

Calvary

Baptist Church



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Calvary Baptist Church

Orangeville, ON

Our Mission

*The mission of Calvary Baptist Church is to glorify God
with our lives and reach the lost with our love.*

Here at Calvary Baptist we believe in keeping “the main thing the main thing”. Although our church has many things that we do, none of those things contradict or are given priority over our mission. As our church family continues to grow, our mission may be practiced in a variety of ways but it will never be replaced.

Our Vision

It is not sufficient that God's church "choose a path" of ministry without knowing where that path will lead them. God has a plan for his church. This is true of both the local, independent church and the entire body of Biblical churches across the globe. Our local church recognizes God's desire that we move forward with purpose and have embraced the following vision:

We envision a church of disciples where each member of Calvary Baptist is actively involved in the discipleship and support of other believers. The church is a family who "leaves no one behind".

We envision a church of worshippers where each member understands the value of worship and actively continues a life of worship throughout the week.

Worship is not relegated to one hour a week. At Calvary Baptist, worship is a lifestyle.

We envision a church of givers where each member contributes financially to the mission of the church: God's glory and man's salvation.

We envision a church of goers where Calvary Baptist plants another church in one or more of the surrounding communities.

We envision a church of equippers where the next generation of believers are equipped for the difficulties of life. Our children are more valuable than anything or

anyone else in our lives. Calvary Baptist prioritizes the “training up of children” and seeks that all the children of our members stay committed to God’s kingdom when they become adults.

We envision a church of missionaries where each member is involved in reaching our community for the cause of Christ. Outreach is a team effort that requires a variety of tasks. Even if your health will not allow you to do visit door to door, there is opportunity to participate in reaching our community for Christ. Calvary Baptist is a church of team players willing to assist with the talents they have in reaching the lost for Christ.

Our Core Values

We are committed to the GOSPEL.

The Gospel is the good news of salvation offered only by grace and through faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ (Ephesians 2:8-9). Salvation is through Christ alone. Good works are offered by the believer to our Savior out of love, not in an attempt to be (or stay) saved. We recognize that the church is formed by a body of believers in Christ. It was the Gospel that brought us together and it is the Gospel that offers the only hope to the world for salvation. The Gospel is more than just “fire insurance”, it is the opportunity to join the family of Christ for eternity. The benefits of the Gospel begin at the moment of salvation and continue throughout the life of the believer, culminating in our eternal home in

heaven when we pass from this life into the next. Our commitment to the Gospel includes a commitment to reaching the lost with the Gospel. The Gospel is not meant to be stored in the building where we worship, but rather shared in the community where we reside.

We are committed to TRUTH.

The truth will set us free (John 8:32), but the truth will only bring success to those who accept, embrace, and apply it. We care for the spiritual, emotional, and physical success of all people (both the saved and the unsaved). We recognize that the only path toward success is found in knowing and following truth.

Although truth can be discovered in many ways, the greatest source of truth is found in Scripture. The Scripture does not contain all truth (scientific, medical,

historical, etc.), but it does contain the greatest truths that benefit mankind. Scripture contains truth regarding our spiritual condition, our purpose in this life, our emotional success, and our eternal destination. It is these truths that offer us the best life. The Bible does not condemn the search for truth outside its pages, but it does warn of “false truths” that contradict the eternal truths offered therein. Truth cannot be created, it can only be discovered. We are committed to discovering and applying the eternal truths found in God’s Word. Our commitment to truth includes a commitment to teaching and preaching that is driven by truth, not philosophy or tradition. It is through the preaching of God’s Word (truth) that hearts are convicted, and decisions are made. Those who preach and teach at

Calvary Baptist must be lovers of God's Word (truth) and have the ability to communicate it effectively.

We are committed to DISCIPLESHIP.

Before His ascension, Christ commanded His church to "teach all nations" (Matthew 28:19-20). God designed His church to "duplicate" itself in others. It is not sufficient that the church contain only "believers".

Believers trust in Christ as Savior, are guaranteed a home in Heaven, and may even worship God in sincerity. But disciples are followers of God. Disciples sacrifice the cares of this life for the furthering of God's kingdom (spreading of the Gospel), seek to glorify God in all they do, serve God in practical ways, and strive to mentor (teach) other believers in a hope that they too will become disciples of Christ. Faith in Christ as Savior

allows one to become a “believer”, but daily sacrifice is required for one to become a “disciple” (Mark 8:34).

Calvary Baptist is a church of disciples who seek mentor others toward discipleship.

We are committed to LOVE.

