

Calvary Baptist Church
Biblical Story

Creation

Fall

Redemption

Consummation

Creation

Who are we? Why are we here? What is this place anyway?

Some of life's most penetrating questions are answered at the very beginning of God's Story. The true Story begins with God's existence already assumed and then explains how God created all things good and how He had a good intention for all of His creation to function well and flourish. In fact, God tells us that He made humans as His image in order that we would enjoy right relationship with Him, each other and this world. As His created beings, we were to submit to His reign and cheerfully and freely obey Him in order to enjoy the full goodness that He intended for this creation. This is all found in Genesis 1-2 in the Bible and is reiterated numerous times throughout God's Story. God is Creator and we are His creatures who live in this world which is also His creation. We were created to joyfully submit to God's reign and enjoy the good intention He had in creating us for relationship with Himself, each other and this world.

Fall

What's wrong with me? What's wrong with this world?

Each of us has a sense that things are not the way that they are supposed to be. Perhaps we now recognize that this makes sense since God created us and this world for a good purpose that honored Him and caused us to flourish. But what went wrong? Why do I feel so far away from God? Why do I continue to experience failing relationships? Why is there war? Why have I experienced loss? Why does this place seem so mean at times? These are all great questions that deserve a good answer. That answer is once again found within the context of God's Story. In Genesis 3, God allows us to read and understand that while He created things good, we royally goofed things up. God gave Adam and Eve a command to not eat the fruit of a particular tree. Satan, who is our enemy and the enemy of God, caused this couple to question the truthfulness of God and even to question whether God had the right to reign over them. In response, Adam and Eve did eat of the fruit and tried to establish their own kingdom instead of submitting to God's reign. A catastrophic chain of events took place from here. The Bible says in Genesis 3 and Romans 5 that our right relationship with God was ruined because when Adam sinned by choosing to live against God's reign, it resulted in each of us being sinners against God's reign by nature and choice. The relationships between humans also suffered as we began distorting what God intended relationships to be as the Bible clearly shows throughout the remainder of its content. The Bible even says in Genesis 3 and Romans 8 that all of creation suffered as a result of that human decision. God's Story provides the answer for why things are not the way they are supposed to be. But we still want to know if there is a solution to this problem and if there is really anything for which we may hope. Thankfully, God's Story continues.

Redemption

What is the solution to the Fall?

God's Story, from Genesis 3:15 on, speaks of our gracious God passionately pursuing His people.

At the center of God's Story stands the unique figure Who identified Himself as The Way, The Truth and The Life. The person was Jesus the Christ, the perfect God-man. Our sin against God that separates us from Him and each other was so serious that God, because of His love for us and His world, sent His Son to this world to live a sinless life on our behalf. Jesus lived the life that we could not live. Jesus also came to die on the cross to pay the penalty for our sin. The Bible says in 2 Corinthians that the greatest act of grace ever known took place through the Person and Work of Jesus the Christ. This act was Jesus' death and resurrection where He took on our sin and gave us His righteousness if we would entrust ourselves to the truthfulness of His Story and embrace His reign. You see, God wanted to redeem us in order that we would honor Him through living rightly in relationship with Him as He intended in the goodness of His creation. In Jesus, God was renewing all things for His honor and desires for us to represent His reign in this world right now by living lives and making decisions that reflect God's good intention or His creation. We cannot earn God's salvation. We cannot earn the gift of His reign. The Bible says that we may receive this salvation as a gift received by God's grace alone through faith in Who Jesus is and What He has done. In receiving the gift of God's reign, we also commit to submit to His reign and continue to learn how He wishes for us to live in His world.

Consummation

For what may we hope?

The Bible concludes by telling of the new beginning of God's Story. He will remove sin and finally we will see the fullness of His reign enacted in this world.

