

# The Centrality of the Gospel in a Biblically Shaped Church

1 Timothy 3:16

**Christianity:** Not just another “mystery religion”...

A “mystery” is not something that is \_\_\_\_\_. It is something we can only know if it is \_\_\_\_\_ to us.

Consider the **greatness of the Gospel:**

1) The Infinite, Almighty, Incomprehensible God - He who Was and Is and Is to Come – became as one He had \_\_\_\_\_.

From His \_\_\_\_\_...

His amazing \_\_\_\_\_...

His sacrificial \_\_\_\_\_...

To His \_\_\_\_\_...

2) Though He was fully man, afflicted, tempted, and weak as we, He was/is truly and fully the \_\_\_\_\_!

From His birth...

His baptism...

His miraculous deeds...

His resurrection...

To Pentecost...

3) He is fully known by the \_\_\_\_\_.

Pre-incarnate...

At His birth...

During His life...

At His death...

To His resurrection...

4) He is being \_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_...

He is no \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ “god”.

He is the \_\_\_\_\_ of salvation for all people everywhere.

5) He is \_\_\_\_\_ on in every \_\_\_\_\_, among every \_\_\_\_\_, and in every \_\_\_\_\_.

Though none \_\_\_\_\_ Him, many are found.

Though none \_\_\_\_\_ Him, many receive grace.

Those \_\_\_\_\_ and those \_\_\_\_\_ are given new lives by \_\_\_\_\_.

6) And we witnessed His \_\_\_\_\_ into glory and we \_\_\_\_\_ His \_\_\_\_\_!

At this very moment, Jesus is King of Kings and Lord of lords upholding all things by the word of His power! (Hebrews 1:3)

And soon He will descend from Heaven with a shout, with the trump of the archangel and the voice of God, and we all will be gathered before Him and receive our final sentence.

**My Response** to the Gospel:

## 2023 Calvary Missions Conference

Our Missions Conference is just around the corner and we can’t wait for you to meet, encourage, and learn from our global missions partners. Our theme is “Gospel Feet” based on Romans 10:14-15. If you plan to attend the Friday night dinner, please RSVP to the church office by Friday, February 24.

### Friday, March 3

5pm Dinner with Missionaries, Fellowship Center (RSVP Required)

6pm Opening Service, Sanctuary | Guest Speaker: Danny Wood (childcare provided for worship service only)

### Saturday, March 4

8:30am Breakfast with Missionaries, Fellowship Center

9am Prayer with Missionaries

10:15-12pm Workshops, ROC  
(Childcare provided 8:30am-12pm)

### Sunday, March 5

8am Prayer with Missionaries, Parlor

8:30am Life Group with Missionaries

10am Morning Worship | Steve Chambers, Neighborhood Church, NYC

5pm Evening Worship | Moses O. Odhiambo, Echoes of Mercy Mission, Kenya

## Women’s D-Group Leader Meeting

**Monday, March 6 | 6:30 pm | Home of Jane Levins | 121 Glencoe Way**

If you are currently leading a women’s D-Group, we want to encourage you by meeting together for a time of prayer and encouragement.

## Women’s Night of Worship

**February 26 | 6:15pm | Sanctuary**

This Night of Worship will be a time to celebrate all that God has done and will do. Come rejoice with us!

## Calvary Weekday and Calvary Preschool and Kindergarten Now Accepting In-house Registration

In-house registration for current students and Calvary church members is open now through February 28. Contact Michelle@calvarydothan.com or Jaci@calvarydothan.com to enroll.

## Open Classes Begin Sunday, March 12 at 8:30am

Opening assembly will be in the Sanctuary each week and classes will meet below the Sanctuary.

**Systematic Theology Part 1:** Building a framework for knowing God and His creation  
Room S-006 | taught by Paul Thompson & Charles Uptain

**Old Testament Overview Part 1:** A 30,000 ft. view of the books of the Old Testament  
Room S-004 | taught by Tim Gannon & Joseph Parden

**Christianity Explained:** A Healthy start to knowing and sharing my faith  
Room S-001 | taught by Don Mills & Sam Tarwater | 6 weeks beginning March 12

**How to Study the Bible:** Learning to feed ourselves with the Word  
Room S-001 | taught by Jed Downs & Dave Lindey | 6 weeks beginning April 23

**Meaningful Membership:** A required membership class  
Room S-003 | taught by multiple staff members & elders | 4 weeks

## Calvary Kids Volunteer Opportunities

Church family, there are tremendous opportunities to join our team in making disciples among our 1st-5th grade boys and girls.