The greatest commandment is to love our God and the second greatest commandment is to love others (Mark 12:30-31). The world is not impressed with speeches, knowledge, or even sacrifices when love is not included (1 Corinthians 13:1-3). In today’s culture, love has many definitions. Our church follows the definition of love given in 1 Corinthians 13:4-8. Love is patient. Our love endures the hardships of the human condition. We recognize that people are not perfect and will inflict pain on us. Although we do not encourage the “bad

behavior” of others, we are committed to enduring (loving) the pain of humanity in order to show them unconditional love. Love is kind. Our love is not purely a “motto” or catchphrase, it is a way of life. Our kindness (love) is not offered only to those that are kind. Our kindness is shown to all people, even those who may call themselves our enemies (Matthew 5:44). Love is Humble. We celebrate the success of others, we do not envy them. We do not desire to place ourselves above others. We are not interested in “showing off”. Humility is not self-deprivation, it is the decision to place the needs of others as a priority in our lives. Humility is the recognition that just because we are better at a particular talent does not mean we are “better than” others. We are all human and all equally loved in God’s

eyes. Love is well-behaved. Love does not find joy in self-destructive behaviors. Love recognizes that true success is found in truth and seeks to impart that truth to others. Love does not result in toxic relationships that cause pain to the one's we claim to love. Love is self-controlled. Love does not allow emotions to control our responses. Love focuses on the success of relationships when responding to the difficulties that arise. Love does not react now and regret later. Love is optimistic. Our love looks for the best in others, not the worst. We want others to succeed and we search for opportunities to assist them in that success. We do not wait for others to fail. We do not want others to fail. When the ones we love do fail, we are the first to help them get back up. Love is forever. We do not love for a time. We do not

love conditionally. Our love is always offered to all people. Our love is but a reflection of God's love for the world. Our love is not perfect, but it is sincere.

We are committed to COMMUNITY.

God did not design for His church to take this journey of life alone (Hebrews 10:25). God has given His children the presence of His Holy Spirit, but He recognizes the need for human fellowship. God's gift to the church is the church. The church is not a building, it is a community of believers. God's heart for this community is a deep, sincere, loving relationship between His children. Community does not occur naturally; it must be purposeful. Our church is committed to providing opportunities to participate in and benefit from a community of united followers of Christ. We cannot

force community on those who attend Calvary Baptist, but we can encourage others to join our community on a deeper level than weekly attendance to our Sunday services.

We are committed to WORSHIP.

The glory of God is seen in all creation (Psalm 19:1). It is only right that the creation worship the Creator. Our worship of God does not make Him glorious, it only recognizes His glory. Calvary Baptist loves to worship God because we are in love with God. Our worship does not seek to lift up the worshiper, but rather our Savior. Our worship is not added to our service out of obligation, but rather permeates the entire service through singing, prayer, and personal response to the truth of God's Word when it is preached. Our desire is

that the worshiper continue his/her worship of God throughout the week in personal service and devotion to our great God!

We are committed to PRAYER.

God wants to hear from His people and asks us to pray continually (1 Thessalonians 5:17). God does not need us to pray, God desires us to pray. Prayer draws us closer to God. Prayer opens our eyes and hearts to our need for God. Prayer brings the heart of God to us. Prayer is not a formal recitation of needs and wants, but rather an open conversation with an all-knowing, compassionate God. We have not, because we ask not (James 4:2). God's love for His church is greater than our hearts can comprehend. We love God, and therefore we desire to speak with God.

Our Philosophy

Philosophy of Leadership

We believe that God has called His church to operate under and with servant-leadership. The spiritual leaders of Calvary Baptist are not above the members nor are they below the members. The leaders of Calvary Baptist walk alongside the members in love, encouragement, and support. The spiritual leaders of Calvary Baptist answer to God for the treatment of His church and must strive to reflect the love and character that Christ illustrated in the Gospels. Christ loves His church, and this is the first duty of all its leaders. But it is also required for a spiritual leader to operate in truth. This is why God commands us to “offer the truth in love.”

(Ephesians 4:15)

Philosophy of Preaching and Teaching

God has given each believer the ability to search the Scriptures for themselves. God has also provided the guidance of the Holy Spirit to direct His children toward truth. The preacher/teacher is not supposed to replace the Holy Spirit but rather provide a clear explanation of God's truth that the Holy Spirit may use this truth in guiding, directing, and convicting those who hear it. The preacher/teacher is not supposed to present themselves as the "source of truth" but rather bring the listener to the source of truth (God's Word) and teach them to search the Scriptures for themselves. The preacher/teacher is not supposed to include personal philosophy or religious tradition in their presentation of truth without reason and when doing so must clarify the

difference between theology (truth) and philosophy (application of truth and personal opinion).

