

The Center of His Will

Acts 27

Paul, the prisoner shipped to Rome: Acts 27:1-8

Paul is finally headed to the place where he _____ go – Rome! (Acts 23:11)

But just because he is following God’s will does not mean the journey will be _____ or without _____.

What began so positively is about to take a very negative turn ...

The storm rolls in: Acts 27:9-20

Winter is approaching and Paul (a seasoned traveler) knows the _____ of continuing the journey.

He _____ (not *prophesies*) what is *likely* to happen if they continue (27:10), but his words are dismissed.

Faith is not _____.

Faith does not preclude _____.

The storm is so intense that the men aboard lost all _____ of surviving it.

But Paul had the hope that only God’s _____ can give. (Acts 23:11)

God’s promise and Paul’s prophetic encouragement: Acts 27:21-26

You all should have _____ to me, and this situation could have been avoided.

We should be people of _____ and _____.

_____ God and don’t do _____.

But “_____”. Why?

God’s will is _____ and more _____ than ours.

I _____ appear before the emperor.

God will save us _____.

Only the _____ will be lost.

Means and Ends – The Providence of God: Acts 27:27-32

God is interested (and involved in) both the _____ (in this case, getting Paul to Rome) and the _____ (How Paul will get there and what lessons will be learned along the way).

The same is true for us. God is _____ to our sanctification.

God has promised the safe passage of _____ on board. But _____ will that be accomplished?

The answer? _____ and _____.

Some salvation parallels:

Paul’s second message of encouragement: Acts 27:33-38

Take food; regain strength; choose _____.

You can _____ in the _____ even before you see your _____.

Faith operates in the _____, but _____.

Faith thanks God _____.

Shipwreck and the mystery of providence: Acts 27:39-44a

God’s sovereignty and providence surely _____ mean that all happens _____ and without _____ participation.

“... *the answer to the puzzle of divine sovereignty and human responsibility is not to be found in a formula, but in flesh and blood ...*”

So close to the fulfillment of the promise and almost all is nearly _____! (27:42)

But _____ man made a _____ that resulted in the deliverance of _____. (27:43)

- God usually works through _____.
- God works through the ‘_____’ _____ that we make.
- God’s _____ of working are beyond our _____.
- God never _____.

Conclusion – God saw to it: Acts 27:44b

Guaranteeing the _____, God is at work in the _____ (promising, warning, encouraging, changing) so that what He _____ is _____ what _____.

Several final encouragements to us all:

God is in the _____.

We steer our ‘_____’, but God controls the _____.

If you are doing what you know/believe God wants you to do (and particularly if it’s _____), stick with it. (Don’t _____ ship!)

You probably aren’t the _____ person on the ship! God is working in the lives of _____, too! It’s hardly _____ just about _____.

*Dr. Paul Thompson
Calvary Baptist Church
December 4, 2022*

Gift Wrapping for Toy Drive

If you are interested in helping wrap the gifts Calvary donated to the toy drive for Girard Primary, please contact Zach or Brooke in the church office.

Christmas Toy Drive

Calvary is partnering with a local school to provide toys for children this Christmas. If you’d like to donate, please visit calvarydothan.com to view the Amazon wish list. Items can be shipped directly to Calvary. The deadline is Sunday, December 11.

Presentation of Final List of Elder Candidates

The council of elders present Tyler Campbell, Jed Downs, and David Glover as elder candidates. The church will be asked to vote on each man at the end of today’s worship service as required in the church bylaws.

Student Summer Camp 2023

June 9-13 | 6th-12th Grade | Deadline for \$75 Deposit: January 15

Online registration is open for camp next summer! Register soon to reserve a spot for your student.

Sunday Morning Call to Prayer

Sundays | 8-8:15am | Parlor

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.

Calvary Marriage Conference -The Marriage of Your Dreams

4 Sessions - January 8, 15, 22 & 29 | 5pm | Fellowship Center

Dream bigger, love better, and experience a deeper relationship with God and your spouse than ever before. After celebrating 50 years of marriage, pastor and counselor Paul Tripp will help you to discover how in this 4-session video-based conference. Register online at calvarydothan.com.

Christmas at Calvary Schedule

Calvary Christmas | Sunday, December 4 | 6pm | Fellowship Center

Christmas at The Ark | Thursday, December 8 | 5:30-7:30pm

Join other members of your Life Group for this special time of fellowship, fun, and sharing Christmas cheer with the residents of The Ark this Christmas.

Preschool Christmas Party | Wednesday, December 7 | 6pm

Kids EPIC Christmas Cookie Party!

Sunday, December 18 | Kids Worship Room during Life Group hour

Kids and parents, we appeal to you and your kitchens! Please bring a plate of your favorite homemade cookies the morning of the party!

Student Christmas Party | Sunday, December 11 | 5pm | Student Room

Christmas Family Fun Night & Meal | Wednesday, December 14 | Fellowship Center
Meal of chicken fingers and fries begins at 5:30pm with Family Fun Night at 6pm.

