



Philippians: The Good News of the Gospel Seven-week Message Series January 31 – March 14

Join us either on-line (calvarync.org/messages)
or on our Facebook page on Sundays that we do not
meet in-person



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The Monthly Newsletter of Calvary Baptist Church

— February 2021



From the Pastor...

If there is one label that has been overused in the year 2020, it is the label “Fake News.” Up until the end of 2020, some claimed that the COVID-19 virus was “Fake News.” The media was charged with promoting “Fake News” about almost anything you can imagine: the origin of the virus, foreign government infiltration of our secure national website, and that Kanye West was leading in the polls ahead of both Biden and Trump in Kentucky. It’s hard to know what to believe these days, isn’t it.

As your pastor, I want to call-out some REAL “Fake News.” I believe I owe it to my congregation to do so. Some of you may have heard or read that the COVID-19 vaccine is “the mark of the beast” described in Revelation 13. You can add this to the list of “Fake News” because it just isn’t so.

How can I be so sure? It’s quite simple. In Revelation, those who receive “the mark of the beast” (13:16) are “killed” along with the beast because of their worship of the beast (19:21). Now, as a thought experiment, imagine one of our senior members at Calvary living alone in a nursing facility without any access to television or news media. She is a dedicated follower of Jesus and has been her whole life. She has lived for Jesus. She has followed his model for living. She has been his disciple. When a nurse comes to her bedside to give her a shot to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, for which she has prayed would one day be available to her, this sweet little lady gladly receives it, knowing that now she will be able to be reunited with her family whom she has not seen or touched or hugged for months due to the quarantine at her care facility. She receives the vaccine, which some people say is the “mark of the beast.” If they are right, because she has taken the vaccine, she is now somehow an enemy of God, destined for the lake of fire? Is it true that her faith in Jesus is somehow nullified because she received a shot intended to promote her health and longevity? Is it true that she is now suddenly lost eternally because, even though she is a follower of Jesus, she accidentally or unknowingly let someone give her “the mark of the beast.” Absolutely not! God does not deal in trickery. But men sure do.

The Gospel of Jesus Christ and the salvation that comes through our faith in him as Lord and Savior is the “mark” that identifies us as belonging to God (Rev. 14:1). Through our faith in the death and resurrection of Jesus and a personal commitment to Jesus as Lord, absolutely nothing that man can do will undo what God has done in the life of those who are His own. To suggest that taking a vaccine could nullify personal faith in Jesus Christ is incongruent with the Gospel. The New Testament teaches otherwise on nearly every page.

The problem with “Fake News” (previously simply called “bearing false witness” or “lies”, which the Bible is clear about) is that people act on it. People make decisions that affect themselves and others based on what they believe is true. *.....continued on inside page*

**“I PETER — A LIVING HOPE” WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY
POSTPONED—Look for future dates**

From the Pastor continued... ..

Such is the case with the belief that the COVID-19 vaccine is “the mark of the beast.” Such a belief can do enormous harm to the health and well-being of loved ones and friends. It can create unnecessary fear and anxiety in folks of all ages. It can add to the current health crisis we are in rather than helping bring about the wholeness and healing that is intended with the vaccine. What we believe matters. Getting to the truth matters. And the truth about the “mark of the beast” in Revelation 13 is that it is a mark that identifies those who knowingly worship “the beast.” It is the mark of those who knowingly yield their allegiance to the Roman Emperors of the 1st century rather than bowing only to “the Lamb upon the Throne.” as did the Roman Emperor Nero.

We need to do a better job at ferreting out those teachings that clearly go against the New Testament Scriptures and the personhood of God. Don’t believe everything you hear. Study the Scriptures. Listen to the Spirit. Follow Jesus. Hold on to the Gospel -- the “Good News” -- because there’s already plenty enough of “Fake News” to go around.

FEBRUARY BIBLE STUDY

Is postponed until we have maneuvered through the pandemic and are able to safely meet with social distancing. Thank you for your patience and understanding. We look forward to studying 1 Peter together and will make the announcement as soon as possible.

Renovations Underway on the Calvary Campus

All that remains to be done is painting the walls and installing the flooring, thanks to the Mission Team from First Baptist Church Hickory who spent two days painting!

The Leadership Team has approved installing a new roof over the education building. The funds for this new roof are being taken out of the insurance claim for the organ.

