

Discernment in a Biblically Shaped Church

1 Timothy 4:1-6

4 Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons, 2 through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared, 3 who forbid marriage and require abstinence from foods that God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. 4 For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, 5 for it is made holy by the word of God and prayer. 6 If you put these things before the brothers, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, being trained in the words of the faith and of the good doctrine that you have followed.

The Big Issue:

“Deconstruction/deconversion” (simply a modern take on _____) should not surprise us. The Holy Spirit _____ it.

Are we in the “later times”?

Apostasy is always rooted in _____ or _____.

When we _____ (i.e. “_____”) we are committing slow spiritual _____ (individually and corporately).

The greatest _____ to the contemporary church is from false _____ and false _____.

The _____ of all false teaching is the same – _____, the first liberal theologian.

The _____ of all false teaching are _____ and _____.

Finally, a healthy church, led by Godly leaders, and filled with discerning saints will _____ theological error and false teachers with love, and refuse to be _____ when that happens.

A specific example:

_____ ...

Its roots:

Its fruit:

A lesson for us:

Therefore:

_____ must be the aim of us all.

Wise discernment requires theological “_____”:

- _____ to the Gospel and to being a Christian ... These are our _____.
- _____ for the health and practice of the local church These are our _____.
- _____ to Christian theology ... These are our _____/_____.
- _____ by orthodox, conservative Christians ... These are our _____

How we _____/_____ to teaching should match the level of that teachings _____.

- _____ doctrines are worth _____.
- _____ doctrines are worth _____ or _____ over.
- _____ doctrines are worth _____ and _____ over but not _____ over.
- _____ doctrines are ok to hold, but not ok to disrupt _____ over.

We must all endeavor to be _____, _____, and _____.

Paul Thompson
Calvary Baptist Church
March 12, 2023

Pray, Give, Go!

We hope that last weekend’s Missions Conference is just the beginning of what God is planning to do through Calvary. We realize going to “the world” is part of the mission God has given us and we hope that every member at Calvary helps in global missions in three ways: Pray, Give, Go.

For a full list of mission trips with trip details, go to calvarydothan.com/global-missions or contact tommy@calvarydothan.com.

2023 Mission Trips

New York City	April 28-May 1, 2023	Cost: \$1000
Vermont	April 29-May 6, 2023	Cost: \$1000
Portland, Oregon	June 24-July 1, 2023	Cost: \$1400
Kenya	July 26-August 2, 2023	Cost: \$2000
Guatemala	October 6-10, 2023	Cost: \$2000
Vermont	October 14-21, 2023	Cost: \$1000
New York City	November 2023	Cost: \$1000

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
Taught by Paul Thompson & Charles Uptain

Old Testament Overview Part 1: A 30,000 ft. view of the books of the Old Testament
Taught by Tim Gannon & Joseph Parden

Christianity Explained: A Healthy start to knowing and sharing my faith
Taught by Don Mills & Sam Tarwater | 6 weeks beginning March 12

How to Study the Bible: Learning to feed ourselves with the Word
Taught by Jed Downs & Dave Lindey | 6 weeks beginning April 23

Meaningful Membership: A required membership class
Taught by multiple staff members & elders | 4 weeks

Deacon Nominations

We are requesting deacon nominations for the new church year that begins on July 1. Read Acts 6:1-7 and 1 Timothy 3:8-13, to remind yourself of God’s description for deacons as you pray about which men to nominate. Nomination cards are in your worship bulletin today and in the Fellowship Center Foyer. Our deacon selection committee will accept nominations through April 15. You can drop your nominations in the offering boxes in the Fellowship Center on Sundays, by the church office during the week, or email caren@calvarydothan.com.

Senior Adult Mid-Month

Thursday, March 16 | 11am | Sanctuary

One of our elders, David Glover, will be preaching the worship service. Lunch will be served in the Fellowship Center immediately following the service.

Women’s Coffee and Connect

March 19 | 3pm | ROC Lobby

All women are invited to Coffee and Connect. We will enjoy food and fellowship as we discuss the topic of *Grace for Every Season* and how it impacts our actions and lives as women of God.

Member Meeting

March 22 | Sanctuary

All members are encouraged to attend this important meeting at 6:45pm at the end of the Midweek service.

Secret Church 2023

April 21 | 6pm-Midnight | Theme: Jonah

Beyond the fascinating story of a fish swallowing a man, you will find the challenging account of God’s most unwilling prophet and how, more often than not, we, like Jonah, choose our own comfort over nations, even those we would consider our enemies.