In Revelation 21, God's Story ends with His glory radiating throughout all of creation as He has made all things new and things are finally as they should be with those people who have embraced Jesus the Christ and His kingdom. We are fully freed to live as God intends with right relationship with Himself, each other and His world. For those who refuse to believe or embrace God's True Story, they will forever live in conscious punishment apart from God. For those who do accept Jesus as the One Who has paid the penalty for their sin and is now Master of their life, they will experience everlasting joy in right relationship with God, each other and His world. This has always been God's intention.

Calvary Baptist Church
Mission

*Representing the reign of
God as...
Community
Servant
Messenger*

Calvary Baptist Church
Core Values

God

God's Story

God's People

God's World

Because we value God, we desire to be a...

- * ***Worshipping Community***
- * ***Praying Community***

This is evident in the gathering of the saints for corporate worship as well as lives that are evidence of living worshipful lives throughout the week. We know that the power of strength for life, ministry and service comes through unifying as a body in prayer. We desire to pray that His Name, Kingdom and Will be accomplished in us and through us just as it is in Heaven.

Because we value God's Story, we desire to be a...

- * ***Learning community***
- * ***Teaching community***
- * ***Discerning community***

We desire to be life-long learners to know more about God and His people. Our priority is to make known the truths of God's Word through teaching. As a discerning community we desire to think through the context of the story using it as a framework to discern between right and wrong; good, better and best; created goodness versus fallen creation, so that we can best live out the story each day.

Because we value God's People, we desire to be a...

- * ***Caring Community***
- * ***Discovering Community***
- * ***Equipping Community***
- * ***Family Community***

As a caring community we desire to care for the spiritual, emotional and physical needs of those in the body. As part of this caring is the desire to help the body discover their spiritual giftedness, abilities and value in order to serve the body. Once a person has discovered their giftedness we desire to equip them in order to best utilize their gifts, whether through class, discipleship or mentoring. We desire each member of the body to be fulfilled in the function of the church. With equipping we desire families to be intimately involved in this process of discovering and equipping with their own children, because we value families.

Because we value God's World, we desire to be a...

- * ***Serving Community***
- * ***Compassionate Community***
- * ***Evangelizing Community***

As a serving community we will reach out to those in our community instead of just meet our own body needs. This is out of a desire to show our surrounding community God's concern for justice and mercy. At the same time, we desire to be compassionate to those in our community, showing them God's love, grace and peace. This compassion is shown to those who are like us, but more importantly to those who are different from us, either physically, mentally, or socio-economically. As an outpouring of our hearts, compassion should prompt us to share with those we encounter God's story and how it will change their life. Through training and equipping we desire our church body to know how to tell the ***whole story to the whole person to the whole world.*** As we tell the story, we want others to not only hear this story but see it evidenced in our lives as we daily submit to the reign of God.

Calvary Baptist Church
Our Covenantal
Responsibility

Covenant

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior, and on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, we do now, in the presence of God, angels, and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another, as one body in Christ.

We promise, therefore, by the help of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this church in knowledge, holiness and encouragement; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to give it a sacred pre-eminence over all institutions of human origin; and to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the Gospel through all nations.

We also promise to maintain family and personal devotions; to educate our children in the truths of Christ and His Word; to seek the salvation of our family and acquaintances; to walk with alertness and wisdom in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our commitments, and exemplary in our actions; to avoid all bitterness, gossip, slander, and excessive anger; to abstain from both morally destructive behavior and harmful addictions; and to be zealous in our efforts to represent the kingdom of our Savior.

We promise to exercise Christian love in areas where the Bible does not clearly define what specific action should be taken. In such cases, we will be governed by the biblical principles of Christian liberty as we ask the following three questions. Will this action control me or will I control it? Will this action cause a brother or sister to fatally fall? Is this action fitting?

We further promise to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember each other in prayer; to assist each other in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and truthfulness in speech; and to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation, and remembering the commands of our Savior, to secure it without delay.

We also promise, that when we move from this place, we will as soon as possible unite with some other church, where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.

