

## 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

6:30P.M. -----Prayer Meeting

7:30 P.M. -----Choir Rehearsal

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Number 3

## "Growing Old by the Grace of God"

Do you remember when you used to believe that 30 was old and 40 was "over the hill"? The generation that said "Trust no one over 30" has been drawing their social security for many years. The fact of the matter is, if a person survives, they find out very soon how fast life goes by. James, writing under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, says: "It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away." What we do in this short life is critical because we don't have a lot of time to get it done! There are still cultures that honor the elderly, that show them respect, and yield to their wisdom. But that's beside the point, because if there was a fountain of youth where we could gain wisdom but stay young and healthy we would all run there as fast as we could! The harsh reality is, when you go to bed young and you wake up the next morning and look in the mirror at an old person staring back at you, what happened! How can this be? Solomon even puts a harsh reality to old age, as much of his allegory of chapter 12 is a sobering reminder of what is to come. So he says in Ecclesiastes 12:1: "Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth, before the difficult days come, and the years draw near when you say, 'I have no pleasure in them.'"

I hate to be the one to tell you, but we are already in the month of March, and yes it is 2018, believe it or not! So if there are plans to be used as God's instrument this year, we better get after it because this year is already getting away from us. But here's the "Good News," the promises of God are eternal and unchanging. As Hebrews 13:5 says, "*Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, 'I will never leave you nor forsake you.'*" In Haggai 2:4 the Lord was speaking to His people and we receive it as He says, "Yet now be strong, Zerubbabel," says the Lord; 'and be strong, Joshua, son of Jehozadak, the high priest; and be strong, all you people of the land,' says the Lord, 'and work; for

*I am with you,'* says the Lord of hosts.'" And Isaiah 41:10 says, "Fear not, for I *am* with you; be not dismayed, for I *am* your God. I will strengthen you, yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand." And as we are going out as His disciples to reach our world, we read in Matthew 28:18-20, "And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, 'All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age.' Amen." Praise God for all these and many more promises. But we are still getting old fast! The encouraging thing is God knows that. He is mindful of His children. We read of the concern of the Psalmist in Psalm 71:9, "Do not cast me off in the time of old age; do not forsake me when my strength fails." The Good News is God has given a promise that He will not forsake His children. That means He is always there for His own.

After Jesus restored Peter from his three-time denial, the Lord gave some specifics about how Peter's life would go. Not everyone gets to live to be old, especially the Christians of the early Church. Many of them died young from martyrdom. Peter, being filled with the Holy Spirit and then pronouncing Jesus as Lord with boldness, was dangerous in his day. Saying Jesus is Lord under the Roman Empire was seen as a treasonable offense. Peter was not only bold, he was also one of the main leaders of the Church. There is no doubt about it, Peter was a target. But Jesus said to him in John 21:18-19, "Most assuredly, I say to you, when you were younger, you girded yourself and walked where you wished; but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will gird you and carry *you* where you do not wish. This He spoke, signifying by what death he would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He said to him, 'Follow

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Me." And follow Him he did! Through many dangers, imprisonments and yes, he followed Jesus till he was an old man. It would almost appear to be easier to die a martyr's death, go out with a flame, go out with the recognition of being "faithful until death," than going through years and years of difficulty. But Peter left this world glorifying his Savior and Lord in his old age.

What can you and I take away from this as we see another grey hair, or another one, fall to the ground? As CT Studd wrote, "Only one life will soon be past and only what's done for Christ will last. And when I am dying how glad I will be that

the lamp of my life was burned out for Thee." Keep your eyes on Jesus till the race is over and turn back to Psalm 71:18 and make it your commitment to God and His kingdom, "Now also when *I am* old and grayheaded, O God, do not forsake me, until I declare Your strength to *this* generation, Your power to everyone *who* is to come." Let's take some vitamins for the elderly and go tell these young people of the One who is worthy to follow for the rest of their lives.

Growing old by His grace,  
*Pastor David*



*Zane & Valerie Black  
Shannon & Tamara Engle*



Life can be messy and difficult even for kids. They are under so much pressure-to perform well, to be the best and to balance crazy schedules. Sometimes life's big game can seem like no fun. In Vacation Bible School this summer we want to help kids stand back and realize that God has given us everything we need. The goal is not competing in our own strength but depending on Him and using His word, the Bible as the ultimate playbook. He

wants us to join His team, to encourage each other and to celebrate with the Savior.

So, what are you waiting for? Whether you're the type to root from the stands, march in the band, cheer on the field, or hustle to the line-It's Game On. There is a place for everyone in God's Big Game. Mark your calendars for June 3-8 and plan to be a part of Vacation Bible School-Game On!



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## "Vested"

It's February 2018 and the Winter Olympics in South Korea is on TV. South Korea is a dangerous place for Team USA to be competing. Our prayers are with the athletes, the coaches, the fans and family, who have made this long trip. Here at home, no doubt many Americans have a vested interest in watching the outcome of the Olympic Games. In my estimation, most follow the games with a strong sense of national pride. Possibly, other Americans make a connection with a particular athlete they follow or maybe they're drawn to a winter sport they played as a youth. Truth is, all Americans are vested in the Olympic Games to a greater or lesser degree due to each of us being a small piece of the (USA Pride) pie.

