

Decide for Yourself?

WHY I DON'T PREACH BOTH SIDES OF CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES

If opposition has hurt many, popularity has wounded more. To say the truth, I am in some pain for you. Your natural abilities are considerable; you have been diligent in your studies; your zeal is warm, and your spirit is lively. With these advantages, I expect to see you a popular preacher. The more you are so, the greater will your field of usefulness be: but, alas! You cannot yet know to what it will expose you.

John Newton

When preaching difficult or divisive doctrines, there is a good chance that somebody will get upset. Otherwise, the difficult and divisive doctrine would not be difficult or divisive. Sometimes, people urge me to just preach both sides of the issue and just let people decide for themselves. So, why do I only preach what I think is right instead of teaching the many opinions held by other respected Christian thinkers? Here are four reasons why I don't preach both sides of controversial issues:

1. Because it communicates ignorance.

A preacher's job is to first understand the passage and then to preach it. That's the work! I can't say that I have ever preached a passage that I didn't understand. If I didn't understand it, how could I preach it? Pastors should be faithful enough to never speak in the name of the Lord until we are confident that we understand what He has said. Jesus is the perfect model for us in this. John 3:11 says, "Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know and testify of what we have seen, and you do not accept our testimony."

Should preachers know what they are talking about before they open their mouths to preach? I think so, but decide for yourselves.

2. Because it is insincere.

If I were to preach both sides of a controversial issue as if both were valid options, half of my sermon would be insincere. I would be hoping that one side would be more persuasive than the other. I want you to believe what I think is right. Now, obviously, being human, I may accidentally preach something that is not true, but I will never preach something that isn't true on purpose. I could never preach anything that I would hope you would not believe.

Should I ever preach anything that I would hope you would not believe? I don't think so, but decide for yourself.

Continued on page 2.

3. Because it is ineffective.

Part of my job is to persuade. 2 Corinthians 5:11 says, “Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade men...” When a preacher preaches both sides of an issue, it is all but guaranteed that the people leave with the same bias they came in with. Such an approach fails to achieve the purpose of preaching in the first place.

Has anybody ever changed their mind without being corrected? I don’t think so, but decide for yourself.

4. Because it is pandering.

No preacher worth his salt goes into the teaching ministry just to ruffle feathers. We long to teach, and we long for peace. However, a true minister’s message is not his own. We are heralds of the King. If we’re not careful, fear of man may lead us to avoid saying uncomfortable truths. Galatians 1:10 says, “For am I now seeking the favor of men, or of God? Or am I striving to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a bond-servant of Christ.” Although it may seem humble when a preacher teaches both sides of any issue, it is actually prideful. Preachers may become so addicted to the approval of people that they compromise the message of their master.

Is it wrong for the preacher to tickle ears to preserve their praise from men? I think so, but decide for yourself.

1 Corinthians 16:24 My love be with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen.
Pastor Dom



Elder Update

FROM ELDER PRESIDENT SCOTT WITMER

Fall is a busy time at Calvary Bible Church. There are countless activities, programs, and classes from which to choose. From Precept to the Choir to Men's Fellowship to the Ambassadors, there is something for everyone.

The GO Conference was a great time of fellowship and learning with our global friends. Many thanks to the Shireys, Fortezas, Paul Beliasov, Ruth Ritchie, Fady, and our own Hannah Greene for making the conference memorable. I pray that seeds have been planted that might lead to someone pursuing missions down the road. Thanks also to the MLT and volunteers who made the conference "GO" smoothly.

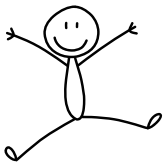
Two very important searches are beginning: we will be needing a new Children's Ministry Director and a fresh batch of Elder candidates beginning their term in 2027. Please watch for information regarding these important efforts.

