



Dear Calvary Church family,

As we celebrate 250 years of America's independence on July 4th, let us appreciate the freedoms we have, and never take them for granted. I want to remind us that there is even a greater freedom found in a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Because the Holy Spirit lives in you, you are free.

The Penalty of Sin (Your Eternity) – Romans 6:23 says, "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." Let's be very frank here, outside of Christ, we all had an eternal death sentence. That's right, you and I were on death row. You may not have understood it, but that's where we were. Unfortunately, today, many people still don't understand that. Because of our sin, you and I were on a path to be eternally separated from the very presence of God. This was the eternal penalty or liability of our sin. Thankfully the story doesn't end there. Paul states here that the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus. When Jesus sets you free, He takes away your death sentence. The penalty you deserved has been removed, and you now have eternal life. He literally shifted your eternal destination.

Today you can rejoice because if you have Christ, then you have eternal life. You no longer must pay the penalty for your sin. The guilt and shame of sin (your vitality) – Have you ever experienced the feeling of guilt? Have you ever felt shame for things you have done in your past? Have you ever repented but felt like you need to repent again because you feel so bad that you want to make sure God "really forgave you?" We have all done things that we are ashamed of. Things that we wish we could take back and never do again. We all have the capacity to relive our bad moments, questioning why we did that. However, when you do this, all you are doing is creating guilt and shame. This can haunt you and it can cripple you, taking away your capacity to live and develop, which is your vitality. This is one of the biggest weapons of our enemy, Satan; encouraging you to look back at the shameful moments of your past. When you do, you can be overwhelmed by guilt, shame, and condemnation. This will ultimately strip your joy, rob your peace, and

destroy your vitality. The good news for you – you have been set free in Christ. When you sincerely repented, God forgave you. He removed that anymore. He will never bring it up again, and neither should you. However, forgiveness is not just about dealing with sin. It also deals with your shame. Christ does not just forgive the sins of the past. He also liberates you from the shame and guilt of your past. He takes away the thing that limited your ability to live and develop, which is your guilt and shame. If you are forgiven, you are forgiven completely and totally. Sin, shame, guilt... all of it is dealt with when Jesus sets you free. You don't have to carry that burden of guilt and shame anymore. You are forgiven and truly free indeed. When you understand what Christ freed you from, it sets the stage for you to live in what Christ has freed you to.

The Freedom to Live (Your Capacity) – One of the reasons it's so important to understand that you are free from the bondage, penalty, and guilt of sin is because now it increases your capacity, through Jesus, to love, to have joy, to experience peace, and to enjoy life. The Freedom to Serve (Your Activity) – Ephesians 2:10 says, "For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." One of the other reasons Christ has freed you is because He has work for you to do. He has a plan for your life. However, it will be difficult to achieve this plan if you are running around with a guilty conscience. When you do this, you are always trying to prove yourself or win the approval of people. In the dictionary, freedom is defined as the power or right to act, speak, or think without hindrance or restraint. That completely wraps up everything Christ has done for us. There is only one thing left for you to do. Live Galatians 5:1: "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

In Christ, Pastor Bruce



"But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another..." (1 John 1:7).

As we move into July, the Summer heat has once again made its way back to us. As a heating and air contractor, I have spent my adult life seeking and learning ways to control and move HEAT. The one thing that is always constant about HEAT is it wants to move. It is constantly seeking something colder and moving to warm it up. If you take a cold iron rod and stick one end in a fire, the other end will eventually get hot. When controlled, the heat that a small flame produces can mean the difference between life and death. Acts 13:49 says, "The word of the Lord spread through the whole region." Why? Because Paul and Barnabas lit the fire of God's word and held it to the cold hearts of those that would listen. God said to the prophet Jeremiah, "Is not my word like fire..." Jeremiah 23:29a. The fire of God's word in us constantly seeks to move. Use it and apply it to the hearts around you. Watch how it spreads, because it to everyone, it is the difference between life and death.

Make sure to invite and bring someone to our men's monthly meeting. Beginning at our September meeting, we will be starting a monthly study "The Titus Ten. Foundations for Godly Manhood." A great study that will help you grow your understanding of the gospel, identity, character, doctrine, and more. I look forward to seeing everyone. For future events, I have booked sites at New River State Park for a weekend camping/canoe/Kayak trip, Sept. 18 – 20. I hope also to be planning our next shooting event and retreat in the coming months. ***Thank you, and may God bless each of you,***

Doug Bivens



There are many wonderful organizations in our community that do so much to help others. Each month we would like to highlight one of those places and help them with certain needs they have for that month. During the month of July, we would like to

spotlight **Amy's House**. Items that they currently need: shampoo & conditioner, body wash, toothpaste, individually wrapped snacks, coloring books for kids, paper towels, and toilet paper. Please keep in mind that these items are for young ladies, women, and children. Donations can be placed in the gray tote in the fellowship hall.



We find these words in Matthew 28:19-20: ***“Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”*** At the heart of these verses is a single command: **make disciples**. The other actions Jesus mentions explain how we are to carry out that command.

First, we must be active – we must **go**. Making disciples rarely happens by chance. We must intentionally seek out those who need to hear the good news.

This is a command that cannot be fulfilled from the bench. Second, we are called to **baptize them**. Baptism is the outward profession of the transformation that has taken place within. As we make disciples, we present the truth of Christ so that others may come to a personal relationship with Him and publicly identify with Him through baptism.

