

# God’s Will - Journey and Destination

Acts 28:1-16

## Context: Shipwreck survived

By God’s \_\_\_\_\_, “... all were brought safely to land.” (27:44)

But the \_\_\_\_\_ was not over. Though the \_\_\_\_\_ was Rome, God still had work He was accomplishing \_\_\_\_\_.

If Paul wanted to go to Rome, and God wanted Paul to go to Rome, **why was it so hard** for him to get there?

For His \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_ of the lost ...

For the \_\_\_\_\_ of His people as He taught them to \_\_\_\_\_ and have faith ...

To demonstrate his \_\_\_\_\_ and power over all events and conditions ...

## 2 Object Lessons:

### I. A Snake: Acts 28:1-10

Life isn’t “\_\_\_\_\_”.

Imagine surviving riots, beatings, stonings, and finally shipwreck, only then to be bitten by a snake!

*Paul clearly had a personal theology of “\_\_\_\_\_” that undergirded his life ...*

Our sense of “\_\_\_\_\_” is often just plain wrong.

Justice can’t be measured by \_\_\_\_\_.

None of us (should) want “justice”. We should seek \_\_\_\_\_ instead.

God-caused/allowed pain is \_\_\_\_\_. (2 Cor. 4:8-12)

Paul sees his own physical suffering as a presentation of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Paul’s pain was for the sake of healing \_\_\_\_\_!

*What if your/my suffering was for the \_\_\_\_\_ of someone else? (Particularly their \_\_\_\_\_ sake?)*

People can be really \_\_\_\_\_. (Remember Acts 14:8ff?)

Don’t spend your life seeking \_\_\_\_\_. (Galatians 1:10)

\_\_\_\_\_ opinion is the one that counts.

Be \_\_\_\_\_ He wants you to be. Do \_\_\_\_\_ He wants you to do.

## II. A Ship: Acts 28:11-16

Luke – physician, theologian, historian – had a keen eye for detail. In addition, we know that every word of Scripture is \_\_\_\_\_. Notice this detail: “... *a ship of Alexandria, with the twin gods as a figurehead.*”

The so-called “twin gods” were \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, the sons of Zeus (or Jupiter). Legend/myth credited them with the role of saving those in trouble \_\_\_\_\_or in any \_\_\_\_\_.

We don’t often enough \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ the hand of God in our journey.

What we think are the \_\_\_\_\_ causes in our life often aren’t.

Throughout Paul’s journeys, God has been the \_\_\_\_\_ of his course and conclusion. (And He is ours!)

## For me personally:

Who/what do people see in my life when I’m hurting, treated unfairly, or in distress?

Do they see \_\_\_\_\_ *in* me or the \_\_\_\_\_ *of* me?

Do I view my \_\_\_\_\_ as \_\_\_\_\_ to display Jesus?

*“... it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.”*

*(Paul, in Philippians 1:20-21)*

Have I ever considered the potential \_\_\_\_\_ of my life yielded to God?

Consider what God accomplished of Paul’s life through this long journey to Rome!

How many \_\_\_\_\_ the Gospel?

How many \_\_\_\_\_ to the Gospel?

How many \_\_\_\_\_ the power of the Gospel on display?

If I stay on the course I’m on right now, where will it lead me?

*Dr. Paul Thompson  
Calvary Baptist Church  
December 11, 2022*

# Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions

Calvary’s Goal: \$150,000

100% of your gifts to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering provides missionaries the services they need to live among the unreached peoples they serve. Your generosity sends and sustains missionaries, takes the gospel to the unreached, trains nationals to multiply disciples, meets tangible needs, and transforms lives around the world.

## Christmas at Calvary Schedule

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.  
Childcare available at 6pm for babies-2.

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

## 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!

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

## 2022 Contributions

Contributions for 2022 must be turned in to the Sunday offering by December 25, postmarked by December 31, or brought to the church office by Friday, December 23. The church office will be closed December 26-30.

## 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. Childcare and activities for babies-5th grade are available with registration.