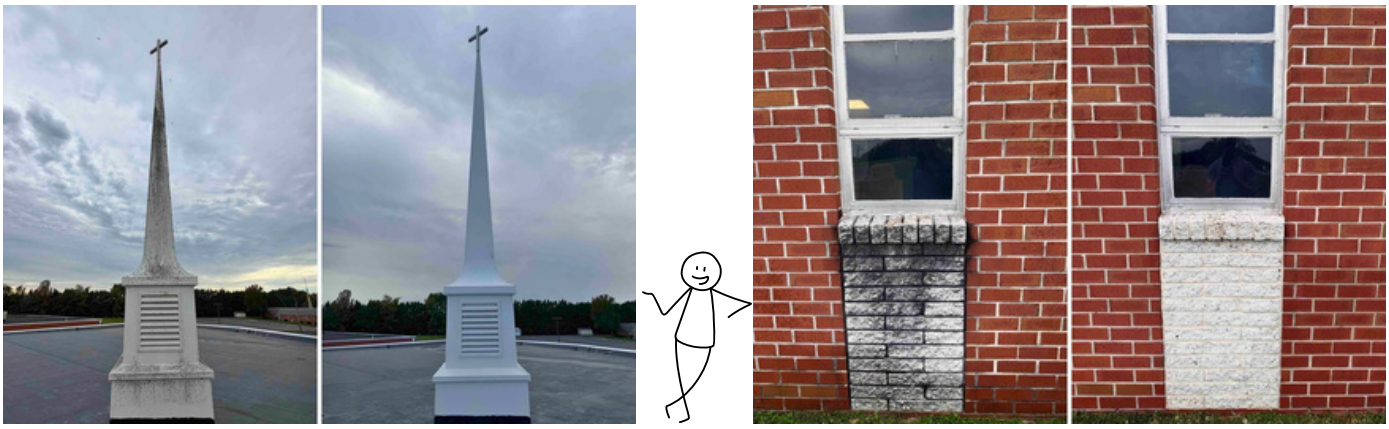
The Finance Committee has collected the 2027 budget requests from ministry leaders and has begun the rigorous process of developing a proposed annual budget. Giving has increased slightly (normal for the fall season)—we hope this trend will continue. The total requested budget is higher than the projected giving. The committee will be challenging leaders to look closely at their numbers and carefully scrutinize each expense.

There is a Baptism Class scheduled for November 15. Baptism, along with Membership Class attendance, are required for church membership. If you have accepted Christ as your savior, please consider fulfilling this Biblical commandment.

As winter and foul weather approaches, remember to check for postponements regularly. Stay warm and safe, and have a joyous, Christ-centered holiday season.

Power Washing Before and After Photos





Thank you to our Building Manager, Dave Vandusen, for keeping our exterior looking great!







Awana kids enjoyed a hayride and scavenger hunt!

Teens

NOV 13—14

REVERB

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! SIGN UP IN THE FOYER.

HERSHEY, PA

See what's next.
Scan or click here!

FallNighter!







Global Outreach Conference

Acts 14:27 On arriving there, they (Paul & Barnabas) gathered the church together and reported all that God had done through them and how He had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles. We praise God for being in our midst and for your participation in the Global Outreach Conference. We praise God for the good reports of all that He has done through Paul B., Ernesto and Marlene F., Hannah G., Fady and Eliana, Ruth R., and Tim and Sue S., along with video reports from Jezekiel and Anna, Doug and Marilyn, Takis and Tia, Pablo and Fio R., and our other Global Friends. Worthy is the Lamb!













Text and photos courtesy of Lois I.

Practical Finances

By Jack West

Proverbs 21:20 says, “The wise store up choice food and olive oil, but fools gulp theirs down.” (NIV)

The wise person saves and plans for the future. The foolish person is only focused on what’s going on right now. It’s never too early (or too late!) to start planning and saving for your retirement years. If you’re working, you need to be saving for your retirement years (In a 401K or in an IRA). One of the many ways God provides for us is by giving us the ability to work and earn the money we save. Saving for retirement is not saying you don’t trust God to take care of you, but instead, it’s being a good steward of what God has given you. The earlier you start saving, the longer compound interest has to do its magic to grow your money.

Check out the following article from Sound Mind Investing:

CLICK HERE IF VIEWING DIGITALLY

Scan here with your smartphone →

Or type this into your browser:
https://soundmindinvesting.com/articles/a-powerful-new-perspective-on-the-power-of-compound-interest

Coffee & Conversation











Join us for a wonderful time of coffee, specialty drinks, tasty snacks, elevate/devotional time, and social connection with one another!

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 9–11 AM
“Giving Project”

FRIDAY, JANUARY 15, 7–9 PM
“Glow & Grow”

$5/PERSON

For ages 12+. Sign up in the foyer! Pay at sign-up, or pay at the door.

