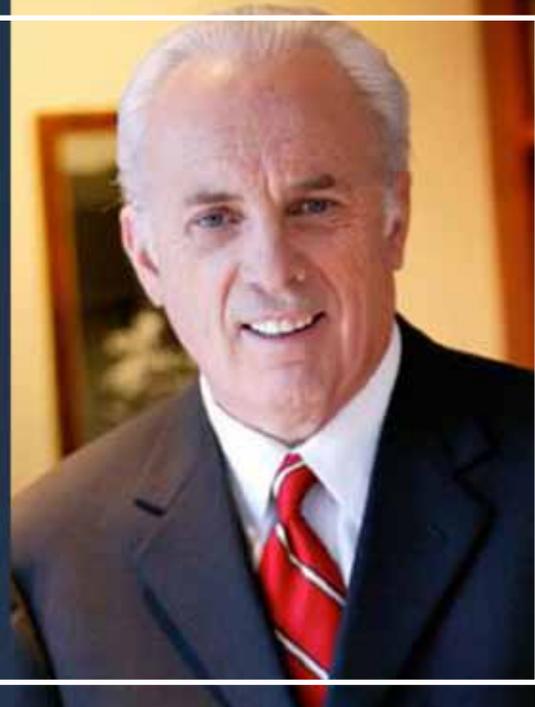


GUEST SPEAKER
JOHN
MACARTHUR

SEPTEMBER 16
10:30 AM WORSHIP



We are pleased and honored to welcome Dr. John MacArthur as our special guest on Sunday, September 16, at 10:30 am. Since 1969, Dr. MacArthur has served as the pastor-teacher of Grace Community Church in Sun Valley, California. He is also president of the Master's University and Seminary and can be heard daily on the Grace to You radio broadcast. He has authored a number of bestselling books, including The MacArthur New Testament Commentary series, The MacArthur Study Bible, The Gospel According to Jesus, Twelve Ordinary Men, and Strange Fire.



Sunday, September 9

Led by Zach Daniels and Reagan Farris

Join us at 6:00 pm in the Sanctuary for a Night of Prayer that will focus on Calvary's children and student ministries.

Ministry Staff

Paul Thompson	Senior Pastor
Charles Uptain	Executive Pastor
Dan Tankersley	Discipleship
Matthew Dorsey	Worship
Joyce Alexander	Preschool
Zach Daniels	Children
Reagan Farris	Student Interim
Greg Pendergrass	Community/ROC

Ministry Assistants

Caren Coleson	Pastoral
Rebekah McLure	Music
Carol Morris	Executive Assistant
Anne Register	Community/Recreation
Emily Shiver	Senior Adults
Brooke Stickles	Family Ministries
Angie Tice	Adults/Outreach

Support Staff

Nolan Dykes	Music Assistant
Mark Shiver	Facilities Manager

Weekday Ministry

Michelle Beasley	Director
Nickie Smith	Receptionist

For the Record For August, 2018

Average Attendance:

10:30 Worship	669
6:00 Worship	332
Life Groups	636
Mission Church.....	134
Nursing Homes.....	77
Outreach Bible Study.....	10

Total Giving:

General Fund	\$1,616,320.96
Y-T-D Required	\$1,717,000.00

Sermon Schedule

Sunday, September 2

10:30 am - Fellowship Center

Called to Be Saints Together

“Christianity on Display”

1 Corinthians 11:2-16

Message by Paul Thompson

Wednesday, September 5

6:00 pm - Sanctuary

Major Lessons from Minor Prophets

“Micah: What God Wants”

Message by Pastor Paul

Sunday, September 9

10:30 am - Fellowship Center

Called to Be Saints Together

“Worship and the Lord’s Supper”

1 Corinthians 11:17-34

Message by Matthew Dorsey

Wednesday, September 12

6:00 pm - Sanctuary

Major Lessons from Minor Prophets

“Micah: Who God Is”

Message by Paul Thompson

Sunday, September 16

10:30 am - Fellowship Center

Called to Be Saints Together

“The Holy Spirit and
the Modern Church”

1 Corinthians 12:1-11

Message by Paul Thompson

Wednesday, September 19

6:00 pm - Sanctuary

Major Lessons from Minor Prophets

“Nahum: The Enemies of God”

Message by John MacArthur

Sunday, September 23

10:30 am - Fellowship Center

Called to Be Saints Together

“More Than Jesus and Me”

1 Corinthians 12:12-31

Message by Paul Thompson

Wednesday, September 26

6:00 pm - Sanctuary

Major Lessons from Minor Prophets

“Nahum: The Authority of God”

Message by Paul Thompson

Sunday, September 30

10:30 am - Fellowship Center

Called to Be Saints Together

“Love Matters Most”

1 Corinthians 12:13:1-7

Message by Paul Thompson

From Our Senior Pastor

There are a couple of books that I can look back on that mark the trajectory of my pastoral ministry.

