

The Sweetest Invitation

Matthew 11:25-30

“At that time ...”

Jesus has just pronounced ‘_____’ for three cities that had the most exposure to Him – witnessed the most miracles, heard the most messages – because they did not _____ for who He truly is and _____ and _____ Him.

Amplifying their _____ was the startling declaration that the cities most notorious for receiving God’s judgment – Tyre, Sidon, Sodom – would have all repented with the same revelation!

With all their opportunities to do so, why didn’t most of the residents of these 3 cities of Galilee repent of sin and follow Jesus?

- 1) _____ (11:23)
- 2) _____ (11:25)
- 3) _____ (11:28)

But that’s not all:

- 4) God had _____ the revelation of Jesus (that would have caused them to repent) from them! (11:25)

Is this “fair”?

Scripture’s answer:

God is _____. “... *Father, Lord of heaven and earth ...*”

He has the _____ and _____ to do whatever He pleases.

God is _____, therefore whatever He does is _____.

Fairness and justice are intrinsic to “goodness”.

It is by God’s _____ that He chooses those to whom He will _____ reveal Himself.

See: John 5:19-27; Matthew 13:10-13, 16; 2 Corinthians 24:1-6

And God’s *sovereign grace* – while often debated, sometimes disputed, and occasionally even despised by us – was _____ by Jesus!

Jesus declared, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will.”

Why should we be thankful that God – according to His good pleasure – chooses to _____ Himself in Christ as He sees fit – and that Christ chooses to _____ the Father as He sees fit?

Because it is His _____ that enables us to _____ in a way that saves us.

And it is His gracious will that makes the sweet invitation Jesus offers _____ ...

God’s emphatically clear promise: You _____. I _____.

²⁸ *Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.*

His _____:

God’s eternally generous offer: You _____. I’ll _____.

²⁹ *Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.*

His _____:

Who is this genuine and beautiful invitation for?

_____, in seeing their desperate need and His generous mercy, will _____ to Jesus.

_____, recognizing their own inability and His ability, will _____ to Jesus.

_____, desiring Him and His good and loving rule in their lives, will _____ to Jesus.

_____ if you are “chosen” or “elect”.

Ask instead if you have _____ of your _____; _____ what the Father has revealed about Jesus – and Jesus about the Father; and have _____ in faith for salvation.

And _____ if those you care about care about are “chosen” or “elect”. Instead pray that God – by His sovereign grace – removes the blinders and reveals Himself to them in a way that leads them to _____ to His offer of salvation.

My response today to Christ’s offer of grace and mercy:

*Dr. Paul Thompson
Calvary Baptist Church
December 22, 2024*

Sunday, December 22

8am & 10am Worship

Manger Throne / The First Noel.....Choir

Advent Scripture Reading & Prayer of Adoration.....Zach Daniels
Micah 7:18

¹⁸ *Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression for the remnant of his inheritance? He does not retain his anger forever, because he delights in steadfast love.*

O Come O Come Emmanuel

Hark The Herald Angels Sing

Joy To The World

Lottie Moon Video

Scripture Reading & Prayer of Thanksgiving..... Tommy Perry
Matthew 1:18-23

¹⁸ *Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: ²³ “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us).*

Offering

O Come All You Unfaithful

MessagePaul Thompson
The Sweetest Invitation
Matthew 11:25-30

BenedictionPaul Thompson
Isaiah 52:7

⁷ *How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.”*

Go Tell It On the Mountain

No PM Worship

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions

Calvary’s Goal: \$150,000

Every penny of this offering is used to support Southern Baptist missionaries as they share the hope and grace we have in Jesus Christ.

Save the Date: Missions Conference 2025

We are thrilled to announce our upcoming Missions Conference to be held February 22-23, 2025. This special event is dedicated to hearing from our mission partners around the globe, celebrating what God has done through mission endeavors here at Calvary, and deepening our understanding of God’s purpose in missions.

Stay tuned for more details about the schedule, but mark your calendars now and plan to join us for this encouraging and celebratory weekend.

