

This Is Love

1 John 4:7-12

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.

In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

What Do We Really Mean by Love?

“Beloved, let us love one another.”

_____ Is Love.

“God is love.”

That truth raises an unavoidable question:
How would finite, fallen creatures ever know that love?

God’s Love Is Manifest to Us in a _____.

“In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son ...”

God did not merely tell us that He loves us. He _____ us – by entering our broken world as Jesus to rescue us from death and give us eternal life.

God’s Love Meets Us Through _____.

“God ... loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.”

Propitiation means that our sin against God – our real guilt before Him – has been dealt with in such a way that His righteous _____ is fully satisfied, _____ is honored, and the broken _____ is restored.

God’s Love Is the Means to _____.

“God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him.”

Christ did not come to make bad people _____. He came to make dead people _____.

God’s Love Makes Us _____.

The necessary expression of a Christian who has received the love of God is love poured out toward others – truthful, sacrificial, tangible love.

By loving one another, we experience the presence of God. God abides in us. And His love is _____ in us.

A Necessary Christmas Message

Beloved, let us love one another.
Because God is love.

And in Christ, that love has come to us – and now, through us, to the world.

Sunday, December 21

10am Worship

Scripture Reading & Prayer of Thanksgiving..... Sam Tarwater
Advent Week 4 - Love
Galatians 4:4-5; Romans 8:38-39

⁴ But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, ⁵ to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. ³⁸ For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Come Thou Almighty King

Baptism

Angels From The Realms of Glory

O Come All Ye Faithful

Scripture Reading & Prayer of Thanksgiving..... Charles Uptain
Isaiah 9:1-7

⁹ But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. ² The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone. ³ You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. ⁴ For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁵ For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶ For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Offering

Precious Love

Message Paul Thompson

This Is Love
1 John 4:7-12

Joy To The World

Benediction Zach Daniels
1 Thessalonians 3:12-13

¹² and may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you, ¹³ so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

5pm Worship

Calvary Christmas Cantata

Welcome & Reading 1: Creation & Presence Reagan Farris
Creator

Reading 2: Fall & Promise Paul Thompson
Passover Us

Teaching & Reading 3 Zach Daniels
Deliver Us

Teaching & Reading 4 Tommy Perry
Prince of Heaven

Call to Response..... Paul Thompson
O Come All You UnFaithful

Angels We Have Heard of High

Joy To The World (Joyful Joyful)

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions

Calvary's Goal: \$150,000

The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering supports and enables IMB missionaries to live among the lost and share the gospel. 100% of your gifts to this offering enable gospel transformation among the unreached all around the world.

2025 Christmas Schedule

December 21 | 10am | Fellowship Center

This is Love

1 John 4:7-12

December 21 | 5pm | Sanctuary

The Story of Christmas

Calvary Choir Cantata

December 24 | 5pm | Fellowship Center

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Undimmed

John 1:1-5

No PM Service December 28

No Midweek Service December 31

2025 Contributions

Contributions for 2025 must be turned in to the Sunday offering by December 28, brought to the church office by December 30, or postmarked by December 31. The church office will be closed December 31.

Learning to Love God in Every Season: Lessons from David’s Life and Psalms

Beginning January 4, we will walk through the life of David to see how God forms a heart that loves Him through every season of life. From hidden faithfulness and public courage to deep failure, grief, repentance, and lasting praise, David’s story shows us how to seek God when life is unfair, painful, joyful, or uncertain. Each week, we will pair the narrative of David’s life with the Psalms that give voice to his prayers and worship, helping us learn how to love God honestly and faithfully in every circumstance.

Meaningful Membership

January 4, 11, & 18 | 8:30am | Office Conference Room

Teachers: Dan Tankersley, Paul Thompson, & Charles Uptain

This required membership class introduces prospective members to 1) what we believe and teach, 2) how we function together as a church, and 3) our church covenant.

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 21, 2025

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 21, 2025

December Missions Spotlight

Northeastern Baptist College (Bennington, VT)
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 its campus strategically located in the Northeast. 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 guiding individuals so that they can discover their God-given purpose and live it out. If you would like to learn more about the ministry work at The Ark, you can 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.

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

THE PEOPLE CAME...

December 14
Life Group: 523
10:00 Worship: 687
5:00 Worship: 409
Hispanic Church: 119
Neighborhood Church (NY): 25

THE PEOPLE GAVE...

