



the *Calvary Caller*

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Slow to Learn

April is here. That means we have spent the first quarter of the year; and yes, it has gone way too fast. As a friendly reminder, the goal this year is to be a witness to someone about the grace of God in our personal lives. How's that going? God has given us measurable increments of time for our assessment. We have grown up knowing that this is the time of year when we pull pranks on one another. If we are able to convince someone of our little trick, we then say, "April Fools"! However, when it came to teaching the disciples, Jesus was long-suffering with His students. He never pulled a fast one or tried to fool them. They needed no help with being stubborn or slow. There is nothing more frustrating than teaching someone who is unwilling to be taught. How merciful and kind is our Lord as we see Him again and again tell the disciples what the Bible says about Him! It went right over their heads. We just had a beautiful Resurrection celebration praising God for His judgement passing over us and falling on His only Begotten Son. This is what being a Christian is all about. When a person receives grace instead of judgment, knowing that it was Jesus who took our place on the cross, it has a way of producing some humility and should motivate us to share what God has



so graciously done in our lives. Let's look at a common passage from which we can learn: Luke says in 24:22, "Yes, and certain women of our company, who arrived at the tomb early, astonished us. When they did not find His body, they came saying that they had also seen a vision of angels who said He was alive. And certain of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but Him they did not see. Then He said to them, 'O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?' And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself."

This amazing passage from Luke is known as "The Road to Emmaus." Jesus was walking with them, and they were completely ignorant who it was expounding the Word to them. Yes, we can certainly relate to not knowing when the Lord is close by our side. How often we are blind and not realize what He has told us in His Word. There are many distractions in our lives. God wants us to be completely trusting in Him. C. S. Lewis says, "Christ wants a child's heart, but a grown-up's head. He wants us to be simple,

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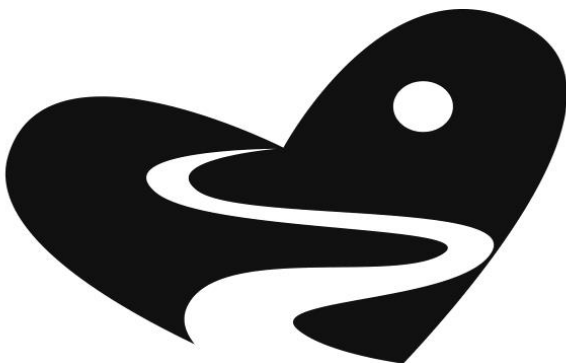
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single-minded, affectionate, and teachable, as good children are; but He also wants every bit of intelligence we have to be alert at its job, and in first-class fighting trim." The disciples eventually learned to trust Him. Hopefully we will learn this valuable lesson and trust our Lord more than we ever have. Verses 30-35 help us to understand a little better in the context that Jesus was teaching them, yet again as we read, "Now it came to pass, as He sat at the table with them, that He took bread, blessed, and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they knew Him; and He vanished from their sight. And they said to one another, 'Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?' So, they rose up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem and found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, saying, 'The Lord is risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!' And they told about the things that had happened on the road, and how He was known to them in the breaking of bread." What a beautiful passage of Scripture! This should encourage each and every one of us. The thing that opened their eyes was the breaking of bread. There is nothing like being reminded that the Bread represents His body, and the Cup represents His precious blood. We are walking with the Lord by faith. Most of the time we are not aware of His presence, but we know that He is with us. This is one approach in sharing our faith with someone. There is a lot of anxiety in our day; yes, even

in little Erwin. People are watching the news, worried about the economy and the election, and what the future holds. When we are ready to share that we live our lives by faith in His promises, that's a good witness. He will provide, He will protect, He will preserve His children. Because we have put our faith in His death, His burial, His resurrection, and His return, He sustains us in uncertain times. Hopefully we have learned this. If we have not, He is faithful to teach that lesson to us till we finally learn to trust Him with all our hearts. There is no doubt that these men were downcast and discouraged with all that had taken place with the crucifixion of our Lord. They faced real loss as their world was turned upside down. This is where our Lord appears often: on the road of grief, doubt, fear, and every tragedy one could ever imagine. However, He is teaching us something that will help us grow in love and faith. If we will believe what He says in His Word, our hearts will burn with assurance that He is doing exactly what He said He would do. If you are slow to learn, be encouraged to know He is with you. He will never leave you or forsake you—possibly this is our greatest witness. In all our struggle and weaknesses, God's grace is sufficient. When we are weak, He is strong. That is a powerful witness of Jesus and His love.

