

# Calvary Family News

November 2025

## God, You are Faithful

Believe it or not, November First marks five years that I have been the pastor of Calvary Baptist Church. It has also been thirty years since we moved to Baker City, so all you long-timers deserve some sort of medal. Kinda scary, isn't it. It feels like time has just been flying by with all of the things that have been happening around here. When I started, we were at the tail end of Covid, and all the changes we had to make, especially doing "Grab and Go" Community Dinner.

The other big thing that has happened during my tenure was our 150th anniversary. Thank you all for stepping up and making it a big success, with all of the activities that took place during our six months of celebration. It was kicked off with a barbeque that also marked the 10th anniversary of our weekly Community Dinner. We also had picnics, a float in the Miner's Jubilee parade, Christmas in September, plus our usual Halloween and Thanksgiving outreaches. We finished up with our open house party, where we celebrated 150 years of God's Faithfulness in Baker City and Beyond.

On Sunday mornings, I have been privileged to learn a tremendous amount from the Word of God and have hopefully been able to pass some of that on to the congregation. We have seen how the Lord has been faithful to His people in the Old and New Testaments as we have exegetically studied a lot of the books of the Bible. We have studied about a dozen entire books over the years, as well as portions of a few others.

During the last five years, the Lord has brought a lot of wonderful people into our fellowship. Folks who have jumped in and become active parts of the ministry of Calvary. We have also lost some dear saints who are now worshipping our Lord in Heaven.

To wrap it up, I just wanted to say thank you for all of your love and encouragement over the last five years (and a lot more before I became the pastor). I look forward to many more years if that is the Lord's plan. Mostly, I praise God who has shown Himself to be faithful in all ways and forever.

**Serving Him,**

**Pastor Karl**

## **The (Abysmal) State of Theology in 2025** by Ken Ham on October 2, 2025

**Well, the results of the new State of Theology survey from Ligonier Ministries and Lifeway Research is now available, and it's as disappointing as the 2022 version. The answers were an inconsistent mess, highlighting US Evangelicals' lack of knowledge regarding what the Word of God teaches regarding doctrine and theology. Biblical illiteracy is an epidemic.**

I'll give you just a sampling of the results, filtered for Evangelicals, but first here is their definition of an Evangelical:

- Evangelicals were defined by Lifeway Research as people who strongly agreed with the following four statements:
- The Bible is the highest authority for what I believe.
- It is very important for me personally to encourage non-Christians to trust Jesus Christ as their Savior.
- Jesus Christ's death on the cross is the only sacrifice that could remove the penalty of my sin.
- Only those who trust in Jesus Christ alone as their Savior receive God's free gift of eternal salvation.
- So what do these Evangelicals believe beyond those four basic beliefs?
- Well,
- 64% believe that "Everyone is born innocent in the eyes of God."
- 53% agree that "Everyone sins a little, but most people are good by nature."
- 53% think that "The Holy Spirit is a force but is not a personal being"—compare this with the fact that 98% agreed with the statement: "There is one true God in three persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit." Talk about inconsistent!
- 47% agree that "God accepts the worship of all religions, including Christianity, Judaism, and Islam."
- 28% say that "Jesus was a great teacher, but he was not God."
- 17% believe that "The Bible, like all sacred writings, contains helpful accounts of ancient myths but is not literally true."
- 19% affirm that "Modern science disproves the Bible."
- 16% likewise say that "The Bible's condemnation of homosexual behavior doesn't apply today."
- 28% think that "Religious belief is not about objective truth"—and another 19% aren't sure how to answer this question.

Whew, what a shocking mess! To be considered an Evangelical on the survey, each respondent had to answer that they "strongly agree" that "The Bible is the highest authority for what I believe," and yet 19% think science has disproven it, a similar percentage likewise don't think what the Bible says about homosexuality applies to us today, and nearly half are confused about objective truth and Christianity!

Similarly, 98% affirm the doctrine of the Trinity, but over half think the Holy Spirit is just a force, and 28% think Jesus was just some great teacher. That doesn't make sense!

