



the *Calvary Caller*

Volume 47

March 2023

Number 3

Do You Believe?

Dear Calvary, did you enjoy the Spring like weather in February? March is here, and as we started this year, we talked about how fast time goes by. The first quarter will soon be in the annals of history. So let's do some inventory and soul searching. As God's people we have a clear defined mission to share the Gospel. As we are obedient to that Great Commission, God draws people in with the net of who Jesus is. Paul defines the Gospel in 1 Corinthians 15:3-4, "For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures." That is God's revelation of how we receive forgiveness of sins and get to heaven. God's plan was set before the foundation of the world, and it is in and through Christ alone. So, with the first quarter of this year going to be over very soon, are we sharing the Good News? We live in the most beautiful part of Tennessee with a church building on many corners. But there is still many people who are void of the truth that will set them free from the power of sin. You might feel inadequate, possibly fear rejection, or just don't think you can be used of God. John MacArthur says, "Yet with all their faults and character flaws – as remarkably ordinary as they were – these men carried on a ministry after Jesus' ascension that left an indelible impact on the world. Their ministry continues to influence us even today. God graciously empowered and used these men to inaugurate the spread of the gospel message and to turn

the world upside down (Acts 17:6). Ordinary men – people like you and me – became the instruments by which Christ's message was carried to the ends of the earth. No wonder they are such fascinating characters."

There is a growing instability because of the many poor decisions that our government has made. People are feeling the squeeze at the gas pump, the grocery store, along with everything because of skyrocketing inflation. We believe that in God's providential time, "For such a time as this," the doors of Calvary Cares has opened and serving many families throughout Unicoi County. The Calvary Cares Team wants to thank each and every person who has made this a possibility. We also invite you to come and share the love of Christ in a tangible way. The doors are open the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month at 1 PM. Come and experience the joy of helping carry food to the car while hearing, "their story." There are many who are giving prayer request and being prayed for right then and there. The thing that will help each and every one of us to share the Gospel with conviction, is to be persuaded of who Jesus is. As we are going through the Gospel of John verses by verse, John says, "but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name." Praying that our faith in who He is will grow and encourage each of us to share the truth in love. I would like to close with a quote from Randy Alcorn who said, "A paradox is an apparent contradiction. Grace and truth aren't really contra-



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dictory. Jesus didn't switch on truth, then turn it off so He could switch on grace. Both are permanently switched on in Jesus. Both should be switched on in us... Truth without grace breeds a self-righteousness legalism that poisons the church and pushes the world from Christ. Grace without truth breeds moral indifference and keeps people from seeing their need for Christ. Attempts to "soften" the gospel by minimizing truth keep people from Jesus. Attempts to "toughen" the gospel by minimizing grace keep people from Jesus. It's not enough for us

to offer grace or truth. We must offer both." My prayer is that we will be strengthened by God's Word to be as Paul says, "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord." Let us share the truth in love before time runs out,

Pastor David



Greetings, Calvary family!

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

On Sunday mornings, we finished our series on doctrines, which laid the foundation for everything else. Now we started a series on the Christian Life. We began with the subject of evangelism, which ties in nicely with our efforts to get student-led evangelism clubs in the public schools. First, I showed the students YouTube videos of actual street evangelism taking place, so that they could see what it could look like. And then we started a video curriculum from Sam Chan called Evangelism in a Skeptical World. From it, we've discussed a lifestyle of everyday evangelism, moving from shallow to deeper conversations with friends, and we've discussed how to craft a gospel presentation to various kinds of people with different worldviews. It'll take us a few months to work through the video curriculum.

On Sunday evenings, we're still working our way through the Book of Romans. We've completed the more theological portions of the book. Now we're covering the more practical portions of the book. Both are needed, right thinking and right practice. And right practice flows out of right thinking.

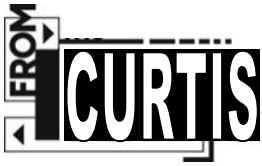
On Wednesday evenings, we're still working our way through the Book of Psalms. We've completed Psalm 19, which is one of the better known psalms about the revelation of God in nature and the revelation of God in Scripture. We're currently working on Psalm 20.

We had a Super Bowl party this month, which was a blast! Instead of watching the halftime show, we played Bingo with surprise prizes that the kids could trade with each other. I think they really enjoyed it. We had another Merge/First Priority Meeting at the YMCA. Unfortunately, snow tubing got canceled due to warmth and wetness.