Articles of Faith

WE BELIEVE THAT GOD'S WORD TEACHES. . .

1. **VERBAL INSPIRATION OF THE BIBLE.** We believe the Holy Scriptures, both the Old and New Testaments, to be verbally inspired of God in the original documents, infallible and God-breathed, a perfect rule of faith and practice. 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:19-21; 1 Corinthians 2:12-13; Proverbs 30:5
2. **THE TRIUNE GOD.** We believe in the Triune God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – who is holy, loving, good, wise and almighty; who has created his world out of nothing, who sustains, provides for and rules all things, who is our only Redeemer and who will judge all people. Luke 3:21-22; Matthew 28:19-20; Ephesians 1:3-14
3. **GOD THE FATHER.** We believe in the person of God the Father who sends both God the Son and God the Holy Spirit in redemptive history. We believe that the Father has provided a great salvation for those who repent of their sins and trust Christ and His finished work through the Holy Spirit; that He calls, regenerates, justifies, forgives, adopts, sanctifies, keeps and will glorify them. John 14:26; Romans 8:28-39; John 4:24
4. **GOD THE SON.** We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ is the Son of God and God the Son, the only mediator between God and humans, who added full humanity to his perfect deity through the virgin birth, obeyed God perfectly, died for our sins on the cross and bodily rose again to defeat Satan, returned to heaven to pour out the Holy Spirit at Pentecost and to intercede for his people. John 14:1-11; 1 Timothy 2:5; Colossians 1:15-20; Hebrews 1; Philippians 2:5-11
5. **GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT.** We believe in the person of the Holy Spirit who has been sent to complete and perfect in us all of the works that Jesus did for us. He convicts, regenerates, sanctifies, gifts us for ministry and assures us of our salvation. While we believe in the continued expression of the spiritual gifts, we further believe that the more demonstrative or “sign gifts” such as healing, raising the dead, and speaking in tongues were essentially given for the authentication of the apostolic generation and are not normative for today. Romans 8:1-27; John 16:7-15; 1 Corinthians 12; 1 Corinthians 13:8-13
6. **HUMANITY.** We believe that God created men and women in His image and likeness for fellowship with Himself and to carry out the creation ordinances, that Adam sinned and that through his disobedience the entire race was alienated from God and is born depraved and totally lost. We further affirm that all human life is sacred and to be protected since it is the image of God. Genesis 1-3; Romans 5:12-21; Isaiah 53:6; Psalm 139:13-16
7. **SALVATION.** We believe that God freely justifies His people by granting them faith in the sinless life, shed blood, and resurrection of Jesus the Christ. This faith receives and rests on Christ and His righteousness alone. Thus, believers are born again by grace through faith apart from works. Ephesians 2:8-10; John 3:16-18; Acts 4:8-12; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Romans 5:1-9
8. **A PERSONAL DEVIL.** We believe that Satan is a person, that he is a fallen angel, that he is the deceiver of humanity, and that someday, God will cast him into the lake of fire. Ezekiel 28:13-14; 1 Peter 5:8; Revelation 12:9-10; Revelation 20:10