Gather your friends or small group together in your home to watch this intensive Bible study walking through the book of Jonah, learning about the urgent spiritual and physical needs in Iran, and praying for the persecuted church around the world. Register your group online at radical.net/secret-church/.

Defining Discernment by Tim Challies

Discernment is...

...*The Skill*...

Discernment is a skill. It is not an inherent ability like breathing or chewing, but a skill like reading or public speaking that must be practiced and must be improved.

... This is clear from Hebrews 5:14 which reads “But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.” Distinguishing good from evil, and doing so correctly and consistently, requires dedicated, ongoing practice. It is a skill.

...*of understanding*...

Discernment is closely related to understanding and depends upon a right understanding of God and His ways. Because we can only base what we do on what we know, we must first understand who God is and how He wants us to serve and honor Him.

...*and applying*...

Discernment involves not only understanding, but the application of that understanding.

... Discernment is wisdom in action, wisdom applied, and here we seek to apply the skill we have been practicing. We do not only know (understand), but we also do (apply).

...*God’s Word*...

God’s Word refers to two aspects of God’s revelation: revelation of Himself through the person of Jesus Christ and revelation of Himself through speech, and in particular, the words that were recorded in the Bible. Though in days past God revealed Himself through words of prophesy and other forms of personal address, today we know Him through the Bible which God has given to point us to the Word of God as it exists in the person of Jesus.

...When we engage in discernment we attempt to use God’s Word to rise above our own limitations so we can see as God sees. Through the truths contained in the Bible, God allows us to see things with His eyes.

...*with the purpose of separating*...

God’s word is the standard we use to differentiate between what is true and what is false. Discernment implies that we are to separate things in order to understand their differences.

Like the laser level that shows with perfect clarity any deviations from what is straight, the Bible teaches what is true, leaving what is false standing out with glaring clearness. We use God’s Word as a tool to separate what is true from what is false. We use it to make the light appear lighter, leaving the dark to appear ever darker.

...*truth from error*...

The Bible makes it clear that doctrine is either true or it is false. We are called by God to examine all theology and to make such binary distinctions. When we speak of truth and error we speak of doctrine and theology – about ways of thinking rightly and truly about God. ...Only when we have separated truth from error are we able to rightly worship God.

...*and right from wrong*.

Discernment is a skill we need to live lives that are morally and ethically pleasing to God. We need to be discerning first in what we believe and then in what we do. Where the concepts of truth and error concern what we believe, the associated concepts of right and wrong concern what we do and how we live. In this way we see discernment as a discipline that applies to all areas of life.

For entire article: <https://www.challies.com/articles/defining-discernment/>

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

March 12, 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.

March 12, 2023

March 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 or email Jose at 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 or visit [facebook.com/alabamachild/](https://www.facebook.com/alabamachild/) or alabamachild.org.

 calvarydothan.com

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901 Montezuma Avenue
Dothan, AL 36303
Church Office 334.792.5159
Weekday Ministry 334.793.9898

THE PEOPLE CAME...

March 5

Life Group: 446
10:00 Worship: 640
5:00 Worship: 218
Hispanic Church: 115
Neighborhood Church (NY): 25

THE PEOPLE GAVE...

General Fund

Given February March 5: \$75,919.81
Y-T-D Budget
Surplus (Deficit): \$36,874.35

5-DAY BIBLE READING PROGRAM

Week 11, March 12-18

- Numbers 26-29; Luke 2
- Numbers 30-33; Psalm 35; Luke 3
- Numbers 34-36; Luke 4
- Deuteronomy 1-3; Psalm 36; Luke 5
- Deuteronomy 4-5; Luke 6

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



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.

To fill out a digital Connect Card or learn more about Calvary, please use your smartphone camera to scan the QR Code or you can fill out the Connect Card in this bulletin and place it in the offering plate or in one of the offering boxes when you exit the Fellowship Center.

Also, be sure to stop by our Next Steps table after the service for a gift from us!