Lately, I've been revisiting the works of Francis Schaeffer. He was a popular Christian philosopher and apologist at the latter part of the 20th century who focused on reaching young people for Jesus. Schaeffer really understood the times he was in, and he could see the trajectory they were headed in better than many others. This is why many who read him today consider him to have been prophetic. I can honestly recommend his 5-volume works to anyone. Schaeffer isn't that difficult to read or understand. If you do decide to buy his works, I recommend you begin with No Little People and True Spirituality. After those, I recommend He is There and He is Not Silent, How Should We Then Live, Art and the Bible, and Pollution and the Death of Man.

Please keep us in your prayers. Pray that the Lord draws lost students to salvation. Pray that God grows the saints in their belief, obedience, and worship. Pray that God enables us to get evangelism clubs or a culture of evangelism going in our public schools. Pray that God grows us in fellowship and service.

Christain



In your code of moral ethics does murder trump disobedience? Is Adam's disobedience in the garden equal to or less than say, Cain killing Abel, in regards to sin? Is it the quality of the sin or maybe the quantity of sins that determines the punishment? What is the Biblical answer a believer should be able to articulate? We already know the decalogue in Exodus 20 says, "Thou shall not kill," or (murder). From this we deduce Cain to be guilty of sin against his brother and God. But what does the Bible say about being disobedient? Ephesians 2:16, "who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to this world order. . . the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience." Those dead in trespasses and sins were, "not dead because of sinful acts that had been committed, but because of their Sinful Nature," says John MacArthur. He also

says, "disobedience is disbelief." So, Cain killing Abel did not make him a sinner. Cain killed Abel because Cain had a sin nature that dominated him. Cain is the perfect example of James 1:14-15. The four steps are, desire leads to deception, leads to design, which leads to disobedience. In conclusion, disobedience and disbelief are like two brothers of the same mother, the mother of Original Sin.

Someone has recently spoken this concept to me in a conversation about Answers in Genesis, "Cain committed the first sin and Adam and Eve were only disobedient." I strongly disagree with this interpretation! How would you counter this? I'm asking anybody who is inclined to write down 2-3 Biblical counter-points. Educate me and pray about my next divine appointment.

Curtis



Dearest Church Family,
This past month has flown by. We thank God for His love, mercy and grace. As we look

ahead into March, please remember the following events. On March 5, we will have a work day upstairs after Morning Worship, lunch will be provided. On March 12, we will have a parent's meeting following the a.m. service. On March 19, we will have a Vacation Bible School informative meeting following the a.m. service.

The children have been working very hard to memorize and recall 25 Bible verses, 10 Key Passages, and the books of the Bible. On March 19, we will have our Children's Bible Drill Presentation during the evening church service. Please come to support and encourage them. The associational Bible Drill will be conducted April 4th.

We recently reviewed 1 Samuel 16:7 during our Awana devotion. This verse says, "But the Lord said to Samuel, 'Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have re-

jected him. The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart." As Christians, we should have a heart for God. This means our actions, conversations, and efforts should glorify God. Please self examine yourself and consider what ways you can serve with a heart for God . Whether it be helping with the children's or youth programs, or various other church teams, we all need to be involved. Remember 1 Corinthians 10:31, "So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God."

I want to say, "thank you" to all of our Sunday School teachers in the Children's Department! You all do a great job! As a parent, I would like to thank the teachers for giving their time and effort to invest in our children. If you have any questions, concerns, or ideas for the children's department, please let me know at 743-4926.

Alicia Smith,
Children's Director



Happy Birthday



March

1 Don Banks, 4 Isabella Thomas, Caroline Podvin, 5 Darren Ricker, 6 Juanita Engle, 7 Merle Fain, 9 Logan Rice, 11 Leah Edney, 12 Dianne Davison, Raben Reed, Cheri Smart, 15 Dan Moore, Cyndi Caudle, Carla Engle, 16 Pam Amos, Julya Colinger, 18 Karen Edwards, 20 Russell Miller, Janna Crutchfield, 21 Leonard Bowman 22 Jane Burgner, David White, Sam Dalton, 24 Steve Blankenship, 25 Meredith Stack, Carol Whaley, Adam White, 27 Jason Podvin, 28 Draven Ricker, Christol Edney, 29 Linda Treadway

Memorial & Honorarium Offerings

In Memory of

Vange Bailey
by Mary Gail Crawford
to Consolidated Missions

Karl Thomas
by Imogene Thomas
to Consolidated Missions

Edna Lewis
by June Padgett

Sue Collins
by Dorcas/Homemakers Class
to Ukraine Food Boxes

In Honor of


**Faye Adkins, Ellen Delgado, Geraldine Banks,
Susie Riddle, Mildred Silvers, Joyce Miller**
by Mary Gail Crawford
to Consolidated Missions



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

THE CALVARY CALLER published monthly (except July and December)

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