

**1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 4:2: “Nevertheless it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful”.**

Well my friends, once again it is time for reflection and asking the Lord what He would want me to say to our wonderful congregation. I look out my window on this Monday afternoon and see the storm clouds gathering that will produce much needed rain. I see again the faithful hand of God keeping his creation in tune. It reminds me of the faithfulness of God for His people and how we know without a shadow of a doubt that God loves us, cares for us, and is faithful in providing, protecting, leading and teaching us the way we should go. As my old friend in Arkansas used to say to me, “AIN’T GOD GOOD!” and so He is.



Yet we also see that the scriptures tell us that God requires stewards to be found faithful. So what does faithful mean for us? Faithful is defined as:

1. Steady in allegiance or affection; loyal.
2. Trusted reliable or believed.
3. Faithful assurances of help.
4. Adhering true to fact, a standard or an original.
5. Strict or thorough in the performance of duty

These are the qualities that stewards of God’s work should have. This faithfulness is based not on compulsion but a love of God and the Lord Jesus Christ, and His redemptive work in creation. As leaders and stewards living and working in a fallen world, we are challenged everyday with choices on how we live and how we speak, even when no one sees us. When we come together as leaders this faithfulness requires commitment and honesty in speech with each other. When leaders have honesty, integrity, and openness to do what God has called them to do they can overcome any problem and accomplish miraculous things while using the resources that God has entrusted to His people. No group can function without these things in place. When we are not open and not talking with each other, nor faithful to do what we say we will do, and we are not committed to do what the church believes God would have us to do, we lose energy, focus, and waste resources needed for God’s work. A church cannot afford nor will God be pleased with anything less than faithfulness in stewardship and leadership. This is a foundational understanding needed by all the members of the church. When the church speaks and decides to go in a certain direction we need faithfulness from all members in order to accomplish what God desires.

I am thankful that I see faithfulness in so many members here at Calvary Baptist Church. In the following months we will be working very hard to strengthen ministries, train people, discern God’s vision and help us discover what God desires to do today and tomorrow and into the future with us. I am asking every member to be faithful to help us in the work God is calling us to do.

God needs every member to be faithful stewards with money, time, talents and resources while helping the Transition Team and the leadership of Cavalry church as they lead the church in fulfilling God’s call for this congregation. Deacons need to be faithful in supporting and working with the church as they serve and to work closely with the Transition Team as the team fulfills what the Church voted to do. God needs committee members and ministry leaders to work diligently and to continue to be faithful and prayerful in working to fulfill the call to serve. Faithfulness is not always easy, convenient or even popular. It is a call to a biblical standard based on the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. We are called by God to be faithful to Him, His word, His calling, His work, and His church. Thank you, Calvary for so very many faithful members that have passion, desire, and calling to make a difference in God’s kingdom work. You recognize that we are not about pleasing us but pleasing God in all that we do.

Your Servant In Christ,

*Pastor David*

## *Recent Contributions*

In memory of Ruth Hooker by Bill and Peggy Smith

### *Notes of Thanks*

*Words alone cannot express my feelings toward my fellow Christians at Calvary. Your outpouring of concern, love, and support was overwhelming. There was always someone from Calvary, calling, visiting, and praying for my recovery. I am convinced that the love and prayers that were made in my behalf was responsible for my survival. I know now without a doubt that God has work for me to do and I have committed myself to His will. I am thankful that I am associated with people like you whose prayers helped me during my difficulty. My life has been changed and I hope it will be pleasing to our Savior.*

Don Thompson

*We want to say a special thanks to all who donated drinks, food, time, and money to the Tony Varney Benefit Softball Tournament. It was a huge success and we were deeply touched by the wonderful turn out. We are truly blessed to have such a caring church family and friends. We also thank you for all your thoughts and prayers during this time in our lives. Thanks again.*

The Varneys—Tony, Melissa, Jasmine, Bryson, & Mason

*Thank you for the donation you made on behalf of our Aunt. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. We will all miss her very much. She will live in our hearts forever. Thanks again.*

The Nieces And Nephews of Mary Edith Snow Baer

*The family of Jesse Tucker acknowledges with grateful appreciation the kind expression of your sympathy.*

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### *Prayer Concerns*

**The following people have been added to our prayer concern list since our last newsletter:**

**Harold Burnette**, *Debbie Hiatt's father*; **Reba Elledge**, *Kathy Elledge's mother-in-law*; **Revis Gentry**, *Randy Gentry's father*; **Tillmon Hoover**, *Jeannette Bristol's brother*; **Bill Nowlin**; **Evelyn Nowlin**; **Debbie Overby**, *Lois Phillips niece*; **Lois Phillips**; **Don Thompson**; **Roger Tolbert**; **Allan Wright**, *Mary Jo White's great-nephew*