Finally, making disciples means **teaching them**. While the gospel is certainly at the core of what we teach, it is not the only thing we are to teach. Jesus commands us **to teach others to observe everything I have commanded you**.

That means we do not teach people “just enough” to begin a relationship with Christ and then move on. Rather, we help them grow in their faith and maturity in Christ. We often refer to this process as discipleship.

Discipleship is not just the responsibility of pastors, deacons, or teachers; it is the responsibility of every follower of Christ. We are **ALL** called to teach because teaching is an essential part of making disciples.

I was once told that every believer needs three people in their life: a Barnabas, a Paul, and a Timothy. Barnabas is known in scripture as an encourager. We all need someone who encourages us, because following Christ comes with challenges. A Paul is someone who teaches and disciplines us – a mentor who helps us grow in our walk with Christ. A Timothy is someone we are pouring into; in other words, someone we are mentoring and discipling ourselves.

Take a moment to reflect on your own life. Do you have someone encouraging you? Do you have someone personally discipling or mentoring you? Do you have someone you are intentionally discipling?

If you find yourself lacking in any of these areas, I encourage you to **go** – make the effort to ensure that you are being disciplined and that you are **making disciples** yourself.

Remember, this command is known as the Great Commission, not the Great Suggestion. It was given by the One who possesses **all authority... in heaven and on earth**.

Sincerely, Chris Zinicola

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Upcoming Student Events:

Youth Camping Trip:

July 10 – 12



The pastor, staff, and congregation would like to welcome Brandon Williams into our church family.



**CAROLINAS EVANGELISM
CONFERENCE**

July 22, 23 & 24

@Mtn. View Baptist Church

6:30 PM each night

**(please note: the dates are listed
wrong on the church calendar)**



***“I will lift up my eyes to the hills –
from whence comes my help? My help
comes from the LORD, Who made
heaven and earth.”***

Psalms 121:1 – 2 NKJV

This verse has always been very special to me, as it was my mom's favorite verse. This morning as I was talking to a close friend, we were discussing the trials and tribulations that are in our lives. About how often putting on music that focuses on Him can lead us into a time of praise, worship, and prayer. She said that the song with this verse as lyrics came into her mind. And thus, led me to remember the song and this verse.

His Word is true. His Word is trustworthy. His Word is faithful. Why? Because His Word was divinely inspired by Him – God. His very nature is all these things and more. He is the creator, He is sovereign and He is God. He created us. He became flesh so that he could know what we feel. He felt rejection from His father because of our sins and yet, He never sinned. He cried. He died. BUT GOD – He rose again! He is our help! Cry out to Him today. Take time to worship Him, spend time in His word, spend time with Him in prayer and quiet time. HE LOVES YOU!

Upcoming for July:

**July 12 - 5PM Women of Calvary
meeting**

In Christ's Love, Robin



Greeters for JULY

5 Pat Rudisill & Debbie Sherrill

12 Mike Isaacs & Collin Barber

19 Tim & Christine Mosteller

26 Frank & Gail McSwain

**WITH DEEPEST
Sympathy**

**The pastor, staff, and congregation
would like to express our deepest
sympathy to Kim Bost in the loss of
her mother, Wilma Chastain.**

**4th of July Church Cookout
Sunday, July 5 @5:00 PM
~ Bring desserts ~**

Children's Workers for JULY

NURSERY 10:30 AM

July 5 Linda Rickman

July 12 Tracie Kline

July 19 Shannon Wingate

July 26 Catherine Cox

CHILDREN'S CHURCH 10:30 AM

July 5 Robin Sams

July 12 Kathy Bivens

July 19 Kim Jackson

July 26 Cathy Williams

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS 7:00 PM

Nursery & Preschool

July 1 Samantha Zinicola

July 8 Pat Lowman

July 15 Sandra Jennings

July 22 Courtney Sellers

July 29 Courtney Sellers

Deacon of the Month

CHIP RUDISILL

A Look at Our Records

Tithes & Offerings

These figures reflect our General Fund amounts

June 7..... \$9,081.17

June 14.....\$3,970.45

June 21.....\$4,148.45

Pastor Bruce Brooks,

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Chris Zinicola

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Sunday School Report

June 7..... 74

June 14..... 73

June 21..... 57

STAFF DIRECTORY

Bruce Brooks.....Lead Pastor

Chris Zinicola.....Youth Pastor

Jerry Saine.....Worship Leader

Leann Osborne.....Administrative Sec.

Kim Bost.....HR/Financial Secretary

Samantha Zinicola.....Facilities Manager

~ CHURCH OFFICE HOURS ~

Monday through Thursday

9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Friday

9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Phone: 735-9976 FAX: 736-9985

Email address: calvbc@bellsouth.net

prayer

If you would like to join us for prayer,
we meet in the sanctuary on Sunday
mornings at 8:30 am. Everyone is
welcome!

SUNSHINE CLUB

Monday, July 27

@11:00 AM

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Permit No. 15
Lincolnton, NC 28092

Return Service Requested

THE MESSENGER
Calvary Baptist Church
493 Calvary Church Road
Lincolnton, NC 28092

THE MESSENGER

“In that day shall messengers go forth...” Ezekiel 30:9

JULY 2026



**“Therefore if the Son makes you free,
you shall be free indeed.”**

John 8:36