Hosted by the Women’s Ministry

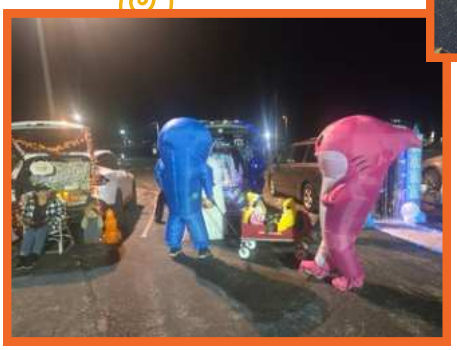
Salt & Light

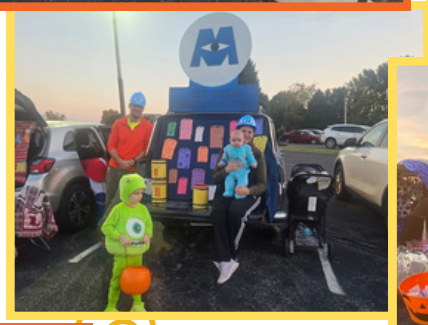
Matthew 5:13

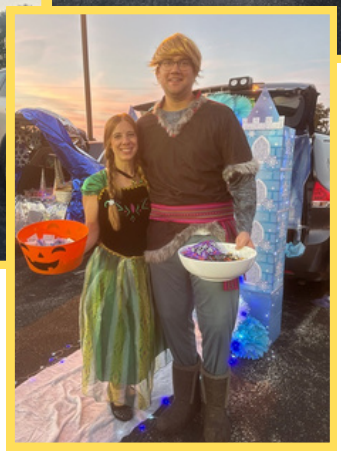
Trunk or Treat













We had more than 20 cars set up in the parking lot, with 494 attendees! Want to be part of the Salt and Light team and help plan events like these? Salt and Light is the ministry behind Epic Inflatables Family Fun Day, Trunk or Treat, and Adopt-a-Family. Contact Pastor Rob at rcgreenecbc1@gmail.com.

ADOPT a FAMILY

Save the Date: AAF is December 12

There are many ways to help at this event! Watch for more details.

Still Needed:

- Pillows
- Shampoo & conditioner sets
- Dandruff shampoo
- Deodorant for both men & women
- Body wash for men & women
- Bar soap for men & women

We have received a lot of coats throughout the year and recently received a very large donation of socks and underwear.
Thank you VERY much!!!

Donations go in the large AAF bin in the foyer.

York County Prison Christmas Goody Bags

Help the chaplains at York County Prison bless the inmates with a special treat this Christmas! The following items are being collected. Please bring only the individually wrapped candies and treats listed below. Home baked items or items not on the list cannot be accepted. Bring all items to CBC and place them in the bin in front of the Missions Activity Table no later than Sunday, December 13. Large multi-pack boxes can be placed behind the table.

Acceptable items:
Small individual bags of potato chips, Cheez-Its, or pretzels
Fun-sized candy bars (no full-size bars please!)
Atomic Fireballs
Butterscotch Buttons
Root Beer Barrels
Jolly Ranchers
Small fruit-flavored hard candy
Pop Tarts
Hot Chocolate or Hot Cider Packets
Granola Bars

Please bring ONLY items on THIS list. Thanks for helping give the chaplains an opportunity to share the true meaning of Christmas this year. This is the inmates' and staff's favorite day of the year. Thank you for participating!

Good News Global is the largest independent supplier of chaplains for jails and prisons worldwide. Your gifts help Good News bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to inmates. We thank you for helping us reach those others have forgotten. CBC supports Chaplain Paul Beliasov, who was with us during the GO Conference!



The Calvary Ambassadors, CBC's ministry for those 55 years and older, are headed to Sight & Sound to see *Joshua*. Tickets are $170 and include the bus ride there and back as well as lunch before the 3:00 show. Find us at the Activities Tables for more information or to sign up.

Sign up today!

Men's Breakfast

SATURDAY, NOV 7
7:00 AM
BOYER HALL

SIGN UP IN THE FOYER.



CBC's Christmas Musical Celebration

Saturday, December 5, 4:00 PM

Sunday, December 6, 10:30 AM

featuring

the CBC orchestra and adult and children's choirs



November Calendar

Date	Day	Time	Event	Room
1	Sun	9:30 AM	Welcome and Membership Class	122
		9:30 AM	Orchestra Rehearsal	Sanctuary
		9:30 AM	Sunday School, All Ages	
		10:30 AM	AM Communion Service	Sanctuary
		5:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal	114
		6:30 PM	PM Communion Service	Sanctuary
2	Monday	7:00 PM	Men's Guard Your Heart Fellowship	107
3	Tuesday	10:00 AM	Precept Bible Study: Romans Part I	201
		6:30 PM	Precept Bible Study: Romans Part I	201
		6:30 PM	DivorceCare	122
4	Wednesday	9:30 AM	Ladies' Fellowship Bible Study	112
		6:15 PM	Teen Group	104
		6:30 PM	GriefShare	122
		6:30 PM	Ladies' Fall Bible Study	112
		6:30 PM	Men's Bible Study	110
		6:30 PM	English Language Outreach (ELO)	
		6:30 PM	Awana Club	
5	Thursday	6:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal	114
7	Saturday	7:00 AM	Men's Breakfast	Gym
		9:00 AM	Pins and Needles	122
8	Sunday	9:30 AM	Orchestra Rehearsal	Sanctuary
		9:30 AM	Welcome and Membership Class	122
		9:30 AM	Sunday School, all ages	
		10:30 AM	AM Worship Service	Sanctuary
		6:30 PM	PM Worship Service	Sanctuary
9	Monday	7:00 PM	Men's Guard Your Heart Fellowship	107

