



the *Calvary Caller*

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"Love In The 21st Century"

Hello Calvary. Praying this note finds you growing in the grace and love of our Lord. Husbands, don't forget to tell your beloved that you love her. Take your wife out to dinner, buy her some flowers or her favorite candy. Yes, it's February and hopefully Cupid's arrow is still deeply lodged in the heart. When we think about love we might think of famous stories like Romeo and Juliette, Cinderella, or movies such as, "Titanic," "Meet Joe Black," "The Count of Monte Cristo" or "Forrest Gump" just to mention a few. As good as all these stories are, there is nothing as beautiful as God's love displayed towards unfaithful Israel.

Love stories are helpful when the heart has grown weary; due to the exceeding coldness and harshness of life. Being reminded that there is more to life than trying to stay ahead of the bills, keep groceries on the table and the day to day grind. There is a love story that God gives in Hosea that melts the coldest of hearts. As powerful as it is to read Hosea 1:2, "When the Lord began to speak by Hosea, the Lord said to Hosea: "Go, take yourself a wife of harlotry and children of harlotry, for the land has committed great harlotry by departing from the Lord. So he went and took Gomer the daughter of Diblaim." This symbolic act was to display God's faithful love to His unfaithful people. But as

amazing as this act of love was, it was just a shadow of the greatest love displayed through Christ. The Lord gave Himself as a sacrifice of love and obedience to His Father. As Paul says in 2 Corinthians 5:21, " Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him." What an opportunity to be a part of God's greatest love, to tell unfaithful people of God's unfailing love. God's Bride is made up with some of the most unlikely people. But God pursues the lost in His indescribable love by taking Himself a Bride and making Her as white as snow. The sacrifice of Christ shedding His life giving blood to cleanse all who come to Him, is the greatest story of love ever told. If it has been awhile since you have shared His love, then let me encourage you to seek opportunity. The love of Christ triumphs over our unfaithfulness and loves us all the way to heaven. Now that is a story worth telling.

May the Love of our Lord richly bless you and keep your heart warm.

Held by the unfailing Love of Christ,

Pastor David





Greetings, Calvary family!

It's time for another update from the student ministry!

On Sunday mornings, we're finishing our series on the church. We've talked about the church's nature, mission, ministries, offices, government, worship, and ordinances. This will finish our years-long series on the standard doctrines of the Bible – the subjects that you'd find in any introductory theology book from any denomination. After this, we'll be studying the Christian life. We'll begin with a focus on evangelism, which will tie in nicely with our goals for First Priority: to train students to speak the gospel in their schools so that we can better reach our county with the gospel. Pray with me that the Lord sparks an awakening and reformation through a recommitment to evangelism.

On Sunday evenings, we're still working our way through the Book of Romans. We're currently in Chapter 11, which is mostly about God's plan for the Israelites. There will always be a faithful remnant of Jews who believe in Jesus as the Messiah. Our church has a few of them. Unfortunately, for now, that's not true of the majority of Jews. Instead, God's work of salvation is primarily among the Gentiles. However, at some point, God's work with the Gentiles will be finished, and then he'll bring the Jews back to belief as the norm. May that be soon!

On Wednesday evenings, we're still working our way through the Book of Psalms. We're currently in Psalm 18, which is actually a repeat of a song that David sang in 2 Samuel 22. I recommend that you stop what you're doing and read both chapters. It'll encourage you that the Israelites did a remarkable job of preserving their writings, as David's song, 2 Samuel, and the Psalter were all apparently written at different times. The song itself is worship offered to God for delivering David and his people from famine and from the Philistines. There are fears of food crises and military crises today (for good reason). Civil leaders' incompetence and malice across the world are causing food shortages

and border insecurity. This is always a result of judgment, if not from the sin of Adam then from the sins of nations. Even so, God knows how to provide for and deliver his faithful people. So, let's continue to pursue belief in Jesus, repentance of sins, and obedience to God's commands, and let's continue to pray for awakening and reformation across the nations.

January's events went well. I am pleased to report that I didn't fall while ice skating. However, I didn't skate for very long. Why not? Because I am terrible at it. And I'm wise enough to recognize my limitations. My non-bruised butt is all the more thankful for it!

Our First Priority event went well. I think we had around 5 or 6 churches in attendance. And we had around 50 people there altogether. I gave a gospel presentation, grounded our unity in the gospel, and clarified the mission of reaching our schools and our county with the gospel, while still acknowledging that we're not united in everything and that we're not uniting for everything. In the end, I think we had 4 students commit to getting First Priority going in our county. Pray that God increases this commitment. And pray that God saves middle school and high school students through student evangelism. Our next First Priority event is on February 22nd. I recommend that you encourage your children or grandchildren to attend. They are capable of making disciples in our schools.

There are other upcoming events you need to be aware of. We'll have a Super Bowl party on February 12th, and we'll go snow tubing on February 26th.