# Let’s be excellent!

2nd Corinthians 8:7 says, “*But since you excel in everything--in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you --see that you also excel in this grace of giving.*”

Calvary Baptist Church has history of generosity – especially for the cause of missions. Every year for as long as I have been part of this church family, we have exceeded our goals for missional giving. This year, our goal for the Lottie Moon Offering for International Missions is \$150,000.00.

Will you be generous in supporting the work of those taking the Good News to the nations?

And will you commit with me to continue to excel in this grace of giving every week?

When we give generously to the work of our church on a regular basis, we ensure that everything we have purposed to accomplish together will be accomplished. We get to invest in people’s lives – not merely programs – in a way that has eternal dividends.

A chapter later, Paul writes this to the Corinthian church (2nd Corinthians 9:7):

*“Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”*

That tells me a few things about giving from God’s perspective.

1) Giving to the work of the church is normal and expected. It is assumed in this passage that believers give.

2) God wants our giving to be pre-determined rather than reactive. Each of us, based on what we earn, should decide in advance that we will give and then give regularly. We are not waiting for a special cause or need, but instead are giving out of gratitude in worship as part of our lifestyle as Christians.

3) God cares about what flows from our hearts more than what comes from our hands. That’s why we should never give begrudgingly or simply out of obligation. Our giving to the work of the Lord should spring from a heart that loves the Lord and desires to see Him glorified among all people.

4) Our cheerful giving honors God who so willingly and generously “gives us richly all things to enjoy”. When we give, we please Him!

Let us continue to strive for excellence in all we do. Excellence is defined as “the quality of being outstanding”. Let’s make that our goal in all things to the honor of God. We will not settle for ordinary when God calls us to excellence!

For God’s glory in all things,

Pastor Paul

## 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 11, 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.

**December 11, 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](http://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](http://www.thearkdothan.org).

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

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

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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...

**December 4**  
Life Groups: 542  
10:00 Worship: 617  
6:00 Worship: 472  
Hispanic Church: 125  
Grace City Church (NY): 30

### THE PEOPLE GAVE...

**General Fund**  
Given December 4: \$48,676.70  
Y-T-D Budget  
Surplus (Deficit): \$13,583.71

### DAILY SCRIPTURE READING

**Sunday, December 11:**  
2 Kgs 5, 1 Tim 2, Dn 9, Ps 117-118  
**Monday, December 12:**  
2 Kgs 6, 1 Tim 3, Dn 10, Ps 119:1-24  
**Tuesday, December 13:**  
2 Kgs 7, 1 Tim 4, Dn 11, Ps 119:25-48  
**Wednesday, December 14:**  
2 Kgs 8, 1 Tim 5, Dn 12, Ps 119:49-72  
**Thursday, December 15:**  
2 Kgs 9, 1 Tim 6, Hos 1, Ps 119:73-96  
**Friday, December 16:**  
2 Kgs 10, 2 Tim 1, Hos 2, Ps 119:97-120  
**Saturday, December 17:**  
2 Kgs 11-12, 2 Tim 2, Hos 3-4, Ps 119:121-144

### 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/](http://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](http://calvarydothan.com/messages).

### Ministry Staff

Paul Thompson.....Senior Pastor  
Charles Uptain.....Executive Pastor  
Dan Tankersley.....Discipleship  
Patrick Lima.....Worship  
Tommy Perry.....Missions  
Joyce Alexander.....Preschool  
Zach Daniels.....Children  
Reagan Farris.....Students  
Randy Hunt.....Senior Adults

### STAFF ON CALL

**Sunday, December 11:**  
Reagan Farris | 504-319-6986  
**Saturday, December 17:**  
Joyce Alexander | 334-798-4791  
**Sunday, December 18:**  
Joyce Alexander | 334-798-4791

### SERMON SCHEDULE

**Wednesday, December 14 | 5:30pm**  
Calvary Family Fun Night  
Fellowship Center

### Sunday, December 18 | 10am

Acts: The Gun Lap  
Acts 28:17-31  
Message by Paul Thompson

### Wednesday, December 21 | 6pm

No Midweek Activities

### Saturday, December 24 | 5pm

A Thrill of Hope!  
Luke 2:22-32  
Message by Paul Thompson

### Sunday, December 25 | 10am

God With Us  
Matthew 1:18-25  
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.