General Fund
Given December 14: \$135,829.35
Given Y-T-D Surplus (Deficit): (\$244,699.00) as of 11/30/25
Lottie Moon Y-T-D: \$9,583.00

BIBLE READING PLAN

December 21-27
Hab 3-Zeph 2, Rev 15
Zeph 3-Hag 2, Rev 16
Zech 1-3, Rev 17
Zech 4-6, Rev 18
Zech 7-9, Rev 19
Zech 10-13, Rev 20

Sunday Schedule

8:30am Life Groups & Open Classes
10:00am Worship, Fellowship Center
Kid's Worship, Grades 1-5, Chapel (except 1st Sunday)
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
Charles Uptain..... Executive Pastor
Dan Tankersley..... Discipleship Pastor
Steven Wilson..... Interim Worship
Tommy Perry..... Missions

Lay Elders

Jed Downs
Dave Lindey
Don Mills
Sam Tarwater

STAFF ON CALL

Sunday, December 21:
Joyce Alexander | 334-798-4791
Saturday, December 27:
Dan Tankersley | 334-655-8765
Sunday, December 28:
Dan Tankersley | 334-655-8765

SERMON SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 28

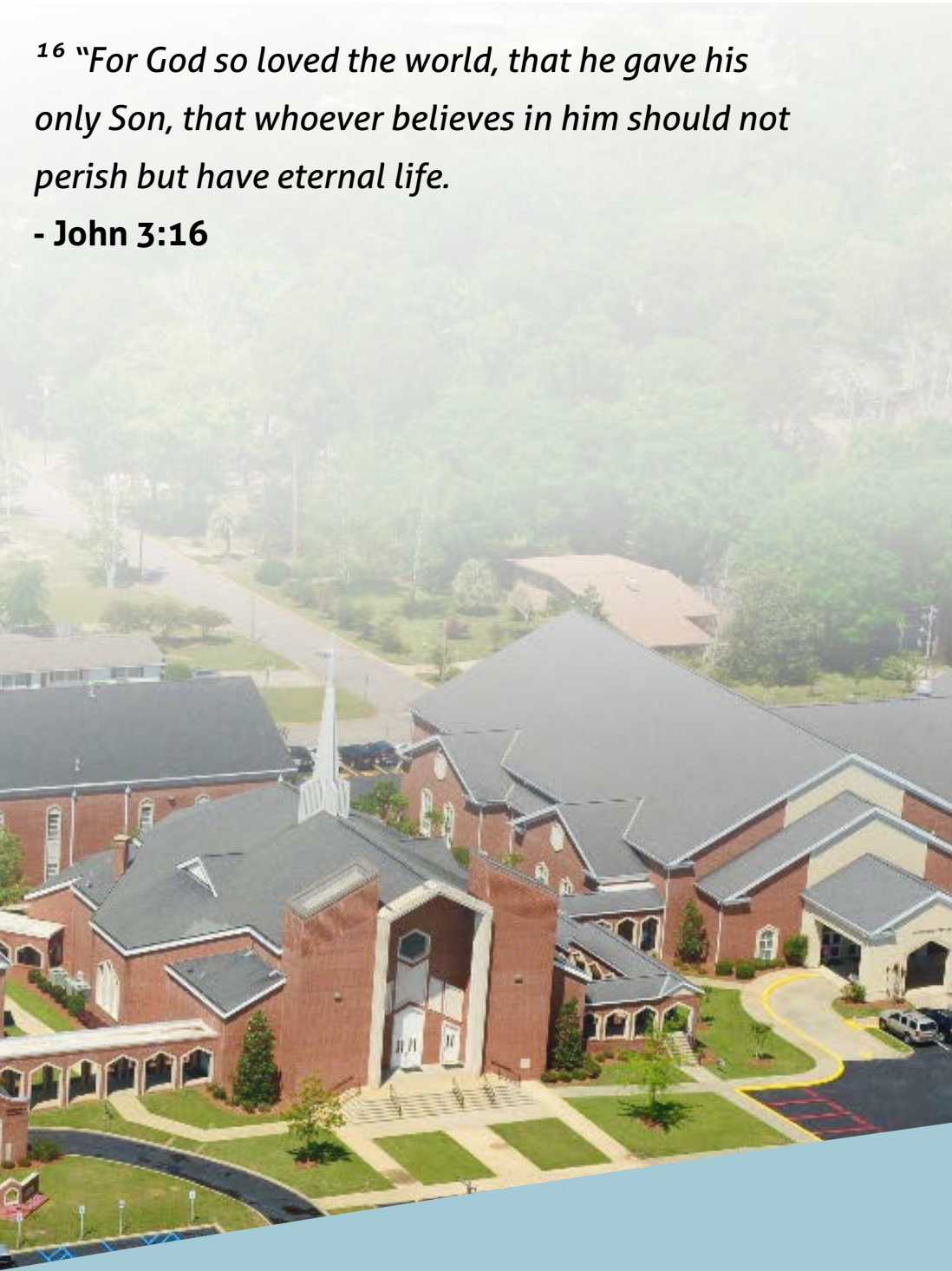
10am
The Authority to Win
Matthew 28:16-20
Message by Paul Thompson

No PM Worship

Wednesday Schedule

6:00pm Open Classes, D-Groups, & ESL Classes
Birth-K5, Preschool Bldg
Grades 1-5, Chapel
Grades 6-12, Student Room
7:00pm Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room

16 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.
- John 3:16



WELCOME TO
Calvary
BAPTIST CHURCH