

## CALVARY CALLER

*The Printed Ministry of Calvary Baptist Church*

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David Crutchfield, Senior Pastor ♦ Justin Ciralsky, Youth Pastor

Gary Amos, Music Director ♦ Terri Graham, Director, Children's Ministry

## SUNDAY

9:45 A.M.- Bible Study & Children's Programs  
 11:00 A.M. -----Morning Worship  
 6:30 P.M. -----Evening Worship

## WEDNESDAY

6:00 P.M. -----AWANA  
 6:30 P.M. -----Prayer Meeting  
 7:30 P.M. -----Choir Rehearsal

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## Giving Thanks for Jesus

As another year is coming to a close, it's wise to look over your shoulder and see the months that have quickly gone by for the purpose of seeing the faithfulness of God. Have you counted your blessings? Have you kept a journal of answered prayers? Can you see by faith His unseen hand leading you, guiding you through the year? This is a call for Thanksgiving, and to be sure for some in the congregation this has been the most difficult year of their life! The reality of suffering and pain, the emptiness of such loss is almost indescribable. How do people move forward with such difficulty? By keeping the right perspective that God knows the big picture. We may never see it or understand it completely until we are home in heaven. So we look, see and give thanks that He loves us in the challenges of life. Yes, for the Christian, this is a wonderful time to refocus on who God is, what He has done, what He is doing and what He will do for His people! Let us join the Pilgrims of yesteryear and, in the midst of trial, give glory to God for He is worthy!



Now, when considering how the times have changed but God has not, it should put a smile on our face to just think of what the Pilgrims would have to say about Black Friday. Yes, it is upon us again; the pushing, the shoving, the pulling, the camping out all night to get that desired item. As God's people, may the chaos that often comes with this time of year push us right into the arms of Jesus. As a matter of faith, look to Him who is the source of all blessings that satisfy the soul and remember God's greatest gift to a lost world. Should the year be so difficult that you can't see more than the loss? Then, as Christmas will soon be knocking at the door, let the true meaning of the season warm your heart and comfort your soul.

One of the finest definitions of Christmas is found in this quote by John MacArthur who says, "Here's a side to the Christmas story that isn't often told: Those soft little hands, fashioned by the Holy Spirit in Mary's womb, were made so that nails might be driven through them. Those baby feet, pink and unable to walk, would one day walk up a dusty hill to be nailed to a cross. That sweet infant's head, with sparkling eyes and eager mouth, was formed so that someday men might force a crown of thorns onto it. That tender body, warm and soft, wrapped in swaddling clothes, would one day be ripped open by a spear. Jesus was born to die." Yes, this is why He came. And as hard as it is to read that quote, it is the true essence of Christmas. He did come to die, but in that death He gives eternal life to all who will receive this gift of all gifts. This is how the Christian stays focused year round: By faith, fixing our eyes on Him who loves us with an everlasting love. So let's be found with hearts of thanksgiving. And as Vance Havner says, "Christmas is based on an exchange of gifts, the gift of God to man – His unspeakable gift of His Son, and the gift of man to God – when we present our bodies as a living sacrifice." This is the best way to close out the old year and start the new one, by giving thanks. And as we give thanks to God for His Son, let us give ourselves afresh and anew for His service.

The Crutchfield's want to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! May the true meaning of Christmas give you Hope.

Merry Christmas!

Pastor David, Janna, Jonathan, Daniel, Anna, Nathanael, Elizabeth and Malachi

## "Rabbi, which is the great commandment in the Law?"



What would be your by your answer to this question? Some would say, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." With that answer, this good person would be in violation of Proverbs 2:5-6. Specifically, "lean not on your own understanding". The Pharisee thought they could trap Jesus or maybe embarrass him in controversy over this hotly debated topic. After all, the religious leaders were locked in a stalemate over which commandment carried the most 'weight' or (kabad). In Matthew 22:36 where this question was introduced, Jesus gave an insightful, discerning, convicting and truly overwhelming answer as He quoted Deuteronomy 6:5. Every Christian should know how Jesus answered. I'm not saying someone has to be able to quote the KJV word for word like an answer for a test. John MacArthur said it like this, "Love God with you whole person first, then equally love those made in His image." Man's whole moral duty is narrowed to 2 commands.

This encounter between Jesus and the Pharisees continues with this question, "What do you think about the Messiah? Whose Son is he? OF course they answered, "The Son of David," because to them the Messiah was also, the Son of God. Unfortunately, on this day there were no confessions or professions of faith. Doubt and unbelief was robbing them of their future. In response using - word pictures, Jesus rebukes and condemns the character and the conduct of the Pharisees. For 33 verses in chapter 23, Jesus addresses hypocrisy in their leadership. In this chapter, Jesus is scolding the shepherds of Israel for failing to lead the sheep to green pastures and still waters.