Articles of Faith

9. HEAVEN AND HELL. We believe that heaven is a place prepared for all born-again believers. We further believe that hell is a place prepared for the devil and his angels and those who die in unbelief. John 14:1-6; Matthew 25:41; Revelation 20:14-15; Revelation 21:1-8
10. BAPTISM AND COMMUNION. We believe that Jesus gave two ordinances to the church, baptism of believers by immersion and the Lord's Supper. Baptism is an act of obedience to the command of Christ and is a testimony to the world of the believer's faith in the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Matthew 28:19-20; Romans 6:1-5
- We believe that communion (the Lord's Supper) is a symbolic ordinance, picturing Christ's body given for our sins and His blood shed for our redemption. The Lord's Supper is not a saving ordinance, but helps us to remember Jesus' death as we look forward to His coming again. This ordinance is to be observed by regenerate, obedient believers. 1 Corinthians 11:23-34; 1 Corinthians 10:16; Luke 22:17-20
11. ETERNAL SECURITY. We believe that once a person is born again, he cannot lose his salvation, that he is eternally secure in the Lord Jesus Christ. John 10:27-29; Romans 8:28-29; Ephesians 4:30; 1 Peter 1:3-5
12. THE CHURCH. We believe that God has established the universal church, the body of Christ, which is composed of all born-again believers of this age and that Christ is the only head of that church. 1 Peter 2:9-10; Colossians 1:18; 1 Corinthians 12:12-27
- We believe that local churches are organized manifestations of the universal church and should be comprised of baptized believers associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel. Galatians 1:2; 1 Corinthians 1:2; Philippians 1:1; 1 Thessalonians 1:1.
13. SECOND COMING OF CHRIST. We believe that Jesus Christ may return at any moment to deliver his people from the coming wrath, defeat the kingdom of Satan, and establish His millennial kingdom. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11; John 14:3; Revelation 20
14. RESURRECTION. We believe that there will be a bodily resurrection and final judgment of the just and the unjust resulting in the everlasting blessedness of believers and the everlasting, conscious punishment of the lost. John 5:24-29; 1 Corinthians 15; Revelation 20:11-15
15. SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE. We believe that civil government is of divine appointment and that we are responsible to be good citizens. However, should government command us to violate God's Word, we must obey God rather than men. Romans 13:1-7; 1 Peter 2:13; Acts 4:18-20

For a more detailed statement of faith, one may consult the New Hampshire Confession of Faith to which this church agrees.

Response to Covenant & Mission

Having read the Church Covenant and Articles of Faith, let us examine more closely our responsibilities.

By living out the Covenant through the aid of the Holy Spirit we fulfill our values and covenant in the context of God's story for we are bearers of His redemptive work.

Community

We are a community of God's redeemed people. We are not our own—we are His. Therefore, we must be in agreement with the values, articles of faith, mission and covenant of the church.

We must “walk together” in Christian love. Too often we place the emphasis on love rather than the kind of love. Our love should be a CHRISTian love—to love others as Christ loved us. It is a kind of love that only the Holy Spirit can give us.

By nature it is sacrificial—it will cost me something. By character it is given in humbleness and more concerned about the benefit of others than myself. It is given expecting nothing in return.

Certainly, the community of the redeemed should manifest this kind of love to believers and unbelievers alike.

Proper actions come as a result of realizing God is present with us. We must avoid “bitterness, slander, excessive anger and abstain from morally destructive behavior and harmful addictions.”

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Servant

God has saved us to serve Him. For us to serve Him effectively we must embrace His Kingdom—not ours.

A servant has only one responsibility—to serve His Master. A servant does what his Master tells him to do, realizing that the Master will give him the tools necessary to accomplish the task He has sent him to do.

As servants, we are to “contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the relief of the poor and the spread of the gospel through all nations.”

We are to arm ourselves by having “family and personal devotions” and “to walk with alertness and wisdom in the world.” We are not to go beyond what the Bible teaches when the Bible does not clearly define what specific action should be taken. In such cases, “we will be governed by the biblical principles of Christian liberty as we ask the following three questions. Will this action control me or will I control it? Will this action cause a brother or sister to fall? Is this action fitting?”

Messenger

As servants of God, we will minister to both His people and those who are not yet His. We are to “seek the salvation of our family and acquaintances” and to “educate our children in the truths of Christ and His word.”

We will realize the importance of the church as the redeemed body of Christ and strive to “watch over each other in brotherly love, remember each other in prayer, assist each other in sickness and distress, and be noted for truthfulness in speech.”

As His messengers, we promise to love God, His people, and His Word.

We will be His community, servants, and messengers only as we walk with Him, and we fulfill our covenant responsibilities. Through the person of His Spirit we will serve Him and His Kingdom.