



the *Calvary Caller*

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Faithful to the End

The race of faith for the believer can at times become mountainous and fatiguing. God has designed it that way, and if you should ever doubt that, just read Hebrews 11. Yes, God tests His children; He tries authentic faith as He puts that faith through the fiery trials of life. As we have been going through the written prayers recorded in the Bible for the Wednesday night prayer meeting, we finished the Old Testament with Habakkuk praying and asking God in chapter 1:2-4, "O LORD, how long shall I cry, and You will not hear? Even cry out to You, "Violence!" and You will not save. Why do You show me iniquity, and cause *me* to see trouble? For plundering and violence *are* before me; there is strife, and contention arises. Therefore the law is powerless, and justice never goes forth. For the wicked surround the righteous; therefore, perverse judgment proceeds." This is an amazing reflection on the times he lived in that are incredibly contemporary- considering he wrote this over 2,600 years ago. But the lessons he learned in his time of testing led him to deeper worship, as it should for all who have authentic faith. This was the culmination of his praise in chapter 3:17-19, "Though the fig tree may not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines; though the labor of the olive may fail, and the fields yield no food; though the flock may be cut off from the fold, and there be no herd in the stalls—yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation. The LORD God is my strength; He will make my feet like deer's feet, and He will make me walk on my high hills. To

the Chief Musician. With my stringed instruments."

When talking about the race of faith, the Scripture likens it to a marathon. This is the good news for the believer; someday the race will be over. This race does not go on and on with no end in sight. When a loved one who passes and dies in the faith, we often say that they finished their race. The Apostle Paul says it this way: "For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing." We have just finished the first quarter of the year and have already said goodbye to some wonderful people who finished well and died in the Lord. We have opportunities to minister to the next generation. Let us be found faithful in making disciples, passing the baton to them as this race continues till the Lord returns. Please be in prayer for the summer events such as V.B.S., Summer camp, the mission trip to Wisconsin, and the local ministries of reaching our own community. Our race will be over before you know it, and we want to hear, "Well done, good and faithful servant."



Pastor David



Greetings, Calvary family!

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

We have completed our Sunday morning series on evangelism. The closer we got to the end of the Evangelism in a Skeptical World series, the less I agreed with Chan's content. It started to be more pragmatic (in accordance with man's arbitrary philosophy) and less principled (in accordance with God's Scriptures). And I disagreed with more of his theology, apologetics, and interpretations of Scripture as we got to the end of the series. Because of this, I didn't show several of the last videos to the students. Still, the series was useful altogether. We changed things up a bit. We discussed good principles of evangelism. We talked through disagreements I had with Chan's philosophy. And I think I modeled to the students how to use discernment when watching or listening to another teacher (act like Bereans and test everything with the Scriptures). After the series, I showed them common methods of telling the gospel, including the Creation, Fall, Redemption, New Creation approach; the God, Man, Christ, Response approach; the Romans Road approach; the Colors approach; and many others. In the end, I think the students have had an opportunity to develop a biblical theology of evangelism, and I think they've been trained on both long-term and short-term methods of evangelism. God uses both. I've seen people converted in one gospel conversation on the street. And I've seen people converted after a year of friendship and hospitality evangelism in the homes of Christian families. The next series we'll be working through is Spiritual Disciplines of the Christian Life. It'll remind the students of their own role in discipleship and give them some methods for growing in belief and obedience to Jesus.

We're getting close to the end of our series on Romans, which we've been studying on Sunday nights. After this, we'll study the Book of Hebrews. I like to rotate among different authors of the NT, so that the students don't only hear Paul (Romans-Philemon). If you'd like to better understand how the OT and NT fit together, I recommend you give some serious attention to Hebrews.

On Wednesday evenings, we're still working through our series on the Psalms. We're still covering different types of psalms. As I'm writing this, we're working through a Psalm of Trust in Psalm 27. After that, we'll spend a few weeks on a Royal Psalm, a Wisdom Psalm, and a Torah Psalm. One of the things we've seen is that several Psalms were explicitly written for the purpose of singing them for gathered worship. I'm not sure why churches got out of the practice of singing the Psalms, but I recommend

that we consider getting back to them at Calvary. They're literally God-inspired songs.

In April, we went to a Youth Rally at Central Baptist Church in Erwin; Scott Stodola gave a powerful testimony; I recommend you look into him. Olivia Manfull got to teach our girls one week as a school assignment, which I heard went well. We had another Merge event at the YMCA; we got to hear several testimonies from both students and adults in attendance; it's amazing the different times and ways that God reaches lost people with the gospel. We joined the children's ministry for the hike at White Oak Trail; the weather was perfect, and we had a very enjoyable time. As I'm writing this, we're preparing for the Student and Adult Worship Night at the end of April, which I'm sure will be edifying.

In May, we're planning on having the last Merge meeting on the 3rd. We're going to help with the Appalachian Trail Cookout on the 7th. We'll start helping Calvary Cares after school lets out on the 18th. And we're still working on a rafting trip and/or a Frisbee competition for the month of May.