**Life Group | Sundays at 8:30am** - Two 1st grade teachers and substitute teachers

**Kids Worship | Sundays at 10:00am** - Serve on a rotation schedule to help manage and lead this service

If you’re a church member and you are interested in these opportunities, we’d love to have a conversation with you. Email, zach@calvarydothan.com or call/text 334.733.6326.

## When You Assume the Gospel, You Lose the Gospel

The gospel is not ultimately about us or how we can improve this world or ourselves. Rather, it’s about Christ.

And it’s not merely about Christ in general or what he can do for us in the here and now. Rather, it is about what he did during a particular time when Tiberius was reigning as Caesar and Pontius Pilate was the procurator of Judea. It’s about Christ’s death for sin and his resurrection on the third day, testified by the prophets before it happened, witnessed by the apostles when it happened, and richly explained by them after it happened.

We’re dealing with real time and space events that are first and foremost to be understood as *true* rather than helpful, useful, or life changing. This gospel may have the effect of changing a person’s life, but that is to be understood as a fruit of the gospel and not the thing itself.

### ASSUMING THE GOSPEL

These days, we’ve turned things around. We don’t talk about the truth of the gospel anymore, just its therapeutic value—what it can do for our finances, how it can repair our broken relationships, how it solves loneliness, etc.

As we go around repeating these kinds of things, many people will respond, “Oh that’s great for you; I’m glad that you found something that works.” Others say, “I’m doing just fine with my finances and relationships, thank you,” or “What worked for me was reading *Dianetics* by L. Ron Hubbard. That book changed my life!”

But a truth claim is something different. If Jesus really rose again from the dead, then as with all historical facts, this would be true not merely for me but for everyone. And if it’s true for everyone, we would all do well to pay attention to what Jesus says about himself and the claims he makes about where history is headed, about our true nature, and about our need for redemption.

### REDISCOVERING THE GOSPEL

The gospel is the announcement concerning the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Paul says in the first two verses of 1 Corinthians 15 that it is the gospel “in which you stand and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached.”

In other words, this isn’t merely an announcement of a particular set of facts, but is something of eternal significance for us all. We are not made right before a holy God by the things we do. However, we can be saved by attending to these particular words about a particular event that took place some two thousand years ago, having to do with a certain Jewish rabbi who got himself crucified and didn’t stay dead.

This is why we put such an important emphasis on preaching and proclamation. The *gospel* saves, not attending church, caring for the poor, spiritual journaling, pursuing social justice, or trying to be a decent person in a fallen world. As Paul says in Romans 4:25, “Christ was raised for our justification.”

We are declared righteous based on the events of *his* life, not our own. And if clinging to this gospel is what saves, then preaching this gospel is the main business of Christian ministers in Christian churches throughout the world until he comes.

Adapted from Shane Rosenthal, “What the Gospel Is and Why We Should Believe It,” *White Horse Inn* blog, June 14, 2013.

## 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

February 26, 2023

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.

## February 26, 2023

### February Missions Spotlight

#### Jose and Areli Perez (Missioteca)

Missioteca is a collection of missional initiatives dedicated to eradicating theological famine in the Global South. The mission work of Jose and Areli thru Missioteca involves walking alongside local churches in Guatemala to help them become healthy churches. If you would like to know more about the mission work of Missioteca or the Perez family, you can visit [missioteca.org](http://missioteca.org) or email Jose at [jose@missioteca.org](mailto:jose@missioteca.org).

Also, if you would like to know how to pray for the Perez's, please pick up a prayer card at the mission's kiosk in the Fellowship Center Foyer.

#### Alabama Baptist Children's Homes & Family Ministries (Local Missions Partner)

The purpose of Alabama Baptist Children's Homes & Family Ministries is to protect, nurture, and restore children and families through Christ-centered services. The result we desire to see hope and wholeness for children and families through knowing God. If you would like to know more about the ministry work of ABCH, you can contact Kim McGainey at [kmcgainey@alabamachild.org](mailto:kmcgainey@alabamachild.org) or visit [facebook.com/alabamachild/](https://www.facebook.com/alabamachild/) or [alabamachild.org](http://alabamachild.org).

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901 Montezuma Avenue  
Dothan, AL 36303  
Church Office 334.792.5159  
Weekday Ministry 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...