Philosophy of Worship

Worship is the act of prostrating one's self before God. It is not to be confused with praising God, which can be a part of worship. Worship involves our submission to and recognition of who God is. Worship can be done through prayer, conversation, and a lifestyle that reflects His glory. Singing is a vital part of our praise and worship. Our philosophy of worship as applied to music is as follows:

1. Does the music glorify God?
2. Is the music easy to sing? (most church members are not professional singers)

3. Does the music style, presentation, sound, or music leader and his/her team distract from true worship?

Ultimately, our church family desires to worship the God of creation and the Savior of the world. We are not seeking an “emotional experience” but rather offering our hearts and voices to our Lord. We do not sing because we are happy, we sing because God is worthy.

Philosophy of Discipleship

Calvary Baptist understands the need for discipleship and desires to offer its members an opportunity to grow in their Christian faith. We provide many avenues of discipleship including Bible studies, Refresh groups, and pastoral counseling. As the need grows, other avenues of

discipleship will be started. Our heart is to see God's people embrace discipleship and in time disciple others. We do not believe discipleship is a requirement for salvation, but it is a requirement for service. Those who would serve God's kingdom must be willing to follow God's guidance.

Philosophy of Missions

When Christ ascended to Heaven, He sent the church to evangelize the “uttermost part of the earth”. Calvary Baptist is responsible to reach our “Jerusalem”, but we must not lose sight of the bigger picture: world evangelism. The Members of Calvary Baptist give monthly toward world missions and the money is used to support missionaries who have established ministries across the globe. We do not seek to merely support our

missionaries, but rather desire to partner with them. In order to partner with missionaries, we expect the following:

1. Their theology does not contradict our own.
2. Their ministry is actively involved in evangelism and discipleship. Evangelism may be done through church planting or by partnering with a local church.
3. Their philosophy of leadership is Biblical (servant-leadership as seen above).
4. The financial support they receive is used wisely and transparently. Another ministry has oversight of their finances. Their finances are not used to “prop up” the local church by infusing large

amounts of money into the ministry in hopes of gaining a large crowd.

5. The missionary understands the value of organic growth and is actively seeking/training citizens of that country to take leadership positions within the church.

In order to keep missions before our congregation, we regularly read missionary letters and dedicate an entire month (April) to preaching on world missions.

Philosophy of Outreach

God sent His Son to the world 2,000 years ago to seek and save the lost. God's mission to His church is to "go into all the world". The priority of the church must be to reach the lost with the Gospel of Christ. Our philosophy

of outreach is combined with our view of Christ's ministry on earth. When Christ "sought the unsaved" He did so through acts of love and compassion. Calvary Baptist sees the love that God has for the world and desires to show that love to our community. We believe that the best way to reach the world with the truth of the Gospel is through the love of Christ.

Philosophy of Children's Ministry

A church that fails to train up the next generation for Christ is a church that will cease to exist within 1-2 generations. The future of the church resides in the faithfulness of the next generation. Calvary Baptist is committed to training the next generation for Christ. We believe that children learn best when truth is both practical and simple. Children are able to understand the

“deep truths” of Scripture but must first establish a strong foundation of basic truth. Our children’s ministry is not merely “childcare” or a safe place for children to hear Bible stories. The children’s teachers at Calvary Baptist want to impart truth (in love) to our children at an early age. Our desire is that the children will participate as volunteers in various ministries (including the children’s ministry) by the time they are in middle school.

Philosophy of Youth Ministry

Teens are not children, but nor are they adults.

Teenagers are in a transition stage that is often overlooked by God’s people. We believe that teens are capable of service to God’s kingdom and seek to provide opportunities for them to get involved in ministry. We

believe that a teenager is less likely to abandon the church in their 20's if they gain fulfillment in serving the church in their teens. Teenagers are in a period of life that tends toward doubts and questions. We do not want to squash the curiosity of our teenagers, but rather show them that the answers to life's greatest questions are found in Scripture. It is during the teen years that a young man/woman develops a faith that is both real and personal. Our leaders desire to guide our teenagers toward this end.

Our Beliefs

The Scriptures: We believe that the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments, as originally written, were God-breathed, both verbally and in every part. We believe God, Who is Truth, communicated through Spirit-controlled men so that the scriptures are without error and therefore authoritative in all they teach and in all matters they touch. We believe the Bible is the supreme revelation of God's will for man and constitutes the only infallible guide for faith and life. We believe that the Authorized King James Version is an accurate translation for the English-speaking people of today. It is the only version used by our church and all its ministries.