### *Remember the Bereaved*

**The Family of Betty Blackburn in her death**, *Janice Newman and Ernestine Chappell's sister-in-law*

**The Family of Jesse Tucker in his death**, *Noel Tucker's father*

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### *Announcements*

- ◆ Sunday, September 6: Promotion Sunday. School will have started and the Sunday School material starts with this Sunday. It is also a convenient time for the children through youth to move up to their next class according to ages and grades. Everyone that will move up will visit their new class the last Sunday in August as a means of introduction. Parents, be aware of where your children will be moving to. This is a new experience for those involved. Our teachers are dedicated to make this transition a smooth one. Thanks to all as we study and learn through Sunday School.
- ◆ The GA Badge Ceremony will take place on Wednesday, August 26 @ 6:30 pm. Refreshments will be served in the Fellowship Hall after the ceremony provided by BYW. The GA's are now beginning to promote the Lottie Moon Christmas offering. During refreshments you will have an opportunity to donate to the offering and receive a Lottie Moon tea cake made by the GA's for your donation. We will also have a kick off for Christmas in August, details will be given the night of the GA Badge Ceremony. Watch for upcoming details on GA's Baking to raise money for missions.

## *Sunday School Snippet*

***"Sunday School means a place to study God's word, and study with other Christians as we renew our spiritual connections."***

This one sentence is like an Amis Daniel saying, short, but carries a lot of message. (If you were not at Calvary sometime when Amis Daniel has preached, you have missed Godly wisdom.) The quote was sent to me by Donna and Roger Keck and they also included a suggestion to make our Sunday School better. ***"We would love to see one month set aside for EVERY SS class to personally (not a card, but a visit or phone call) contact every member on roll, let them know they are missed and get an update as to whether they are attending somewhere else. This would clean up and update our SS rolls."***

So if we take heart at what Sunday School means to them, we can use it to make us better Christians. If we exercise regular contact, we will strive to get more people attending Sunday School and each one can study and renew spiritual connections. Coming together for renewal will feed off of being contacted and contacting others will result in more people coming together. Sounds like a good plan, doesn't it?

One side item where I know there are people in our church that can help. Some in our church are gifted in leading in the study of God's word. Take a step forward and ask where you are needed to serve. The biggest need for Sunday School teachers is in the children and youth classes. We currently have teachers in all classes, but some classes need more than one teacher. Pray for our Sunday School and pray for guidance in helping. Contact me ([bob@calvarybcmntairy.org](mailto:bob@calvarybcmntairy.org)), Johnny Surratt, or any member of the Nominating Committee. If the response is greater than the need, we will eventually find a place for you. But don't wait for the response to become greater than the need.

*Bob McPherson  
Sunday School Director*

## *Notes on Worship*

Someone asked me a few years ago, "why worship?" My response was "why not worship!" While there seems to be the never-ending debate over the WHY's and WHY NOT's, keep in mind that worship is YOUR response to HIS Greatness, Majesty, and Saving Love. As you read an excerpt from "All About God", be reminded and encouraged that true worship is not merely a suggestion....

(From [allaboutgod.com](http://allaboutgod.com))

"God is the focus of our devotion in both the Old Testament and the New Testament. In Exodus 20:2-3, God says, "I am the LORD your God .....You shall have no other gods before me." In Matthew 4:10, Jesus says, "Worship the Lord your God and serve him only." So, worship is not merely a natural instinct, it's a command from God.

### **Praise and Worship - Why Should We do it?**

God alone is worthy of our devotion, praise and worship. He is God, our Creator, and we are commanded to praise and worship Him. Psalm 96:9 says, "Worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness; tremble before him, all the earth." Psalm 29:2 says, "Give unto the Lord the glory due his name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness."

A.W. Tozer said, "Without worship, we go about miserable." God doesn't want us to be miserable -- He has a perfect plan for our lives. He has done so many things to show us that He loves us and doesn't want us to be miserable. He wants us to have hope for a future with Him --he wants us to have eternal life in heaven with Him.

A life of praise and worship fills our deepest needs, and amazingly, it also brings great joy to God. Zephaniah 3:17 states, "The LORD your God is with you, he is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you, he will quiet you with his love, he will rejoice over you with singing."

In Christ,

*Tony*