In spite of the surge of Covid, the Mission Team from Hickory came and safely distanced work on the Chapel area. We appreciate so much their willingness to help with the vision and purpose Calvary has for the Asheville area.

Inclement Weather Announcements

In the event of church closing or cancellation of worship services due to inclement weather, check our website (calvarync.org) or our Facebook page. We will also make the announcement by phone via our phone tree. We will not be announcing closing on TV or radio.

Worship Service Schedule

We will not meet for in-person services January 17, 24, or 31. For information about the worship service schedule in February, please check our website (calvarync.org) or our Facebook page. We will also make announcements by phone via our phone tree and by e-mail.

Sign-up for our Phone Tree

Get in the loop! If you have not previously registered your phone number with us to be placed on our Phone Tree, please call the church office today at 828-253-7301 or e-mail the office at office@calvarync.org. The phone tree features weekly messages from our ministers, important church news, and prayer requests for our church family.

Voting by Phone Tree

There are several important matters that need our church family to consider for church vote. Given the current COVID-19 crisis and the fact that we are not holding in-person services for several weeks, and given these matters need the church's prompt attention, the Leadership Team has suspended our Bylaws to allow for "virtual" voting by phone. The phone message will provide any needed information and instructions. Please be sure you register for our phone tree and vote by phone!

Pastoral Care Encouragement

The New Year has begun and we reflect on experiences of what has happened in our lives over the past year. Some events were very hurtful and some not. I remember what the Apostle Paul wrote, “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose (Romans 8:28).” All of us have the opportunity to take what we have lived through to make a difference in someone else’s life. How can we do that? We can take the abundance of gifts God has given each one of us and give it to others, for example: you can call someone hurting from a loss or send them a card; you can randomly give a gift card to help someone buy groceries; and you can share your testimony of God’s unconditional love for them and you. Paul went on to say, “If God is for us, who can be against us? (Romans 8:31b).” Each day this year share your gift, and give it to others. Do it intentionally or randomly. Both of you will be blessed!

Blessings Always,
Butch

Thank you for your faithfulness to Calvary Baptist Church and the finances needed to maintain our ministries and facility. God is honoring your attention to the work here.

“Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” 2 Corinthians 9:6-7

Dollywood Tickets for Shoebox Volunteers

Based on the number of Shoeboxes we packed this year (261) we are eligible for six admission tickets to Dollywood. If you helped with this ministry this year (packed boxes, donated money for supplies or materials, worked at the processing center or helped in any way) and would like to be in the drawing for these tickets, sign the drawing sheet located on the table in the Café. Print your name and phone number on the sign-up sheet. We will hold a drawing once we receive the tickets in the spring.

JOIN OUR SUNDAY MORNING PRAYER TEAM

Thank you to those who miss our Sunday worship service to pray for our Pastor and staff, our congregation, our service and those on our Prayer List. If you would like to join the prayer team to pray during our worship service, please contact Butch at 828-768-8313 or care@calvarync.org.

Reimbursements for Purchases

There is a new process members should use if you need to be reimbursed for purchases made at the request of Calvary Baptist. The office has an Expense Reimbursement Form to be completed and given to the Office Manager. We also need the original receipt and Department information. Please come by the office, or let Dianna know to mail you a copy if you need to submit receipts.

Mona Moore wanted every one to have her new address:
3770 Batesville Blvd
Batesville AR 72501
She'll move to her daughters in March. We're REALLY gonna miss her!!

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In Sympathy for the loss of.....

Doley Bell passed away suddenly on December 24th. We hold Melody and their children in prayer and in our hearts as they begin the new year grieving

Jean Mann Buckner passed away Sunday December 27th. Please pray for her brother, step-children and family during this time.

Thank You Calvary

From Frank Richardson—

Thank you to Calvary Church members for the prayers during my time of having muscle and back problems. GOD has been so very good to me and I am on the path of recovery.

From Evelyn Boone—

It was so nice for all the sweet things that you put in a darling little bag. Everything was just so nice.

From Ed Stevens-

Please say hello to members of Calvary that dad appreciated so much. God Bless You.

Watch Our Services On-Line

Miss a Sunday? Want to share our Sunday services with someone who could not be here? Videos of our services are available at calvarync.org. Just click on “Sunday Messages” from the media menu.

Your Giving Counts

Thank you for your faithfulness to Calvary and the finances that are needed to support our ministries and maintain our facility. God is honoring your attention to the work here at Calvary.