They also affirmed it's important for them to tell others about Jesus and that Jesus' death is the only way to be forgiven, and yet nearly half think God accepts the worship of other religions. Again, such inconsistency in beliefs!

**We've raised generations on "Bible stories" without giving them the meat of God's Word, teaching them to think biblically, or shaping their biblical worldview.**

(Continued)

The state of theology among so-called Evangelicals is sobering. It really should be a wake-up call to both pastors and parents. We've raised generations on "Bible stories" without giving them the meat of God's Word, teaching them to think biblically, or shaping their biblical worldview. Instead of being guided by Scripture, they're guided by a mishmash of biblical teaching and our culture's beliefs.

It's results like these that prompted us to write our Answers Bible Curriculum (we now have separate versions for Sunday school and homeschool). We want to come alongside churches and parents to raise godly generations who know what they believe and why they believe it. That's why our curriculum is a chronological journey through the whole Bible and features apologetics, biblical worldview, doctrine, theology, and life application. I encourage you to check it out.

So what can we do about these kinds of survey results? Well, first, parents need to be teaching their children! Don't just assume your children are learning what they need to know about God, the Bible, and salvation at church. Ultimately, it's your responsibility to teach and disciple your children. Have you prioritized that in your home? Are you even equipped to do this kind of teaching with your children? If not, start and learn together!

Secondly, pastors and other Christian leaders need to stop assuming their congregations know the basics of the Christian faith, and they need to start incorporating theology and doctrine into their teaching. Pastors are called to be shepherds, discipling the flock. Part of that is teaching doctrine and theology so their churches are filled with robust Christians who've moved on from "milk" to "meat."

I pray these shocking results serve as a wake-up call to the church to obey Christ's parting command before his ascension:

*All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.*  
(**Matthew 28:18–20** NIV)

Thanks for stopping by and thanks for praying, **Ken**

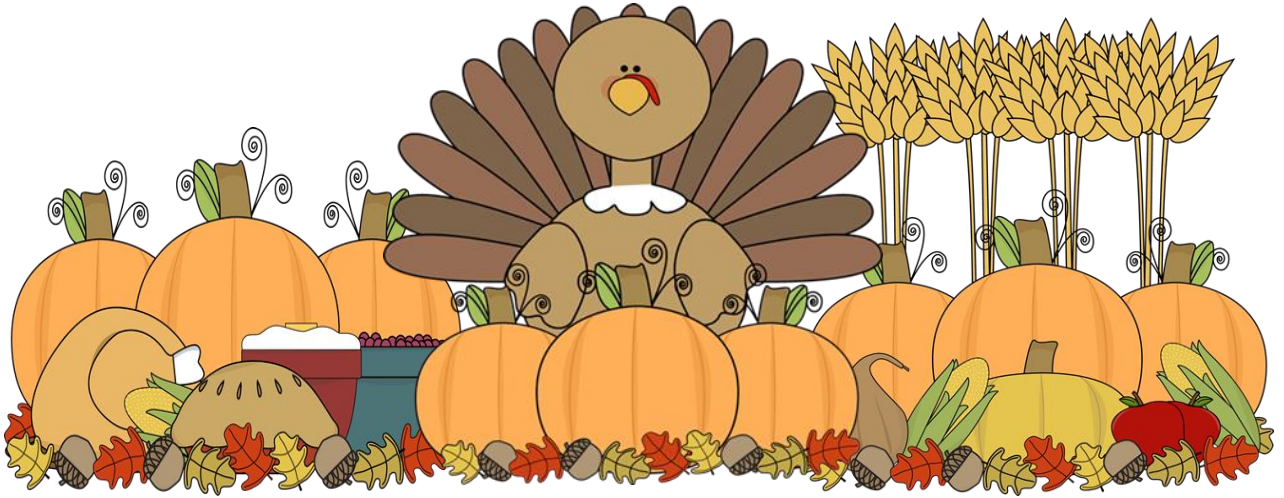
(Submitted by F.S.)