Ditto, for Kingdom citizens. We, the United Servants of the Almighty, are vested soldiers in the kingdom of our God. As soldiers, when we fall, we get up stronger than before. The loving kindness, in which we dwell, requires the Christian soldier to refuse to attach within the family. Our saving relationship with Jesus our Messiah calls us into action. Seeing Christ and joining Him necessitates adjustments in the spiritual life of a good soldier. Once those adjustments are made, the believer can move ahead with the assignment from God. II Timothy 3:16 comes-to-mind as the Holy Spirit instructs the Christian soldier to seek training, clarify schedule conflicts, allow attitude corrections; Why? God is seeking integrity of character in every humble heart. This insight into the reality of God's family abroad helps us her at Calvary to perceive our own vested interest in Calvary Baptist Church. John 11:46-54 is a helpful

passage to contemplate in order to understand how vested interest can have detrimental effects. Most of the time vested interest in Kingdom purposes should lead to heartfelt cooperation between all involved. However; in John 11 immediately following the resuscitation of Lazarus, the Sanhedrin met to discuss the truth of the situation surrounding Jesus. In verse 47 they were undecided about Jesus. They feared a mass defection from their traditional theology. The Sanhedrin chose to ignore the truth the "signs" were pointing to. This is where they resisted the step of faith in favor of self-preservation. In fear, they looked away from the manifestation of God's power because they feared a possible retaliation from the Romans. How ironic! They were invested in this reality and the thought of losing it angered them. A spirit of fear and anger led to their failure. For them repentance was still a possibility, that is until they decided to stay-the-course and remain hardhearted. They were vested in the Holy Scriptures, in national Israel and in God's Kingdom and God used them to accomplish His sovereign will. O God! Forgive our self-preserving hardhearted behavior. I John 4:17-18 "Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the Day of Judgment, because as He is so are we in this world. There is no fear in love but perfect love casts out fear; because fear involves torment. He who fears has not been made perfect in love." Jesus help us to understand true Agapé.

Chesed,  
Curtis



**Memorials & Honorarium**  
**To Christian Life Center/Building Fund**

***In Honor of Dorothy Hawk & In Memory of Roy Hawk by The Dorcas Class***

***In Honor of Tommy & Phyllis Bennett by The Dorcas Class***

***In Honor of Tom & Vicki Harris by The Dorcas Class***

***In Honor of Fain & Linda Bennett by The Dorcas Class***

***In Honor of Dr. Dearing Garner by Allen & Shirley Rogers***

***In Memory of Roy Hawk by Gene & Sally Ramsey***

***In Memory of Roy Hawk by Gary & Pam Amos***

***In Memory of Sonny & Helen Hendrix by Allen & Shirley Rogers***

***In Memory of Harold & Helen Hendrix by Leonard & Jean Bowman***

***In Memory of Johnnie Sue Goodman, Johnnie Stultz & Lois Lilley by  
Ray & JoAnn White***

***In Memory of Patty Dingus by John & Floy Harris***

***In Memory of Helen Hendrix by***

***Vange Bailey***

***John & Floy Harris***

***Diana Davis***

***David & Jane Burgner***

***David & Janna Crutchfield***

***Gene & Betty Frye***

***Gary & Pam Amos***

***Ray & JoAnn White***

***Bill Ray***

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***Kathy Allen***

***Bob & Sue Thompson***

***Carol Ann Whaley***

***Ronnie Snapp***

***Rebecca Tilson***

***Ellen & Susan Delgado***

***Bill & Betty Gillis***

***The Homemakers Class***

***Anna Lee Atkins***



*The family of Helen Hendrix wishes to express their heartfelt thankfulness for the people of Calvary and their many prayers and acts of kindness during our mother's illness and passing. It was comforting to know that so many people were praying for her and for our family. Our mother loved her church and its' people and we know she is at rest with her Lord. Thank you, Carol Ann Whaley and family.*

*Dear Church Family, Thanks for all the phone calls while my sister, Helen Hendrix, was in the hospital. Thanks for the beautiful cards. She was special. Ellen & Susan Delgado*

*Dear Calvary Baptist Church, Thank you for all your thoughts, prayers, cards & visits during my time of surgery. Buck & Jean Foster*



1 Don Banks, 4 Isabella Thomas, Caroline Podvin, 5 Darren Ricker, 6 Juanita Engle, 7 Merle Fain, Sara Hubbard, 9 Logan Rice, 11 Katie Hensley, Leah Edney, 12 Dianne Davison, Heather Riecken, Raben Reed, Cheri Smart, 15 Dan Moore, Cyndi Caudle, Carla Engle, 16 Pam Amos, Julia Colinger, 18 Karen Edwards, Carl Engle, 19 Hunter Tinker, Bernie Jones, 20 Russell Miller, Janna Crutchfield, Kenleigh Ciralsky, 21 Leonard Bowman 22 Jane Burgner, David White, Sam Dalton, 24 Steve Blankenship, 25 Carol Whaley, Adam White, 27 Jason Podvin, 28 Draven Ricker, Christol Edney, 29 Linda Treadway



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