Senior Adult Midmonth Worship | Thursday, December 15 | 11am | Fellowship Center
Lunch will immediately follow the service.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service | Saturday, December 24 | 5pm | Fellowship Center

Christmas Day, December 25 | No Life Group | Worship at 11am | Sanctuary |
Childcare for babies-age 3 | No Kids Worship

No Midweek activities on Decemer 21 or 28.

New Year’s Day, January 1 | No Life Group | Worship at 10am | Sanctuary |
Childcare for babies-age 3 | No Kids Worship

When the storms of life wreak havoc on all you know and love, what theological truths anchor your soul? What doctrines do you turn to when the world around you seems to give way under your feet? What truths about God bring you the most comfort when life is uncertain and nothing makes any sense?

Though all of God’s word is essential for us to read, learn, memorize, and study, and though all of God’s word teaches us all that we need to know to weather the storms of life, there is one theological truth that stands out in times of trial and suffering. There is one doctrine that brings everything into perspective and provides comfort and rest for our weary souls.

The sovereignty of God.

- Christina Fox

From: *Are God’s Providence and God’s Sovereignty the Same?* (An interview with John Piper)

“*God’s sovereignty* is his right and power to do all that he decides to do. Job 42:2: “*I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted.*” But notice that nothing in that definition of sovereignty refers to God’s wisdom or God’s plans. It’s just right and power: you have the right and you have the power to do what you decide to do. When he decides to do a thing, he does it, and no one can stop him. That’s *sovereignty*.

Providence, however, includes what sovereignty doesn’t. Providence, as I use the word and as most Christians have used it, is sovereignty in the service of wise purposes. Or you could say providence is *wise and purposeful sovereignty*.

... we have an idiom in English, “see to that.” That’s an interesting idiom, isn’t it? What does it mean? It means, “take the steps to make sure it happens.” In fact, I think that is one of the most helpful paraphrases of God’s acts of providence. It is God’s seeing to everything. Absolutely everything that needs to be done to bring about his purposes, God sees to it that it happens. Isaiah 46:10: “[*I declare*] *the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, ‘My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose.’*” In other words, “I will see to it.” See to it — *pro-videre*. “I will provide. I will see to it that everything works together for the goals that I have for the world.”

Let me close with one example from history that I think is so beautiful. This is Question 27 of the Heidelberg Catechism. The date is 1563.

Question: What do you understand by the providence of God?

Answer: The almighty, everywhere present power of God, whereby, as it were, by his hand, he still upholds heaven and earth with all creatures and so governs them that herbs and grass, rain and drought, fruitful and barren years, meat and drink, health and sickness, riches and poverty, indeed, all things come not by chance, but by his fatherly hand.

That’s a good summary of God’s providence: wise and purposeful sovereignty.”

In today’s message, ***Promise and Warning***, we’ll see how the providential will of God accomplishes his purposes as He works *through*, not *over* our wills by promising, instructing, and warning us. We’ll see how God’s “fatherly hand” is our best source of hope, comfort, and encouragement no matter what we are going through!

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

December 4, 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.

December 4, 2022

December Missions Spotlight

Brett Lamberth

Missioteca, Guatemala

Missioteca is a collection of missional initiatives dedicated to eradicating theological famine in the Global South and ending the water crisis in Guatemala. If you would like to learn more about the ministry work of Missioteca, you can visit [facebook.com/Missioteca](https://www.facebook.com/Missioteca) or www.missioteca.org.

The Ark

Local Missions Partner

The Ark is a place of hope, healing, and help. The mission of The Ark is to nurture the total needs of humanity—mind, body, and soul. Their commitment is to guide individuals so that they can discover their God-given purpose and live out that very purpose. If you would like to learn more about the ministry work of The Ark, you can visit [facebook.com/thearkdothan](https://www.facebook.com/thearkdothan) or www.thearkdothan.org.

 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...

November 27

Life Groups: 420
10:00 Worship: 534
Hispanic Church: 135
Grace City Church (NY): 30

THE PEOPLE GAVE...

General Fund

Given November 27: \$58,064.83
Y-T-D Budget
Surplus (Deficit): \$13,583.71

DAILY SCRIPTURE READING

Sunday, December 4:

1 Kgs 20, 1 Thes 3, Dn 2, Ps 106

Monday, December 5:

1 Kgs 21, 1 Thes 4, Dn 3, Ps 107

Tuesday, December 6:

1 Kgs 22, 1 Thes 5, Dn 4, Ps 108-109

Wednesday, December 7:

2 Kgs 1, 2 Thes 1, Dn 5, Ps 110-111

Thursday, December 8:

2 Kgs 2, 2 Thes 2, Dn 6, Ps 112-113

Friday, December 9:

2 Kgs 3, 2 Thes 3, Dn 7, Ps 114-115

Saturday, December 10:

2 Kgs 4, 1 Tim 1, Dn 8, Ps 116

Midweek Schedule

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

7:00pm Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room

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/how-to-become-a-christian/.

If you would like to view a pdf of today's sermon notes, go to calvarydothan.com/messages.