Let us be teachable while we look into the future with resurrection hope.

Pastor David



"Did not our **hearts burn within us ...**
while **he opened** to us
the **Scriptures?**"

Luke 24:32, ESV



Harvard Divinity School student asked Billy Graham a question, "can you tell us in plain, clear language: What must one do to be saved?" Graham answered, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved (Acts 16:31)." He did not say confess every sin you have ever committed. Nor did he say be baptized, read the whole Bible and pray three times per day. Rather, believe is what we do in order to start a personal saving relationship with the Holy Creator of our soul. Confession is how we maintain this clean, intimate, transparent and eternal relationship. It's not about me! Not about who I am or where did I come from. All questions like these are good questions to be pondering but the one answer to them all is Jesus. On this subject, David Jeremiah gives thanks that "being saved is not about who we are, but about who God is. Also, Christ died in our place so that, what we have done would not be a barrier to our being saved."

"Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life (John 14:6)." If people could just understand only Messiah can get us to the Father, not religion. If people could perceive that absolute truth is a person who loves us. If people could just understand what Dr. Jeremiah means with this statement, "Life cannot be built on anything that can disappear tomorrow or end when we die. The Jesus-life is permanent." Those of you who in your former life were estranged from God and enemies in your carnal mind proven by your self promoting efforts, Jesus has now reconciled. He is now able "in the body of His flesh through death to present believers as holy and unblameable in God's sight (Colossians 1:22)." Jesus help us to understand this message. Please give us courage to live this message and boldness to speak the message of reconciliation to others.

Curtis



Greetings Church Family,

Since Vacation Bible School is right around the corner, I wanted to provide a brief overview of the curriculum. The Great Jungle Journey is a cruise from Genesis to Revelation, as we study seven key biblical events called the 7 C's of History. The first day of VBS will focus on Creation in Genesis 1 and how everything began according to God's Word. The theme will be, "All is Good". The second day of VBS will focus on Corruption and Catastrophe in Genesis 3 and Genesis 6-9. This lesson will focus on how sin entered the world, how sin affects everyone, and the reality of a global flood. The theme will be, "All Sin". The third day of VBS will focus on Confusion in Genesis 11. This lesson will focus on the world-altering events that began at the tower of Babel. The theme will be, "All in Confusion". The fourth day of VBS will focus on Christ and the Cross in John 1:12, Galatians 4:4, John 3:16, and other Scriptures. The lesson will focus on the need for a Savior. The theme will be,

"Savior for All Who Believe". The fifth day of VBS will focus on Consummation in Revelation 21-22. This lesson will focus on the fact that God wins and everything will be very good again. The theme will be, "All is Good Again".

We want kids in our community to hear about our awesome God. We want the kids to understand how they can receive eternal life through repentance and faith in Jesus. Please be in prayer for VBS and invite every child you can to come participate June 10-14. VBS workers are needed. If you are willing and able to serve, please attend the VBS Worker Meeting on April 7th, following the morning service.

April is filled with important events. Please download the Subsplash app to stay connected with upcoming events. April events are as follows: Ping Pong Tournament on April 13th from 10-12, "Dads and Donuts" on April 14th at 9:30, a parent meeting after church on April 21st .

With gratitude,
Alicia Smith



Happy Birthday



April


1 Lee Rigler, 2 Amber Bennett Lamar, 4 Martha Bryant, Gracen Crawford, Camden Crawford, 5 Bryson Crawford, 7 Max Rainey, Sally Ramsey, 10 Jerry Bennett, 16 Eli Gillis, 17 Phyllis Bennett, Braden Sifford, Nevan Sifford, 18 Jean Bowman, 19 Iva Lee Gray, Angela Shelton, 22 Steve Gryder, Shirley Rogers, 26 Andy Bennett, 27 Ethan Harris, Anita Lantz, 28 Kathy Evans, 30 Gina Podvin, Linda Bryan, Mason Stack



Services are broadcast on Facebook Live

Connect with us online

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 Email - calvaryerwintn@gmail.com

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

 Calvary Baptist of Erwin Tn

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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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