



*A Great Place To Grow in
Christ
For the Entire Family*

May 21, 2017
This Weeks Events
Today: 10:00AM: (Grange)— <i>Bible 101: Matthew 9</i> —Pastor 11:00AM: (Grange)— <i>Deception</i> —Pastor 6:00PM: (Grange)— <i>Advanced Bible: Temptation</i> —Pastor
Upcoming Events
June 4, 2017: 2:00PM: (Fir Lane)— <i>Shut In Saints</i> —Matthew Coale
July 9, 2017: <i>MISSIONARY TO GREENLAND</i> —J.R. Wright Family

Radical Citizenship

By Carla Barnes

Think about citizenship, and what comes to mind?

Maybe stuff like flags and patriotism. Or maybe long-winded lecture on "legislative process" from government class. All in all, the topic of citizenship sounds kinda boring, even "old-fashioned," right?

But just for a minute, try dropping all those old ideas and looking at citizenship a bit differently. Try thinking of it as something a bit like "school spirit."

Really. No kidding.

Remember a time when you were hyped about your team's winning streak? Or when you got pumped because your school did something really cool that made the newspaper's front page? Or when everybody pulled together to make homecoming the best time ever?

Now here's a question: Why is school spirit so exciting?

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Why Bible Believers are NOT Calvinist



Ron Coale

Are you a Christian? If so, then you will be hard pressed to call yourself a Calvinist. John Calvin was a man. He is not Jesus Christ. Christians are disciples of Christ. They are not disciples of John Calvin. As a man, you should be quite familiar with the sinful nature of mankind. This in itself should be a grand warning about following any man. Paul himself admonished the church in Corinth for following men, when they were saying, "I follow Paul" or, "I follow Apollos" (1 Corinthians 1:12; 3:4). If you were in agreement with every Calvinistic theological point, you should be uncomfortable describe yourself as a "Calvinist" if you want to be a follower of Christ only. "Was [Calvin] crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of [Calvin]?"

It is a deceived mind that thinks that man is so Totally Depraved that he is incapable of making any right choice. While it is true that man's nature is totally and com-

pletely sinful, it is not true that man cannot make any correct choice. Anyone can go against their nature. Therefore, although man's nature is to sin, it does not mean that man is totally incapable of knowing how to do right. When man fell in the garden of Eden, it was by eating from the tree of the KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL. Up to that point, man had no knowledge of evil. After the fall, he knew both, even though it was his nature to sin. Sin is the result of *willful* disobedience to God (Hebrews 10:26; 1 John 3:4).

Man can never say, "Sin is not my fault. It is my 'sinful nature.'" Scripture teaches that sin is our fault. Scripture teaches that man has freewill and is able to choose whom he will serve (Joshua 24:15).

The idea of predestination is that every individual has been predestined for salvation or condemnation. Man has nothing to do with receiving salvation; it is completely up to God whether an individual spends

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Children's Church and nursery services are available for every service.

If you want to Keep up with what is going on in Grace Baptist Church, send the word: **GBCLIST** in a text to **84576** on your cell.



Chase & Vaida Smith

Missionaries To Lithuania

...whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.

1 Co 10:31

Pastor and praying friends,

These past couple of months have been a bit trying for us. Back in Feb I got the crazy idea of trying to exercise on a daily basis to try and stay in shape. While doing some pushups I pinched a nerve in my back (or at least it felt something like that). I have had this pain quite a few times, and would get it fixed by visiting my Chiropractor, or if I couldn't, it would typically go away in about a week. This didn't go away, but got worse, much worse. I was in constant pain, could not sleep (I could only lay down for about five minutes before it would flare up real bad), I had a really REALLY difficult time paying attention in class, and I was VERY irritable all the time. After about a month of that I got a hold of my Chiropractor in the states, and he said to see a Neurologist, because I may have a herniated disc. I saw one a day later and had a CT scan, and it turned out that I had two herniated discs. I did some treatments, and now am virtually pain free! The blessing from this is we got to see the Lord carry us through another trial and understand a little bit more on how to pray for others that have intense pain and/or cannot sleep. We went through it for almost two months, and I can't imagine having that most of my life!! I didn't mention this in our last prayer letter, because I didn't have peace about mentioning it, and wanted to wait and see how God would direct us to deal with it.

While my back issue made it hard to pay attention in class, I was still able to learn. I would record the lessons so I could have my wife help me with them after I got home (Vaida even took my dictaphone to school for me to record the lessons when I was in too much pain to make it to class). However, about a month ago, my brain seemed to shut off. Nothing in class was making sense. I couldn't understand what the instructors were saying, let alone translate it into English! I started to dread going to class, I didn't want them to ask me any questions, I was constantly stressed out, and I just wanted to sit there and learn silently. That went on for a couple of weeks, till I finally spoke with our main instructor and told her what was bothering me, and since then my stress level dropped and I was able to understand what they were saying again. Praise the Lord!! Now we have three weeks left till our finals (oral and written exams), so please keep me in your prayers for that!!

We had Resurrection Sunday/Easter Service a couple weeks ago, and I got to help out with the music. I did my first special in Lithuanian (one out of three verses of the song), and it was challenging!! No one laughed (at least not out loud), and they seemed excited to hear a special in their language!

Thanks for your continued prayers and support, as you can see we need them!! God bless!!

Chase and Vaida Smith

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Well, because it's so catching. It gets everybody's adrenaline flowing. It pulls people together as a team to do some really good things.

So what's all that got to do with citizenship?

Imagine if we all got a bit more excited about making this piece of earth we live on a better place. If it helps, think of the people in your town or city as a team, working together toward that goal. The team can only reach that goal when every member plays his or her part.