#### February 19

Life Group: 488  
10:00 Worship: 571  
Hispanic Church: 112  
Neighborhood Church (NY): 30

### THE PEOPLE GAVE...

#### General Fund

Given February 19: \$48,833.34  
Y-T-D Budget  
Surplus (Deficit): \$41,191.30

### 5-DAY BIBLE READING PROGRAM

#### Week 9, February 26-March 4

- Leviticus 24-25; Psalm 81; Hebrews 9
- Leviticus 26-27; Psalm 112; Hebrews 10
- Numbers 1-2; Psalm 64; Hebrews 11
- Numbers 3-5; Hebrews 12
- Numbers 6-7; Hebrews 13

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

### STAFF ON CALL

#### Sunday, February 26:

Dan Tankersley | 334-655-8765

#### Saturday, March 4:

Randy Hunt | 334-791-7986

#### Sunday, March 5:

Randy Hunt | 334-791-7986

### SERMON SCHEDULE

#### Wednesday, March 1 | 6pm

*The God Who Dwells with Us, Part 1*

Exodus 25

Message by Paul Thompson

#### Sunday, March 5 | 10am

*Calvary Missions Conference*

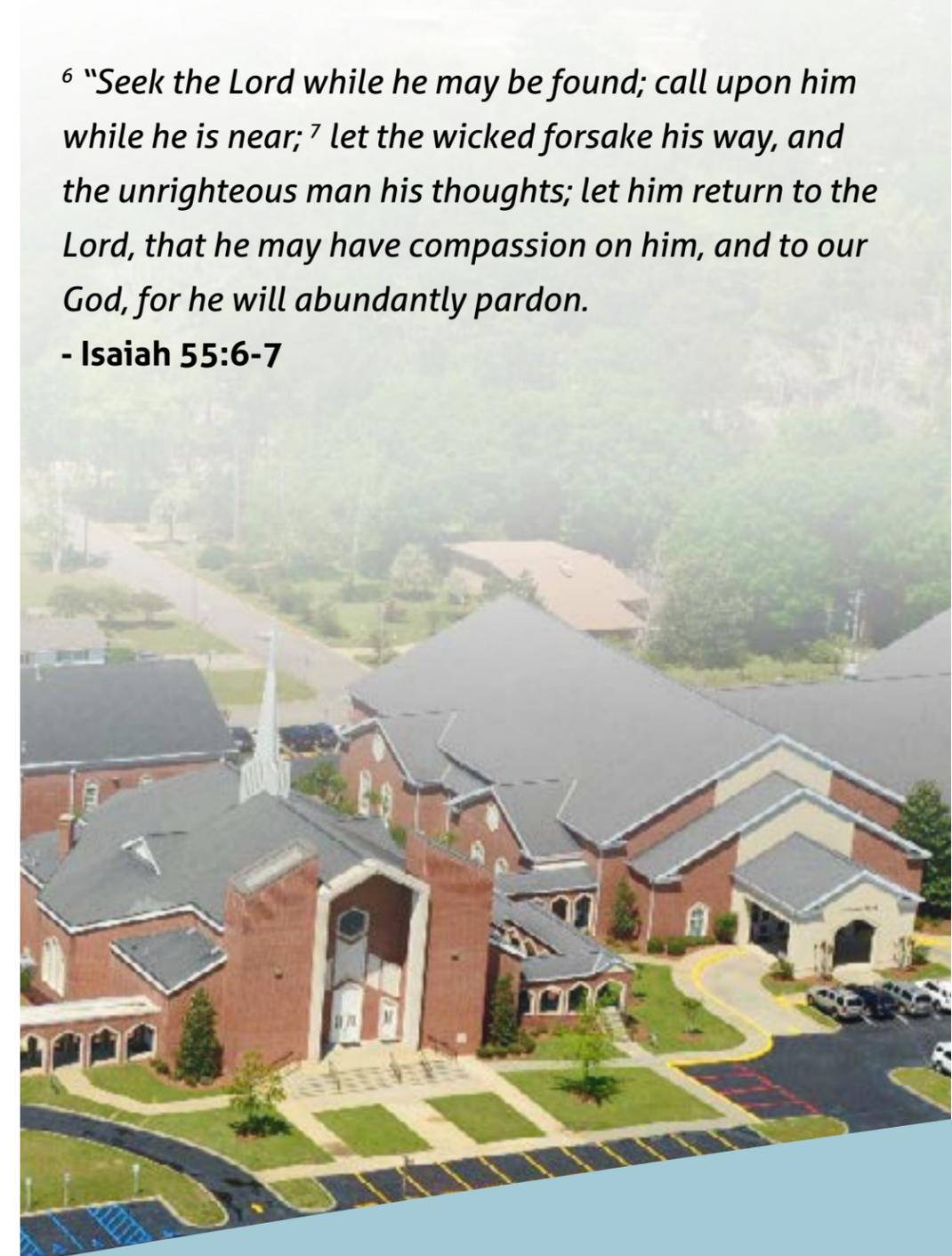
Message by Steve Chambers

### 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.

*<sup>6</sup> "Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; <sup>7</sup> let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.*

**- Isaiah 55:6-7**



WELCOME TO  
**Calvary**  
BAPTIST CHURCH