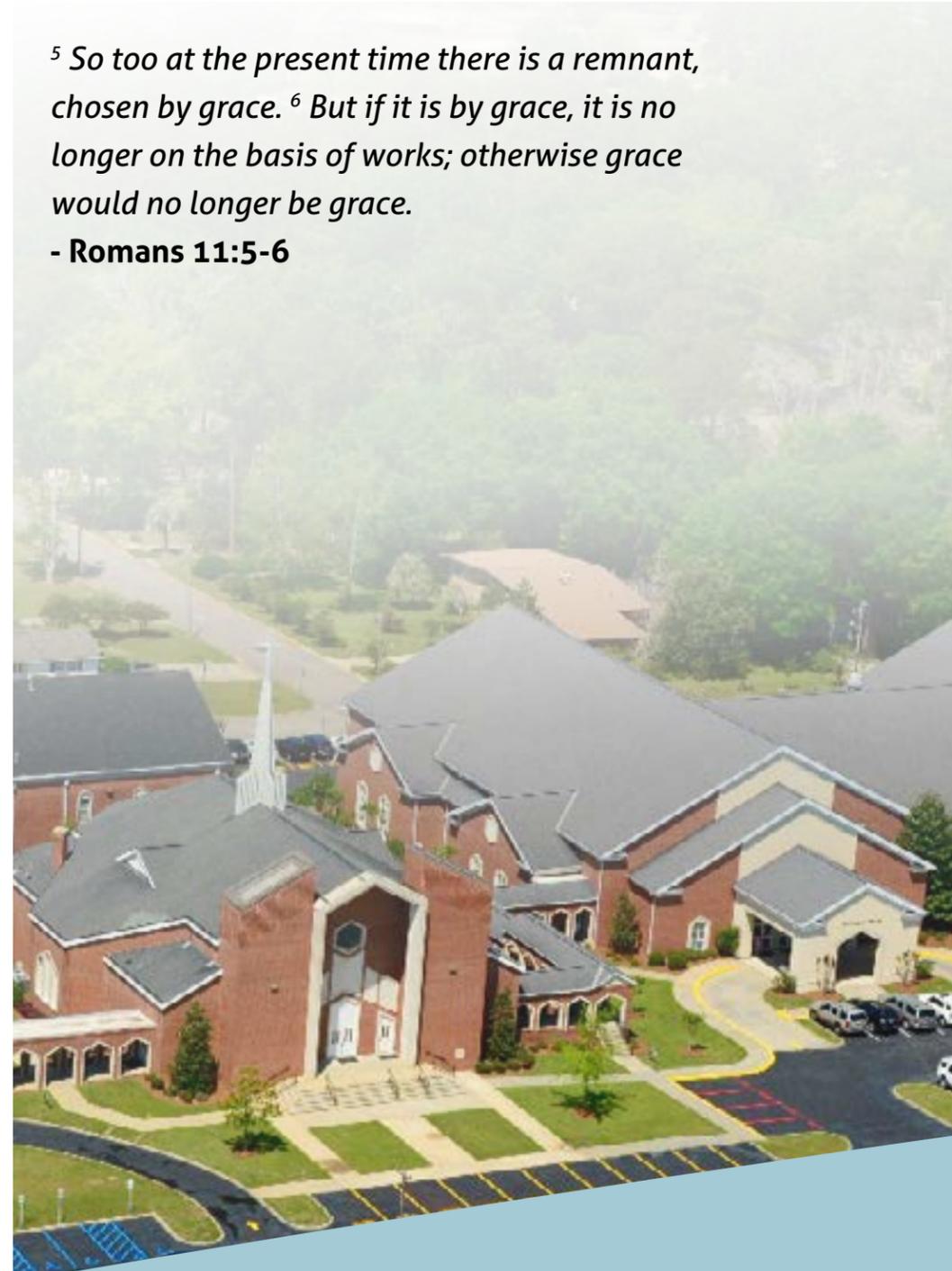
Message by Paul Thompson

### 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.

<sup>5</sup> So too at the present time there is a remnant, chosen by grace. <sup>6</sup> But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works; otherwise grace would no longer be grace.

- Romans 11:5-6



WELCOME TO  
**Calvary**  
BAPTIST CHURCH