I want to leave you with a few book recommendations. Over the past year, I've been reading Nick Needham's 2000 Years of Christ's Power. It is an excellent history of Christianity. You'll be surprised at how fun it is to read. You'll laugh, you'll get angry, you'll get encouraged, and you'll get convicted. It was so good that I made it the foundation for my series on the Church Fathers. It's currently a 4-volume series, but don't let that scare you. A few pages a day really add up. That's how I've been reading them. It'll give you an ap-

preciation for what God has done since the 1st century. It'll help you to understand how so many denominations came onto the scene. It'll help you to see that what's normal isn't necessarily what's right. And it'll encourage

you that God preserves his people no matter what is going on in the world.

Christain



Written by Paul in AD 51, two of several major themes in 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18 are, 1. escaping God's wrath and, 2. clarifying

the Day of the Lord, have major effect on our view of eschatology. When we read verses like Romans 5:9 and 1 Thessalonians 5:9, the context favors "eternal wrath," so stated by John MacArthur. This wrath of God at the surface seems unfair as we know what Jesus said in John 6:65, "no one can come to Me unless it has been granted to him by My Father." Is Jesus speaking nationally as in—the Jewish Nation, or is He speaking universally as in—the Human Race? We know there is a temporal wrath due to the Jewish Nation. But is that wrath separate from eternal wrath? Seems so to my finite mind. Especially since prophetic writing on temporal wrath for National Israel is always followed by promises of restoration. Yet the Church is never warned about God's wrath on believers. Instead, quite the opposite! 1 Thessalonians 1:10, "For God did not appoint us to wrath..."

In the Olivet passage, Matthew 24:8, is the "line drawn in sand." The words preceding verse 8 are in our "present." Starting with verse 9, the tribulation is in view up to verse 13 where a harvest is in view. Verse 14 is a summation verse for God's activity at that time. This marks the end of the first 3.5 years. Verse 15 pictures the Jewish nation discerning the "Day of the Lord," and fleeing Judea running to the mountains southeast of Jerusalem. They will remain there until the "coming of the Son of Man be (v.27)." Then in verse 31, "all of the chosen ones will be gathered by angels from one end of heaven to the other "in order to populate the Millennial Kingdom." These are the sheep called to the "Marriage Supper of the Lamb (Rev. 19:9)." The fate of the rest of the world is described in Revelation 19:17-21 and Matthew 25:14-46. Please understand this article is presented from the eschatological position of pre-tribulational and pre-millennial.

Curtis



Dear Calvary Family,
The children are reviewing Psalm 139:14 in a winter study on snowflakes. This verse

says, "I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well." We have been emphasizing how beautiful each child is to our God and how there is no one who is exactly the same. We have also been encouraging the kids to use the gifts that God has given them to proclaim the name of Jesus.

Our children are continuing the Answers in Genesis curriculum during Sunday School. They are exceling at Bible drill on Sunday evenings. I am very proud of them. We have been enjoying our Wednesday Awana meetings as we eat, fellowship, worship, and

dive into the Word of God. We are looking forward to this year's Vacation Bible School as we will be studying the armor of God. This is such an important study for our children. We recognize the many fiery darts that are being shot at our young people. We want to make sure our children are equipped to apply their armor every day. We aspire to have children who are confident to stand for truth. If you are available to help with evening VBS this summer please let me know.

Looking ahead to the near future, everyone is invited to our Family Corn Hole Event on February 18 from 10-12. May the best tossing win!!!

Peace to you,

Alicia Smith, Children's Director



Happy Birthday



February

1 Kiley Bennett, Lois Yelton, 2 Chuck Stanford,
 3 Taylor Riecken, 4 Jacob Edwards, Courtney Mosley, Julie
 White, 5 Ellen Delgado, 6 Mike Huggins, Kaitlyn Phillips,
 Kirsten Phillips, 7 Faith Bennett, Roland Banks, 8 Mary Gail
 Crawford, Joyce Miller, Robert Richardson, 9 Alean Hughes,
 10 Tony Baker, Aaron Bennett, 11 Lyndsey Stack, 12 Dorothy
 Hawk, 13 Marie Tipton, 14 Page Sifford, 15 Cheryl Moore,
 21 Heather Higgins, Donnie Pate, 24 Diana Davis,
 25 Olivia Manfull, 27 Kathy Bolson, 28 Rob Reed

Memorial & Honorarium Offerings

In Honor of


*The Berean Sunday School Class
 by Ron Land
 to Calvary Cares*



Services are broadcast on Facebook Live

Connect with us online

Website - <https://calvaryerwin.org>
 Email - calvaryerwintn@gmail.com

 Calvary Baptist Church of Erwin Tn
 Sun. Service is live on Facebook 10 am

 Calvary Baptist of Erwin Tn

 @CalvryErwin



Service times at

Calvary

SUNDAY

10:00 a.m.
 11:00 a.m.
 6:00 p.m.

Sunday School
 Morning Worship
 Evening Worship
 Youth Bible Study
 Calvary Kids

WEDNESDAY

5:30 p.m.
 6:00 p.m.
 7:00 p.m.

Awana
 Youth & Adult
 Bible Study
 Choir Practice

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