When I was finishing up my MDiv at New Orleans Baptist Seminary in 1995-96, the hottest book among church leaders and seminarians was *The Purpose Driven Church*, by Rick Warren. And I became an early disciple. I saw what Rick had written as a new paradigm for churches. At the time, I was on staff of a struggling, shrinking, traditional church in the throes of debate and conflict about worship style, purpose, and really everything. A year later, I became pastor of that church. And “Purpose Driven” was what I aimed for us to be. I went to conferences and seminars to learn how to structure and preach like Rick. I even wore flowered shirts! (Not to copy him – but I was glad I wasn’t the only one who liked them!). As we implemented this strategy, the church began to grow numerically. But the health and depth that marks a faithful, Word-centered people of God was not there. Now, I don’t blame Rick or his book. There are things to be learned from there. Even Rick, I suspect, has changed course a bit since the mid 90’s. But I bought into pragmatism and superficiality and it took me time to see its effects.

Around the same time, I began reading *Ashamed of the Gospel* by John MacArthur. And I have to be honest here – I didn’t like it. I recall marking that book up with all my objections. The margins were filled with my counterpoints to MacArthur. “Narrow”, “judgmental”, and hopelessly “out of date” were my initial thoughts. But God was working on me and my congregation. The many stories are too lengthy to tell here, but suffice it to say, we were growing a congregation that was wide, but not at all deep. The topical preaching scratched where people itched, but the Word of God was not relied upon to change men’s hearts. Over time, I saw myself in its pages and God changed my view of the church and my role in it. Turning from the “purpose driven” model I had so long embraced, I turned to a biblical exposition model and purposed to preach through God’s Word, verse-by-verse, and trust the Word and the Spirit to change people’s lives. I no longer focused on “building a church”, but instead focused on making disciples.

Since then, no pastor or church leader has been more influential to me than Dr. John MacArthur. While we don’t necessarily agree on every finer point of doctrine (and we don’t have to), his thoroughgoing commitment to expound God’s Word, verse-by-verse, is unparalleled. His boldness to defend the Gospel against all attacks from both outside and inside the church is unrivaled. In the face of a modern downgrade in American church life, he stands like a present day Spurgeon.

One day, someone asked me if I had a copy of *Ashamed of the Gospel* they could borrow. I offered them up my copy with an explanation: You’re going to see conflicting statements in the margins written by the same hand. Don’t be confused. One was in my early days of ministry arguing *against* and the other is from my more recent days arguing *for* what MacArthur wrote. This book – more than other – reflects how God changed my mind and heart in relation to the church and pastoral ministry.

So, I thank God for his patience and guidance in my life and I thank God for the influence of mighty men of the faith like John MacArthur.

I hope you’ll join us for worship on Sunday September 16th as we welcome Dr. MacArthur to Calvary. More than that, I pray that you will commit to being an active, prayerful, supportive part of Calvary as we continue to grow as a church that preaches the Word, depends on the Spirit, defends the Gospel, and makes disciples!

For His glory alone,
Pastor Paul

Ministry News

Calvary Missions

Have you been thinking about going on a short-term mission trip? We have several opportunities to visit and work alongside our mission partners this Fall. Call Pastor Charles or Key Mahone for more details.

India - October/November
Guatemala - November 15-20
Argentina - October 10-16

Word-filled Women’s Ministry

Women’s Fall Bible Study | In All Things by Melissa Kruger

Women can choose Tuesday mornings at 9:30 am, beginning September 4 or Wednesday evenings at 6:00 pm, beginning September 5. This Bible study of the book of Philippians walks you through the words of the apostle Paul to believers in the early church to discover what he knew about the secret to unshakeable peace—and how his insights can help any woman discover a secure and satisfying contentment no matter what life may bring.

Find us online at www.calvarydothan.com & www.facebook.com

Discipleship Ministry

What you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also. 2 Timothy 2:2

When you're running a relay, the handoff is critical. Runners take extra care to ensure a smooth handoff because when they drop the baton, they don't finish the race. Christians have an even more important handoff to make: passing the gospel (the good news of the perfect life, death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ) to the next generation.

In 2 Timothy 2:2, Paul summarizes his most critical advice for passing on the gospel in three principles.

1. BE A PUBLIC WITNESS

Paul's first principle for passing on the gospel is that a believer's faith is not a private matter. Christians are called to be a public witness for the Christ they profess. We see this in Paul's mention that Timothy has heard the gospel from him "in the presence of many witnesses." Paul was not known for being quiet about Jesus. His beatings, imprisonments, and ridicule all testify that Jesus invaded all of Paul's life, not just his private time. Paul didn't keep his faith to himself. If he had, he wouldn't have been killed for it. Paul passed on the gospel he received, he encouraged others to do the same, and he led by example. Are you doing the same?

2. INVEST IN PEOPLE ON PURPOSE

Paul's second principle for passing on the gospel is to make passing it on an intentional part of life. His relationship with Timothy wasn't an accident. It was the result of having eyes to see and ears to hear those who were hungry for godliness. Nor was their relationship the only mentoring relationship Paul was a part of. The letters to Titus and the various churches make that clear. Paul intentionally identified and invested in future leaders. He set aside time and energy and resources to build into their lives and show them how to follow Jesus. He saw passing on the gospel as a critical part of his calling. Are you taking seriously the call to pass on what you have learned? Have you identified a younger man or woman you can invest in? Are you showing them how to follow Jesus? If not, it might be because you have no idea where to start. This brings us to Paul's third principle.