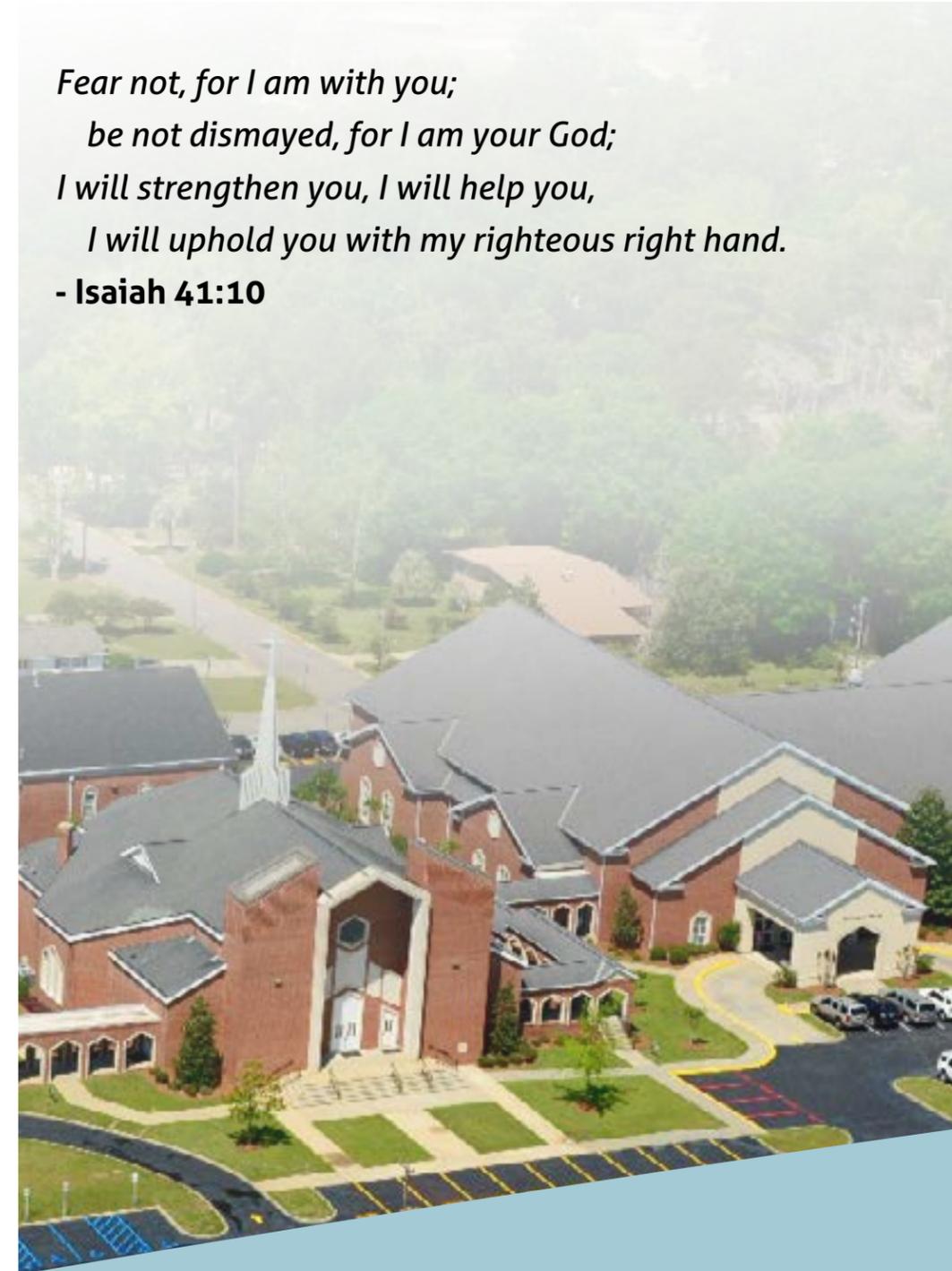
*Fear not, for I am with you;*

*be not dismayed, for I am your God;*

*I will strengthen you, I will help you,*

*I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.*

**- Isaiah 41:10**



WELCOME TO  
**Calvary**  
BAPTIST CHURCH