For this month's book, I recommend Gary North's Political Polytheism. It might be the most thought-provoking book on American History and Politics that I've ever read. One of the things North does is contrast the vision for America from the Founders and the vision for America from the Framers. The Colonists were the Founders, and later the Constitutionals were the Framers. The Colonists overwhelmingly made Christ the ruler of their colonies/states and made the Bible the explicit foundation for their colonies/states. Whereas the Framers intentionally left God, Christ, and the Bible out of the Constitution, and they intentionally made it such that America would be a pluralist nation with Article 6. Pluralism means that every religion is given equal rights and privileges; no religion is absolute over the others. This means that relativism was not only implicit but inevitable in America. Relativism is the belief in no absolute truths (except for relativism). With no absolute religion, there can be no absolute truth, because God is the foundation for all absolutes. This means the chaos we see today was always inevitable from the Constitution. Relativism can't produce anything but chaos. In light of this, the solution to our country's problems is conceptually simple: return to Christ as our explicit ruler and return to the Bible as the explicit foundation for our society. Unfortunately, getting back to that point will probably take a miraculous awakening or a very painful conflict. Still, Christ is king of kings and lord of lords. At some point, this land will bend the knee to Christ again. Let's pray and labor to that end. At the time of writing this, I still haven't finished the book, because I found that it's a book worth reading slowly (very few are). It's well worth your time.

If you have service needs or know anyone who

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has service needs that the student ministry can fulfill, please let me know. We'd like to be a blessing to our church.

Please keep the student ministry in your prayers!

Christain



Yes, it is true, Jesus spent 40 days on earth in His resurrected glorious body. Paul tells us, "but now is Christ risen from the dead and become the firstfruits of them that slept (1 Corinthians 15)." My question is...Who are the firstfruits? From whence do they come?

We know the Bible says, "that flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God (1 Corinthians 15)." So how does a flesh and blood, man of dust, naturally born living soul like me, ever inherit the Kingdom of God? Cannot happen! Why? Corruption cannot inherit incorruption. However, the good news

is: "the last Adam was made a life giving spirit (1 Corinthians 15)." This second man is the Lord from heaven. He is our Blessed Hope!

The Bible says, "Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God (Romans 10:17)." Hebrews tells us, "Without faith it's impossible to please God (Hebrews 11:6)." So, faith is what we need! Faith in what? Not what, but faith in who! Jesus, of course!

Jesus is the firstfruits, but is He the only one or is He... one of many?

Curtis



Greetings Church Family,

We are so excited about our upcoming summer events! Parents have received a copy of the event calendar. Any parent that was unable to attend the meeting, please see me to get your child's summer packet. The events are also listed on the new Cbc Erwin app. I encourage you to download the app and register your email through the communication portal. This will provide an easier way to communicate and keep parents informed. Parents please return medical release forms and Children's Camp forms as soon as possible.

We will be focusing on family bonding and fellowship during our summer Wonderful Wednesday activities. Wonderful Wednesdays will occur every Wednesday from 6:00-7:00p.m. Some of these family events include Family VBS Decorating Day, ice cream sundae day, board game day, and scavenger hunt day. Please see the calendar for corresponding dates. Vacation Bible School kickoff will be from 4:00-6:30pm on June 11, 2023. We will have inflatables, food, and a lot of fun. Please encourage the kids to invite their friends! "Keepers of the Kingdom" VBS will continue June 12-16 from 5:30-8:00 and we will be studying the armor of God. VBS decorating days for teachers and volunteers will be June 9th and 10th from 9:00-12:00. Anyone who is able, please come to help. Every effort is needed and prayer for VBS is essential. If you are willing to help with VBS, please let me know. We have many service options. The "Army of the Lord" Children's Camp will be June 20-23. The theme verse for camp is 2 Timothy 2:3. We have a full itinerary to include

chapel, activities, games, and devotions. The kids have already told me they are looking forward to attending.

On July 17-21, Calvary Staff and volunteers will be helping at the Baptist Center in Johnson City. Please be in prayer for opportunities to show love and share the Good News.

I wanted to mention a couple of Family Camping Opportunities. We have rented out sites 28,29, and 31 in loop C at Rock Creek Park on June 2. Check in is at 2p.m. or after. Check out is 11a.m. Please bring tents, sleeping bags, snacks, drinks, etc. We have another family camping opportunity on August 4th at Appalachian Christian Camp. We have reserved the pool from 4-5pm and the wilderness cabins for overnight camping. Everyone must check out by 1p.m. on August 5th. Children will be supervised by parents and/or appointed guardians at both camping events. Please bring sleeping bags, snacks, drinks for time at Camp ACC. You may bring your own tent and set it up in the wilderness area if you would rather not stay in the cabins.

There are still many positions to be filled in the children's department. Please consider volunteering in any way possible. Every effort is appreciated. Remember Colossians 3:23-24 that says, "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving."

May we labor together to proclaim the Gospel,

Alicia Smith, Children's Director



Happy Birthday



May

1 Olivia Looney, 2 Ellie Shelton, 5 Jim Buchanan,
 8 Mary Evans, David Rogers, Allen Williams,
 9 Robert Lewis, 10 Wendell Sullivan, 11 Ford Wilson,
 12 Ron Land, 14 Roland Banks, Jon Hensley, Troy Podvin,
 15 Sydney Marsh, 17 Saige Wilson, 21 Edna Dempke,
 Carolyn White, Donna Rigsby, Patricia Looney,
 23 Imogene Thomas, Alexis Whaley,
 25 Emily Shelton, 26 Seth Jones,
 Mari Fanning, Phyllis Breen

Memorial & Honorarium Offerings In Memory of

John Tipton

*to Consolidated Missions
 by Gary & Pam Amos
 by David Crutchfield*

Ralph Sparks

*by Ed & Becky Manfull
 to Calvary Cares
 by Kathy Allen
 to Consolidated Missions*

Lois Yelton

*by Gary & Pam Amos
 to Consolidated Missions
 by Suzy Hughes*

Joyce Miller

*to Consolidated Missions
 by Gary & Pam Amos
 by David Crutchfield
 by The Dorcas/Homemakers Class*

Lena Laughrun


*by The Dorcas/Homemakers Class
 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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