## A Time to Remember to be Thankful, and Not be Quiet...

This Month is Thanksgiving, and a great time to tell folks thanks. But as you know, it's *always* a great time to encourage others and let them know that you appreciate them, and how they have blessed you or seen them bless others now and throughout the year. Perhaps it will be at a time when they may need some unexpected encouragement. tap





### Thanksgiving is Coming & What will be Needed ...

We get to have our usual Thanksgiving Outreach for Community Dinner from 2 – 4 pm, Thursday, November 27, 2025, in Browning Hall, where we will again have the privilege of serving our community a Thanksgiving Meal. We will be serving a Turkey Dinner with all the trimmings—dressing, mashed potatoes, rolls, pies, various salads, cranberry sauce, deviled eggs, veggie tray, pickles, and olives, etc. We will soon have a sign-up sheet and a board with pictures of what we volunteered to bring to take as a visual reminder during this busy time of year. We will be serving dinner at an earlier time, especially since the days are getting shorter, and this will enable more folks to feel comfortable coming and returning home before it gets dark. It is always a special time of seeing and eating with old and new friends in the community. tap



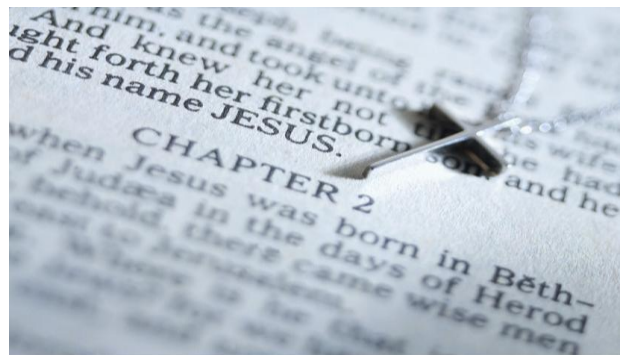
### Upcoming Events...

Items for December Newsletter are due Tuesday, November 25<sup>th</sup>..

Candlelight Christmas Eve Service after Community Dinner, Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>. (Moved from Thursday, for folks to spend Christmas with family, this year.)

### November Birthdays

8	Bill Yeager
17	Deb DeMastus & Anne Popa
20	Dennis Wright
25	Ben Morrison



# NOVEMBER 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 9am Church Body Prayer 10am Worship, Children's Church & Nursery	3 6 pm Ladies' Bible Study in BH 7:07 pm YoungLife at BMS	4 10:30 a -1:30pm CBC Serves Lunch at the Sr. Center!	5	6 5-6 pm Community Dinner-KFC Bowls 6 pm Celebrate Recovery	7 9 am Ladies' 1 <sup>st</sup> Friday at Truck Corral	8
9 9am Church Body Prayer 10am Worship, Children's Church & Nursery	10 6 pm Men's Bible Study at Dennis's 6 pm Ladies' Bible Study in BH 7:07 pm YoungLife at BMS	11	12	13 5-6 pm Community Dinner-Tasty & Delicious! 6 pm Celebrate Recovery	14	15
16 9am Church Body Prayer 10am Worship, Children's Church & Nursery	17 6 pm Men's Bible Study at Dennis's 6 pm Ladies' Bible Study 7:07 pm YoungLife at BMS	18	19	20 5-6 pm Community Dinner-Cook's Cuisine! 6 pm Celebrate Recovery	21	22
23 9am Church Body Prayer 10am Worship, Children's Church & Nursery	24 6 pm Men's Bible Study at Dennis's 6 pm Ladies' Bible Study 7:07 pm YoungLife at BMS	25	26	27 2-4 pm Thanksgiving Dinner with all the trimmings 	28	29
30 9am Church Body Prayer 10am Worship, Children's Church & Nursery	1 6 pm Men's Bible Study at Dennis's 6 pm Ladies' Bible Study 7:07 pm YoungLife at BMS	2 10:30 a - 1:30pm CBC Serves Lunch at the Sr. Center!	3	4 5-6 pm Community Dinner-Good Eats! 6 pm Celebrate Recovery	5 9 am Ladies' 1 <sup>st</sup> Friday at Truck Corral	6