The Trinity: We believe in one Triune God, eternally existing in three persons - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit;

co-eternal in being, co-identical in nature, co-equal in power and glory, and having the same attributes and perfections.

God the Father: We believe that God, the Father, perfect in holiness, infinite in wisdom, measureless in power; that He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of men, that He hears and answers prayer, and that He saves from eternal death and from hell all who come to Him through Jesus Christ.

God the Son, Jesus Christ: We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary as no other man was ever nor can be born of a woman. He is "God manifest in the flesh". He lived a life without sin and in His death made a full and vicarious atonement for our

sins, dying not as a martyr, but as a voluntary substitute in the sinner's place. He rose bodily on the third day and ascended into heaven where He now sits at the right hand of the Father as our High Priest, interceding and preparing a place for us. He shall appear in the air to rapture His saints, and after seven years, shall come again with the saints to set up the throne of David and establish His millennial kingdom.

God the Holy Spirit: We believe that the Holy Spirit is a divine Person possessing all the attributes of deity and is equal with God the Father and God the Son. We believe that He was active in creation and is the restrainer of the “Evil One”; that He convicts of sin, of judgment, and of righteousness; that He bears witness to the truth of the Gospel in preaching and testimony, that He is the agent

in the new birth; and, that He seals, endues, guides, teaches, witnesses, sanctifies, helps, and distributes spiritual gifts to all believers; that the Apostolic gifts, such as tongues and healing, were unique to the first century and ceased as the New Testament Scriptures were completed.

Angels: We believe in the existence of angels who were created by God to bring honor and glory to His name and to serve Him. Angels who have chosen to follow God are ministers for Him on behalf of those who have trusted in Jesus Christ as their personal Savior. They were among the hosts of angels those who fell with Satan. Those that fell are presently functioning in Satan's counterfeit system as rulers of darkness, to be resisted by the believer through the armor provided by God. We believe

that Satan, the "god of this age" and "the prince of the power of the air", once knew heavenly honors. That because of pride and ambition to be above the Almighty God, he fell and is currently the power of all darkness and evil and is destined for final defeat at the hand of God's Son, and for the judgment of eternal hell, a place prepared for him and his angels.

Creation: We believe in the Genesis account of creation, and that it is to be accepted literally, not allegorically or figuratively; that man was created directly in God's own image and after His own likeness; that man's creation was not a matter of evolution or evolutionary change of species, or development through interminable periods of time from lower to higher forms; and, that all animal and plant life was create directly, and God's established

law was that they should bring forth only "after their kind".

Man: We believe the Scriptures teach that man was created by a direct act of God and not from any previously existing form of life; and that all men are descended from the historical Adam and Eve, the first parents of the entire human race. By voluntary transgression man fell from his sinless state, in consequence of which all men are now sinners by nature and by choice, and therefore under just condemnation to eternal judgment and separation from God in a place called hell without defense or excuse.

Salvation: We believe the Scriptures teach that Christ died for the whole world and that salvation of sinners is divinely initiated, wholly of grace, and accomplished only

through the mediatorial work of the Son of God. It is wholly apart from works and is upon the sole condition of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and never without genuine repentance. In order to be saved the sinner must be born again, personally receiving Christ as Savior, being regenerated by the power of the Holy Spirit through faith in God's Word and becoming the recipient of a new nature. The great gospel blessing which Christ secures all who believe in Him is justification, that judicial act of God accompanied by the pardon of sin and the imputation of divine righteousness, not because of any work of righteousness on our part, but solely through faith in the Redeemer's blood. The believer who has exercised personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ is

completely justified and in possession of eternal life which is eternally secure.

The Church: We believe the Scriptures teach that the local church is a congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the Gospel, observing the ordinances of Christ, governed by His laws, and exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word. Its Scriptural officers are pastors, sometimes called bishops or elders, and deacons, whose qualifications, claims, and duties are defined in the epistles of Timothy and Titus.

Our definition of the local church leads to these

Scriptural distinctives:

B (Biblical authority of the Scriptures)

A (Autonomy of the local church)

P (Priesthood of the believers)

T (Two officers, Pastor/elder/bishop and Deacon)

I (Individual soul liberty/personal responsibility)

S (Saved Church membership)

T (Two ordinances: Baptism and the Lord's Supper)

S (Separation of church and state)