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, March 12:

Reagan Farris | 504-319-6986

Saturday, March 18:

Joyce Alexander | 334-798-4791

Sunday, March 19:

Joyce Alexander | 334-798-4791

SERMON SCHEDULE

Wednesday, March 15 | 6pm

The God Who Dwells with Us, Part 3

Exodus 27

Message by Paul Thompson

Sunday, March 19 | 10am

Practical Discipleship in a Biblically Shaped Church

1 Timothy 4:6-11

Message by Paul Thompson

Sunday Morning Schedule

8:00am Call to Prayer, Parlor

8:30am Life Group

10:00am Worship, Fellowship Center

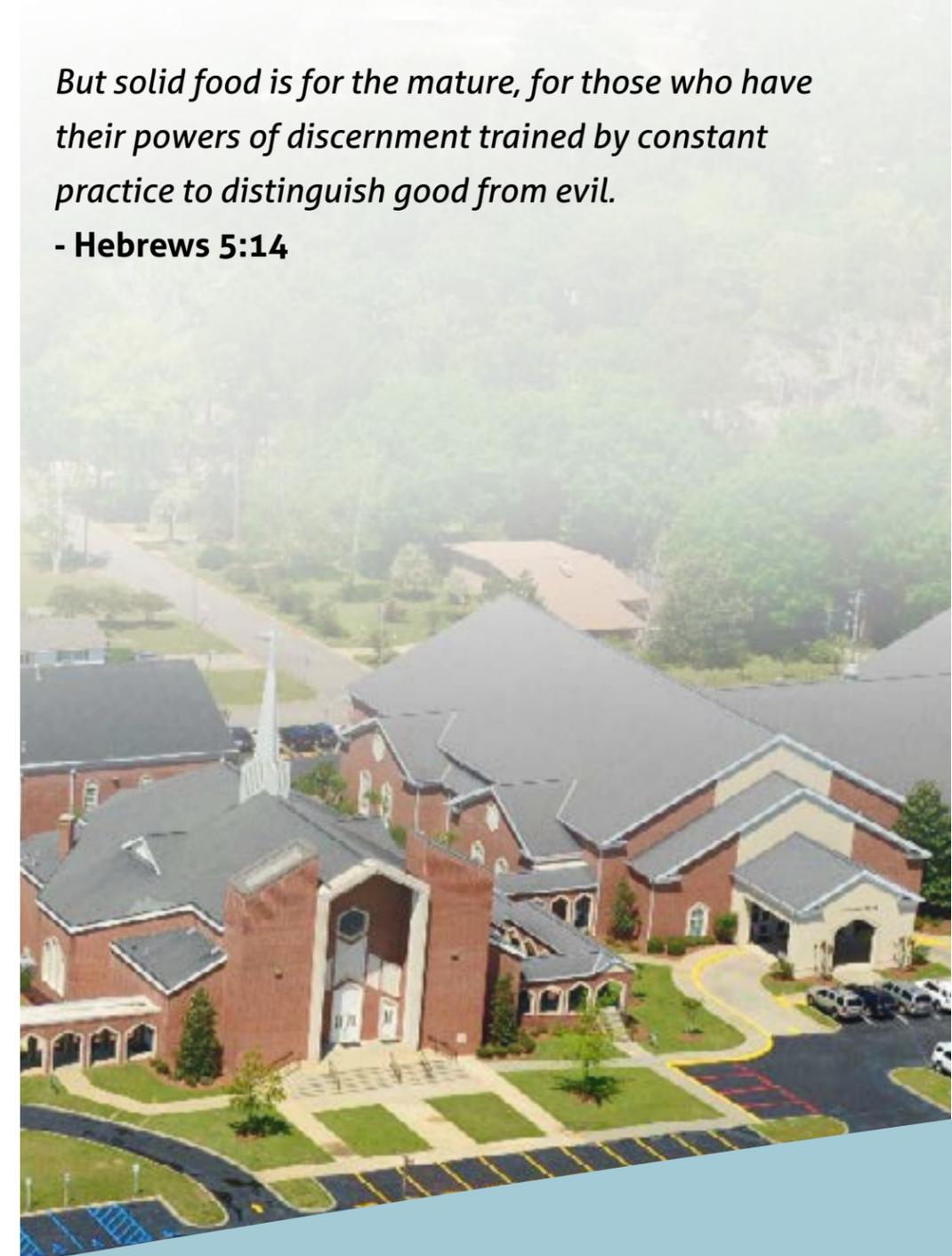
Kid's Worship, Grades 1-5, Chapel (except 1st Sunday)

11:00am Worship Broadcast on JoyFM

94.3/96.1 with a 1 wk delay.

But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.

- Hebrews 5:14



WELCOME TO
Calvary
BAPTIST CHURCH