



The Calvary Connection

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Calvary Baptist Church
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Acknowledging But Not Following Jesus Dr. Paige Patterson

“Follow Me” asserted Jesus, “and I will make you fishers of men” (Matt. 4:19). This suggests an obvious concern. Are people who do not become “fishers of men” following Christ? A second searching query follows. Why is the average church experiencing such a paucity of man-fishers? In short, why has The Great Commission of our Lord become an afterthought in the life of the contemporary congregation?

Incompetent instruction regarding evangelistic technique is the culprit. Actually, the evangelism professors in the seminaries are as gifted as they come. And books like Mark McCloskey’s *Tell It Often—Tell It Well* and the first book I ever read, L. R. Scarborough’s *With Christ After the Lost*, constitute the finest efforts in the teaching of soul-winning technique. Books originating in unusual venues focus on specific aspects of evangelism. In 1967 Fritz Ridenour published *Tell It Like It Is*, a classic little volume on witnessing from John’s Gospel that sold more than 200,000 copies. Cameron wrote *The Way of the Master*, reemphasizing the importance of the law in a gospel presentation.

Three of my favorite volumes are from quite different pens. Quaker philosopher, Elton Trueblood, wrote *The Company of the Committed* and *The Incendiary Fellowship*, which provide some of the most perceptive insights about evangelism that I have discovered anywhere. My students in Personal Evangelism were always surprised to see Barbara Walters, a famous news anchor, on the mandatory reading list. In her book *How to Talk with Practically Anybody about Practically Anything*, Walters had no intention of penning an evangelism text, but inadvertently she provided insights that are priceless. The key to opening a meaningful witness is found in the ability to carry forward a meaningful dialogue with anyone.

Fabulous professors and great books and seventeen straight years of decline in baptisms suggest that the problem is not what we know. Techniques and approaches to evangelism abound. *The problem may be found in the affections of the soul.* Jesus

warned that “Out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies” (Matt. 14:19), and consequently, we are “to love the Lord your God with all of your heart, and your mind, and your soul” (Matt. 22:37). Please follow the logic. (1) If we are followers of Jesus, we will love what He loves and reject what He rejected. (2) Jesus defined His own mission as coming “to seek and to save those who were lost.” (3) To follow Jesus is to accept His mission as our own. (4) We will become witnesses to the Christ when we love Him with all of our heart, mind, and soul and when we love those for whom He died in order to save.

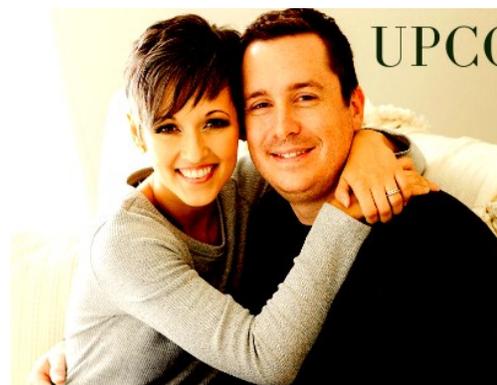
All of the learning in the world will not produce a single witness. Thousands of great examples are praiseworthy but produce none to tell the story. The motivations and admonitions of a thousand golden-tongued orators will never be sufficient to create a witness. As Trueblood reminds us,

A little realism in observation would teach us that the genuine danger we face, whatever our ancestors may have faced, is that of a mood in which people are so terribly apologetic that they refuse to witness at all. This remains true in the face of the philosopher’s warning.

The call to witness is a call which men can answer affirmatively or negatively, but one who answers it negatively, however kind and pious he may be, is not in the company of Jesus.[2]

There remains only one solution for the dilemma of the contemporary church. Trueblood has a word for us here also. He notes that The renewal of the Church will be in progress when it is seen as a fellowship of consciously inadequate persons who gather because they are weak, and scatter to serve because their unity with one another and with Christ has made them bold. Cont. page 2

Worship Attendance	
December 01	76
December 08	89
December 15	92
December 22	78
December 29	83
Monthly Average	84
Average for 2019	88



UPCOMING CONCERTS

Calvary Baptist Church

January 12th 6:00 pm

A “Love Offering” will be taken

**BLAKE & JENNA
BOLER JACK**

Southern Gospel Music

Cont. from pg. 1

This is the only kind of Christianity that can stand up to the challenge of militant paganism and the fanaticism of the New Left. It will win, in the long run, because it is more revolutionary than they are.

Concerted, honest prayer that Christ will create in each of us love for Jesus and for the lost is the only hope. Otherwise, as Jesus also predicted of the last days, "The love of many will grow cold" (Matt. 24:12).



Happy Birthday

Gene Dotson	05
Bob Chapman	04
Steve Eans	11
Brenda Jenkins	11
Savana Romney	16
Olivia Blythe	16
Joe Gibson	21
Jerry Pelton,	26
Lois Singleton	27
Kathy Hellman	31



Flowers for the Altar

If you would like to provide flowers for the Communion table in memory of or in honor of someone's special day such as birthday's or anniversaries you need to sign the list on the bulletin board behind the Baptistery. The flowers can either be fresh or permanent. For more details contact Shelly Rains

All Ladies Are Invited

Secret Sisters

REVEAL PARTY

Sat| Jan 25th|8:00 am| fellowship hall

Those that had a Secret Sister in 2019 will bring a last gift for her & reveal your identity. We will also fill out forms for Secret Sister 2020. These will be given out in February. Bring a Breakfast Dish to share. Coffee, OJ & water will be provided.

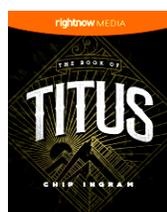


Sat|Jan18|8:00am

Fellowship Hall

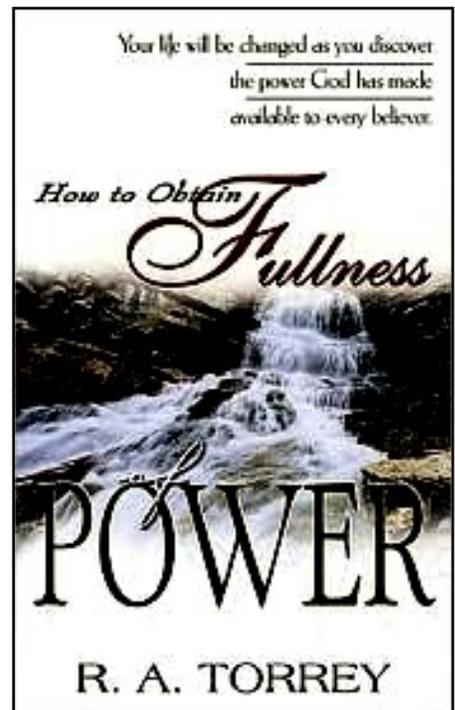
All Men & Boys

Invited



Ladies...if you are not actively involved in a Bible study, we would like to have you join us Jan 12th @ 9:30 for the study of the New Testament book

of "Titus." In the study, Chip Ingram unpacks the book of Titus. He challenges us to display the gospel in our lives through doing good. We do good works not to earn God's favor, but as a result of God's favor. When the gospel has truly taken root in our lives, it produces the fruit of godliness. As we pass these things on to future generations, the Church stands in bright contrast to the darkness of the world.



The Bible is very clear on how we may obtain more power in our personal conflict with the world, the flesh, and the Devil. This study will not only train those who have just accepted Christ, but it will also show longtime Christians how to obtain an even greater rest, joy, satisfaction, and power in Jesus. This study taught by Bill Moore begins Jan 9th @ 6:30 pm.