However; at verse 34, Jesus starts speaking about the Future. Think about context! The Future is the over-arching context starting at Matthew 23:34 and continuing to the end of chapter 25. On Sunday nights in November we will discuss these verses. Hope you can attend. Curtis



**Blake & Broox Bennett**



**Troy & Betsy Kearney  
Ron & Kathie Peterson**



Christmas Dinner December 5<sup>th</sup>  
 Special Needs Christmas Party December 7<sup>th</sup>  
 Consolidated Missions Offering December 9<sup>th</sup>  
 Senior Adult Christmas Party December 14<sup>th</sup>  
 Christmas Cantata December 23<sup>rd</sup>  
 Christmas Eve Service December 24<sup>th</sup>

» FROM THE  
Youth  
Pastor »

Hello Church family! Over the past few weeks I have really been focusing on two phrases and I wanted to share them with you this month. The two phrases are, “You are created on purpose and for a purpose,” and “True love shows up!”

In Isaiah 43 God is speaking and he reminds us that he created us for his glory! Then throughout much of the New Testament we read that we have a divine purpose; that we were created to bring God glory. Many people wrestle with this idea of “what am I supposed to do with my life,” and these verses bring the answer to light. No matter what we do, we do everything for the glory of God. In Matthew 5; we are told to let our light shine, so others will see it and praise our father in heaven. In Eph. 2; we are told that we are to do good works, which God **prepared in advance for us to do**. So for us, as believers, the answer to the question of what’s my purpose is simple. No matter what we do, we do everything with God in mind. Knowing that God created us on purpose and for a purpose gives our lives value, worth, and meaning.

Knowing this truth leads right into the second phrase, which has really become an anthem for my life. True love shows up! Think about the most famous verse of all time. When we needed God most, God sent Jesus to us! Jesus showed up when we needed him most! In John 13, Jesus himself tells us that the world will know us by the way we love. He then calls us to love the world as he loved us. If you go back

throughout the gospels and read Jesus’ story, you will soon pick up that he always showed up. So about a year ago, we started trying to put this simple but powerful truth into action. When people needed to be loved, we didn’t just text them, we didn’t just call them, we didn’t just pray for them, but we showed up and were present with them.

There is such power in presence, and showing up when people needed it is an amazing way to be the love of Christ. This phrase has literally led me across the country, to another country, and into many homes of people around the tri-cities. So my challenge to myself and to those who read this is simple. Let’s start showing up and being exactly who we were created to be. We were created on purpose and for a purpose, and the best way to live that out is to show up and love like Jesus loved. Let’s be intentional in our prayers for the lost, but we don’t stop there. Then we must be intentional with our actions, attitudes, and behaviors. Let’s pursue our community with the gospel. Let’s stand arm and arm, young and old alike, united in one purpose! Praying for and pursuing the lost and helping them fall in love with Jesus! Are you ready to get started, if so pray this prayer, “Send me to where your love is needed!”

Love you guys

C



## Memorials & Honorarium

### To Christian Life Center/Building Fund

*In Loving Care of Caden & Taylor Bryan*

*David & Janna Crutchfield*

*The Homemakers Class*

*The Dorcas Class*

*In Honor of Shannon Higginbotham by Gene & Sally Ramsey*

*In Memory of Wanda Jones by Kathy Allen*

### To Regular Offering Fund

*In Memory of Roy & Dorothy Rigsby by Donna Rigsby*

### To CERI Fund

*In Honor of Gary Amos by Calvary Baptist Church Choir*

*In Memory of Dr. Jay W. Colinger by David & Jane Burgner*

*In Memory of Johnnie Sue Goodman by David & Jane Burgner*

*In Memory of Dr. Jay W. Colinger by David & Janna Crutchfield*

*In Memory of Dr. Jay W. Colinger by Sheldon & Tina Roark*

### To Consolidated Mission Offering Fund

*In Memory of Bernie Cole by Jim & Mary Crawford*

*In Memory of Lottie Moon by David & Janna Crutchfield*

### To Belize Mission Trip

*In Memory of Bryon Wiggand by Robert & Tammie Overton*

*Thank  
You*

*Thank you for your prayers, cards & food during the loss of my wife, Wanda. May God Bless You, Bernie Jones*

*Dear Brothers and Sisters, I write to thank you for your financial gift which came through your Pastor David Crutchfield to help in paying for my vehicle to be fixed. I am happy to inform you that it was fixed and it's running well. You are much appreciated for your generosity as a church. Your Brother in Christ, Jephias Maipi*

*Dear Church Family, Thank you so much for your generous donation! You all will never know how much this means to all of us! Thank you for all the continued love, support and prayers during this difficult time! #HudsonStrong Sincerely, The Starnes & Dillon Families*



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