Date	Day	Time	Event	Room
10	Tuesday	10:00 AM	Precept Bible Study: Romans Part I	201
		6:30 PM	Precept Bible Study: Romans Part I	201
		6:30 PM	DivorceCare	122
11	Wednesday	10:00 AM	Ladies' Prayer Group	Off Site
		6:15 PM	Teen Group	104
		6:30 PM	Ladies' Bible Study, GriefShare, ELO	
		6:30 PM	Awana Club	
12	Thursday	6:00 PM	Choir and Orchestra Rehearsal	Sanctuary
		6:30 PM	Elder Meeting	122
13	Friday	10:45 AM	Calvary Ambassadors Event: Sight & Sound Bus Trip	
13–14	Fri–Sat	7PM–9AM	Word of Life REVERB All-Night Teen Event	Hershey
14	Saturday	9:00 AM	Women's Ministry Event: Coffee and Conversation	122
15	Sunday	9:30 AM	Sunday School, All Ages	
		9:30 AM	Orchestra Rehearsal	Sanctuary
		9:30 AM	Baptism Class	122
		10:30 AM	AM Worship Service	Sanctuary
		5:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal	114
		6:30 PM	PM Worship Service	Sanctuary
		6:30 PM	Children's Choir Rehearsal	114
16	Monday	7:00 pm	Men's Guard Your Heart Fellowship	107
17	Tuesday	10:00 AM	Precept Bible Study: Romans Part I	201
		6:30 PM	Precept Bible Study: Romans Part I	201
		6:30 PM	DivorceCare	122
18	Wednesday	9:30 AM	Ladies' Fellowship Bible Study	112
		6:15 PM	Teen Group	104
		6:30 PM	Ladies' Bible Study, Men's Bible Study, GriefShare, ELO	
		6:30 PM	Awana Club	
19	Thursday	6:00 PM	Choir and Orchestra Rehearsal	Sanctuary
21	Saturday	9:00 AM	Pins and Needles	122
22	Sunday	9:30 AM	Sunday School, All Ages	
		10:30 AM	AM Worship Service	Sanctuary
		5:45 PM	Children's Choir Rehearsal	114
		6:30 PM	PM Worship Service	Sanctuary
23	Monday	7:00 PM	Men's Guard Your Heart Fellowship	107

Date	Day	Time	Event	Room
25	Wednesday	10:00 AM	Ladies' Prayer Group	Off Site
26	Thursday		Office Closed: Happy Thanksgiving!	
29	Sunday	9:30 AM	Choir and Orchestra Rehearsal	Sanctuary
		9:30 AM	Sunday School, All Ages	
		10:30 AM	AM Baptism Service	Sanctuary
		12:00 PM	Christmas Decorating	
		5:30 PM	Children's Choir Rehearsal	114
		6:30 PM	PM Worship Service: Thanksgiving Testimonies	Sanctuary
30	Monday	7:00 PM	Men's Guard Your Heart Fellowship	107

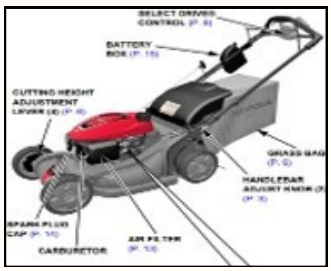
CBC Marketplace

HELP NEEDED. I have a lot of bricks that need to be taken to the dump. It's best that a group of men come and help with this. I'll pay for a rental if it's needed and pay for the expense to get rid of them. Call Jen Strauss at 717-759-9065 or email her at Sdjstrauss@yahoo.com

FOR SALE. 2020 Honda lawn mower for sale. Asking $150. Used in only 5–6 races. Won each time. Electric or easy pull starting.



Please call 240-672-5140 - Randy Wood - Littlestown
(See actual item for sale below.)



Have something to sell or give? Need a hand with something? Send info and pictures to lreikercbc@gmail.com