3. INVEST IN THE RIGHT PEOPLE

His third principle for passing on the gospel is that we are to invest in the right people. Paul is saying we should pass on the gospel by intentionally investing in other men and women who are faithful to Christ and who will be able to teach others to do the same one day. That means we invest in those who display a vibrant, active faith in Jesus, and we do the hard work of teaching them so they can turn around and teach others one day. "The gospel came to you so that it could pass *through* you," says pastor and author Robby Gallaty. You received the gospel, yes, but part of the reason you received it is that it's headed to someone else—and you're the intended vehicle. If you're not investing in people who will turn around and invest in someone else, your efforts to pass on the gospel will be stunted.

Each Christian is called to run a race of being faithful to Christ. That race is always a relay that requires a handoff. So be a public witness. Invest in people on purpose. And invest in the right people. Don't fumble the handoff. Ensure the gospel is passed on to the next generation and finish your race well. (adapted from <http://gcdiscipleship.com/2018/08/12/3-principles-for-passing-on-the-gospel/>)

Worship Ministry

This past week my dad came for a visit and as always, I really enjoyed the time. In the last couple of years I have found myself enjoying time with my Dad more and more. After this last visit I see more clearly than ever the reason for the increased joy in our fellowship: we are both growing believers and have a deep love for the Lord. You see, our relationship is more than biological, more than time invested, more than his provision of food and clothing. My Dad and I are brothers in Christ.

A couple things you need to know: my dad received a call to pastor several years after I did. It is a long story, but my dad grew up in a different church tradition than I have been involved in my entire ministry career. He has driven his life's stake into mountain gospel preaching, mountain/bluegrass music, the King James Bible, and revivals that last for weeks. From an outward perspective, we are two men in two different traditions of church. At certain times I have felt a tension in our relationship because I know Dad has different convictions and preferences about certain aspects of church life than I hold. But the more we grow in our faith and love for the Lord, the more our differences fade and our convictions, and even preferences align. You see above differing music styles, Bible versions, even preaching styles, we are deeply united in one Spirit, one Savior, and one God.

As we were talking about church life this past week, we discussed some differences. But the spirit of our whole conversation was one of acceptance and unity because we are on the same team, in service to the same Lord. We both readily recognize that believers worship in innumerable different ways around the world each week and yet all are worshiping the same Lord in the same Spirit.

The type of fellowship and unity my dad and I have is not different than the unity we should all know in the Spirit. Unity in Christ is more than blood relations, nationalities, socio-economic classes, and especially church traditions. That is why when we come together to worship Sunday, we will celebrate the unity we have in Jesus Christ, and all other minor differences will fade. When Christ and His Word are personally paramount to our gathered times of worship we will be liberated from entitled self-centeredness. The world needs to see the Christian Church united in Christ and never divided by anything less.

Preschool Ministry

Preschool Leaders Needed

The Preschool ministry is in need of two Life Group teachers and two Wednesday night TeamKID teachers. Call Joyce in the church office to volunteer.

Preschool Mom's Beach Retreat | October 26-27

Register by Friday, October 12. Cost is \$100 and a \$25 deposit is due at registration. Space is limited. Call the church office for more details or to get signed up or email joyce@calvarydothan.com.

Student Ministry

Local Mission Day | September 22

Meet at the church at 8:00 am to go serve together on a local mission project.

Need Student Updates?

To receive updates and stay in touch with what is going on in the Student Ministry, sign up to receive texts and our Parent Link email. **For text updates:** text @csm901 to 81010. **For Parent Link email,** email brooke@calvarydothan.com to be added.

Senior Adult Ministry

Senior Adult Monthly Worship | Thursday, September 20 | 10:30 am | Sanctuary | A meal will follow in the Fellowship Center.

10:45 Sunday Morning Worship
Broadcast on Radio
WIZB FM 94.3



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2018 SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER



STAFF ON CALL SCHEDULE

September 1-2

Matthew Dorsey
919-495-9483

September 8-9

Charles Uptain
334-797-7191

September 15-16

Joyce Alexander
334-798-4791

September 22-23

Dan Tankersley
334-655-8765

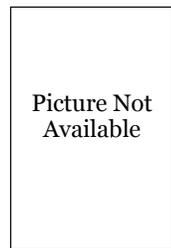
September 29-30

Joyce Alexander
334-798-4791

CALVARY EXTENDS OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO...

Faye Bruner and Ouida Schulman - death of sister
Faye Castleberry - death of sister

CALVARY WELCOMES TO OUR FAMILY...



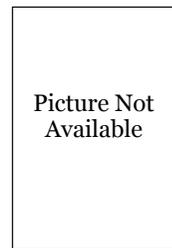
By Statement
Amy Barber



By Letter
Mel Dixon
By Statement
Rhonda Dixon



By Letter
Zack & Emily Gibson
Allie Gibson
Also pictured: Nick Gibson



By Statement
Betsy Keyton



By Baptism
Cassidy Perry



By Baptism
Claudia Perry