Ministry Staff

Paul Thompson.....Senior Pastor
Charles Uptain.....Executive Pastor
Dan Tankersley.....Discipleship
Patrick Lima.....Worship
Tommy Perry.....Missions

STAFF ON CALL

Sunday, December 4:

Randy Hunt | 334-791-7986

Saturday, December 10:

Charles Uptain | 334-797-7191

Sunday, December 11:

Reagan Farris | 504-319-6986

SERMON SCHEDULE

Wednesday, December 7 | 6pm

Exodus 17: That Rock Was Christ

Message by Paul Thompson

Sunday, December 11 | 10am

Acts: The Hard Journey of God's Will

Acts 28:1-6

Message by Paul Thompson

Wednesday, December 14

Calvary Family Fun Night

Fellowship Center

Sunday, December 18 | 10am

Acts: Promise and Warning

Acts 27

Message by Paul Thompson

Sunday Morning Schedule

8:00am Call to Prayer, Parlor

8:30am Life Group

10:00am Worship, Fellowship Center

Kid's Worship, Grades 1-5,
Chapel (except 1st Sunday)

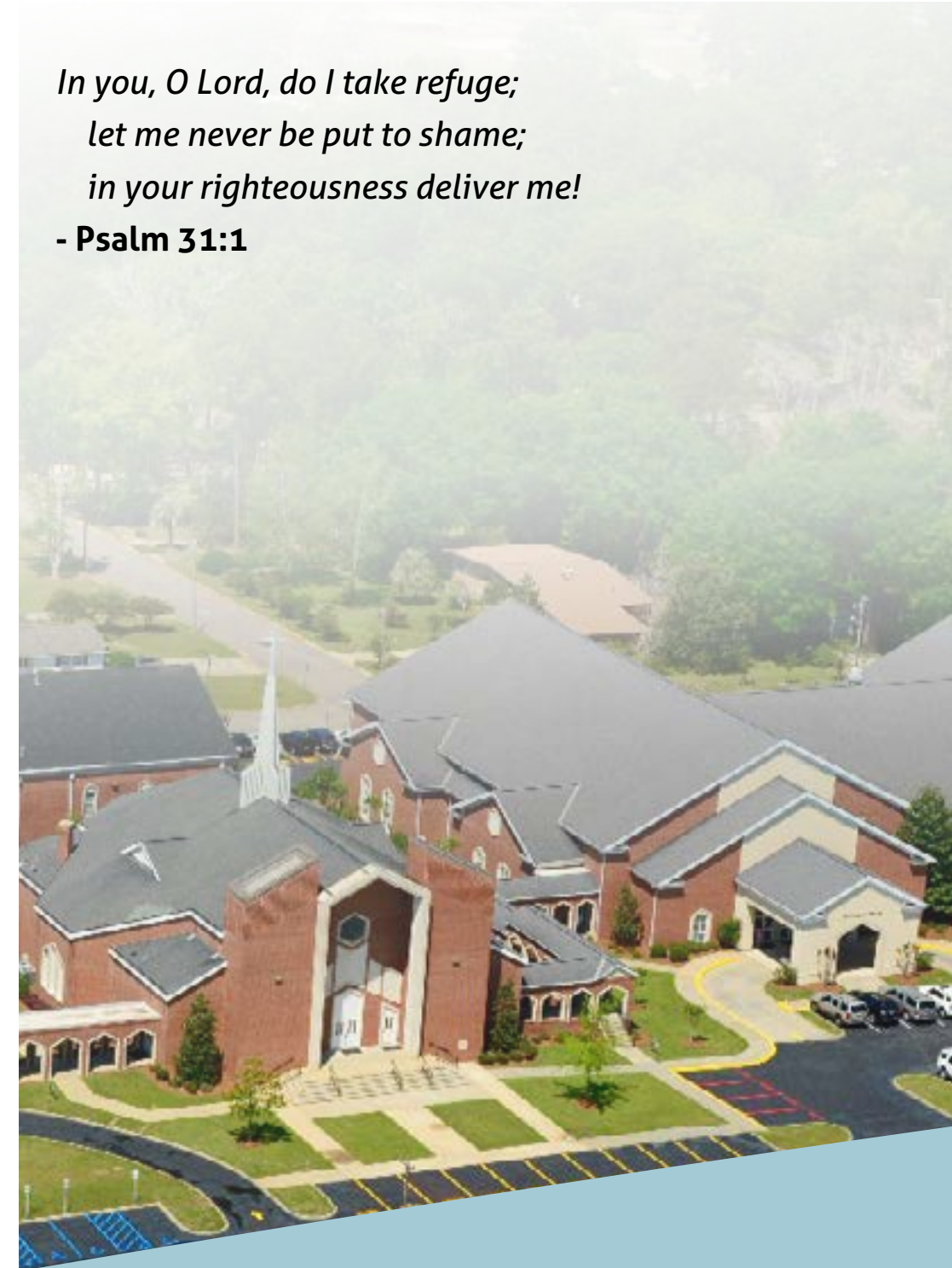
11:00am Worship Broadcast on JoyFM
94.3/96.1 with a 1 wk delay.

In you, O Lord, do I take refuge;

let me never be put to shame;

in your righteousness deliver me!

- Psalm 31:1



WELCOME TO
Calvary
BAPTIST CHURCH