Even so, maybe you're thinking, *Look, my team's got enough players. They don't need me. I mean, really, why should I care about my community?*

Well, because God does. It's part of his creation. And he cares about every little piece of his creation. And he wants the very best for his creation. That's why Jesus prayed, "Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven" ([Matthew 6:10](#)).

As Christians, we're part of God's kingdom, citizens of heaven. And as citizens of heaven, we share God's concern for the world and people he created. Including the world *where we live*.

What does that concern look like? Well, it looks a lot like Jesus. Take a look at some of the stuff Jesus did while he roamed the earth. He took time to care

for the sick and needy ([Matthew 4:23-24](#)). He fed people who were hungry ([Mark 8:1-10](#)). He fought against prejudice ([Luke 10:25-37](#)).

To follow Jesus' example, you could volunteer at a soup kitchen, organize a community food drive, or simply befriend someone who's lonely.

But don't stop there. God also wants us, as citizens of heaven, to care about our environment. After God created the first humans, he told them to take care of the earth ([Genesis 2:15](#)).

So go ahead, clean up some graffiti. Cut down the amount of garbage you throw out by recycling and re-using what you can. Carpool with a buddy or two when you drive to school.

Our heavenly citizenship also means we need to respect the people who govern us, from the local mayor to the president. While we may not always agree with the things politicians say or do, God does tell us to honor their authority and pray for them ([1 Peter 2:13-17](#); [1 Timothy 2:1-2](#)).

So this whole citizenship thing *does* makes sense. When we pull together, good things happen. And most important, lives can be changed eternally as we model Christ's love to the world.

So come on. Join the team!

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eternity in heaven or hell. In the first chapter of Ephesians and the eighth chapter of Romans, Paul speaks of the idea of being “predestined.” Thus, the idea of predestination is a biblical concept. However, some Christians have become confused about this issue. Paul wrote that God chose “before the foundation of the world” (Ephesians 1:4) to save a group of people (the church). Nowhere in Scripture do we read that *individuals* were predestined for salvation or condemnation. Paul wrote, “Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,” (1:5) and, “In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will.” (1:11). When addressing the concept of predestination, Paul always speaks in the plural (a group), not singular (an individual).

Suppose a certain bowling team was predestined to receive \$100. They would be “predestined” to receive it as a team. Individually they could not say, they were “predestined” to receive this money. But, as a team, they could say so.

God chose the group, Israel, to bless under the Old Testament, He has chosen the church to bless with salvation under the New Testament. In fact, Ephesians 1 ends this way, “And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all” (vs. 22-23).

Paul wrote that God, “Who will

have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.” (1 Timothy 2:4). And Peter wrote, “The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.” (2 Peter 3:9). Salvation is available to anyone who will born again by water and the Spirit (John 3:1-7; Acts 2:38; 1 Peter 3:21), and if they do choose to accept God’s forgiveness, then they are “predestined” to enter the Kingdom by being part of the body of Christ: (the church)! The “predestination” is what will happen if you choose to accept Christ. It is NOT having your choice nullified because your fate is predestinated.

Jesus did NOT only die for the “elect.” Jesus Christ died for everyone. Not just those who are predestined for salvation. To think otherwise one must have ascribed to other man-made doctrines. Here is what Scripture says, “**For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.**” (John 3:16). And, “For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:” (1 Peter 3:18). And, “And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for *the sins of the whole world.*” (1 John 2:2).

The Calvinist teaches that grace is irresistible. They insist that if God predestines an individual, then God

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PRAYER REQUESTS

607.	Pastor	Souls saved in Shelton.
680.	Matt	Savings Account (Building fund) to reach —(\$10,000).
685.	Dee P.	Dee's brother Duane (a proud atheist) salvation.
755.	Regina	Grace Baptist Church to grow in influence & membership.
763.	Sally	Brother Nathan called to preach. Strength & direction.
803.	Dee P.	Improved church attendance for her family.
849.	Sally	Jonny seeks God's will in making decisions for future.
865.	Dee P.	Son Joseph's health problems & depression.
867.	Dee P.	Family members to read KJB daily.
973.	Dee	Protection for Stephanie working as a nurse.
975.	Dee P.	Brother-in-law George stage 4 terminal lung cancer
976.	Dee P.	Our Christian men to grow as spiritual leaders in our homes, churches and communities.
1013.	Duane K.	Ben's Salvation.
1017.	Kail	Friends healing from stroke.
1018.	Kail	Friend Zach is in lockup.
1023.	Pastor	Regina's health and recovery.
1024.	Pastor	Larry's successful surgery and recovery.
1027.	Pastor	Sister Regina needs encouragement.
1030.	Machen	6 year old Azreal's brain tumor surgery.
1031.	Pastor	Lori Sylvia's cancer testing.
1033.	Pastor	Bud Ludlow-Traveling mercies and cancer treatment.

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will save him; there is nothing that individual can do to resist God's grace. However, numerous passages refute this doctrine. First, is it easy enough to see that people like King Agrippa resisted the grace of God. Even though he believed the Scriptures, he would not allow himself to be convinced to receive God's grace and put on Christ (Acts 26:27-29).

If grace were "irresistible" it would make evangelism unnecessary. Why would missionaries need to go into all the world and preach the gospel (Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15-16), if it was God who irresistibly and miraculously converted men without them receiving it? Why would Paul say, "I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some" (1 Corinthians 9:22). If Paul's preaching and example had nothing to do with the conversion of souls, someone ought to have told Paul that!

If the Bible is your standard, then you believe God, through Scripture, has revealed everything to you, that you need to know to be saved (2 Timothy 3:16-17). Salvation is not a great mystery, that only great theologians can

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