Calvary Holiday Schedule

Tuesday, December 24

5:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, Fellowship Center
Cookies, coffee, hot chocolate, and photo opportunity in the ROC Lobby beginning at 4pm

Sunday, December 29

8:30am Life Groups/Open Classes
Joint LG for Grades 1-5, Kids Worship Room
10:00am Worship, Sanctuary (No Kids Worship)

No PM Worship

No Midweek Activities December 25 or January 1

2024 Contributions

Contributions for 2024 must be turned in to the Sunday offering by December 29, brought to the church office by December 30, or postmarked by December 31. The church office will be closed December 31.

Boundaries: When to Say Yes, How to Say No to Take Control of Your Life

Begins Wednesday, January 8 | 6 pm | Room G-315

This class is for women of all ages. In the New York Times bestselling book, Boundaries, Drs. Cloud and Townsend unpack the ten laws of boundaries, showing you how to bring health and happiness into your relationships.

New Men's Group

Beginning January 15 we will offer a new small group for men that is focused on dealing with issues that sometimes get overlooked in the church. Many men who struggle with pornography and sexual brokenness try to go it alone. Through the guided lessons and a trusted community, you will develop the tools necessary to break free, heal your relationship, and take back your life. Call or text 334-790-7739 for more information.

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 22, 2024

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 22, 2024

December Missions Spotlight

Northeastern Baptist College (Bennington, Vermont)

Northeastern seeks to impact the Northeast, the United States, and the world by training students to have the mind of a scholar, the heart of a shepherd, and the perseverance of a soldier through the provision of a college education with a biblical foundation and a distinctive blend of academic excellence and practical mentoring. NEBC provides an academically strong, biblically sound, and practically relevant college education from their campus strategically located in the Northeast. If you would like to learn more about the ministry work of NEBC visit nebcvt.org. Also, if you would like to know how to pray for NEBC, pick up a prayer card at the missions kiosk in the Fellowship Center foyer.

The Ark (Local Mission Partner)

The Ark is a place of hope, healing, and help. Their mission is to nurture the total needs of humanity—mind, body, and soul. They are committed 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 at The Ark, visit thearkdothan.org or facebook.com/thearkdothan. Prayer needs for The Ark can be found on prayer cards at the missions kiosk in the Fellowship Center foyer.

 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...

December 15

Life Group: 482
10:00 Worship: 616
5:00 Worship: 440
Hispanic Church: 125
Neighborhood Church (NY): 25

THE PEOPLE GAVE...

General Fund

Given December 15: \$56,755.94
Given Y-T-D Surplus (Deficit):
(\$244,841.70) as of 11/30/24
Lottie Moon Y-T-D: \$44,951.23

NAVIGATORS BIBLE READING PLAN

December 22-28

- John 19:38-42, Rev 16, Job 38:1-21, Zeph 1-2
- John 20:1-9, Rev 17, Job 38:22-41, Zeph 3
- John 20:10-18, Rev 18, Job 39, Hag 1-2
- John 20:19-23, Rev 19, Job 40, Zech 1-5
- John 20:24-31, Rev 20, Job 41:1-11, Zech 6-9
- John 21:1-14, Rev 21, Job 41:12-34, Zech 10-14
- John 21:15-25, Rev 22, Job 42, Mal 1-4

Sunday Schedule

- 8:30am Life Groups & Open Classes
- 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.
- 5:00pm Family Worship, Sanctuary Childcare for Babies-K3



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.

Also, be sure to stop by our Next Steps table in the foyer 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 AM sermon notes, go to calvarydothan.com/messages.

Ministry Staff

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

STAFF ON CALL

Sunday, December 22:
Dan Tankersley | 334-655-8765
Saturday, December 28:
Dan Tankersley | 334-655-8765
Sunday, December 29:
Dan Tankersley | 334-655-8765

SERMON SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 29

10am
The Gift
James 1:16-25
Message by Paul Thompson

No PM Service

Wednesday Schedule

6:00pm Open Classes, D-Groups, Life Groups
Birth-K5, Preschool Bldg
Grades 1-5, Chapel
Grades 6-12, Student Room

⁶ For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

– 2 Corinthians 4:6

