



AUGUST 2023 - VOLUME 54 - ISSUE 8

Coming Soon to a Pulpit Near You:

It's been several months since many of you here at Calvary shared with me your input for summer sermon topics. Sadly, there aren't enough Sundays in the summer to address all the excellent issues you raised. But I do hope that the messages inspired by your suggestions have provided food for thought and fuel for growth.

As we conclude the summer, there are two more issues you raised that I hope we can address. Several of you noted how angry, hateful, and violent our world has become; and you asked, "Why does the world have to be so mean?" Others wondered what we can expect when the world is healed: "What will heaven be like? And why doesn't Jesus just come back and take us there?"

So, I've decided to combine these two issues in a series that I'm calling, "Wholly Broken and Heaven Bound." We'll attempt to answer questions like, "Why is the world so messed up?" "How can we respond to the world's brokenness...and grow despite it?" And maybe most of all: "What is the hope that sustains us, and how should that hope influence what we do today?"



I can't promise that we'll address everything you'd like to know. But I trust that God's Word will teach, guide, and inspire us. I hope you can worship with us.

Pastor Alex



We're getting ready to provide a blessing for local students in need by outfitting them with some new clothes and shoes to start the new school year. If you, your family, or your Sunday School class has signed up to sponsor a child, please don't forget that your items must be brought to the church no later than Sunday, August 6, and that the child's number must be clearly visible on the outside of the bag. If you have any questions about this ministry, please contact Jan Varney (jvarney.jv@gmail.com or 336/401-5640).



Calvary's New Directory

Print copies of Calvary's new directory will soon be available! When the directories arrive, we'll let you know. And those of you who ordered print copies will be able to pick them up on Sunday mornings or by visiting the church office during regular hours. Please note that our deacons will be delivering directories to all of our homebound members. And please note, too, that there will be a small supply of print directories available for those who didn't get a chance to order one – and that we'll be happy to send an electronic version (pdf format) of the directory to anyone in the Calvary church family who requests one. However, you can always access the most up-to-date version of our directory by setting up an account at www.instantchurchdirectory.com or by downloading the "Instant Church Directory" app. If you have any questions about the directory – or about how to access it electronically – please contact the church office.



Blessing of the Backpacks

Before the new school year begins, we want to pray in a special way for local students, teachers, and school staff. And so, on Sunday August 6, we're inviting all Calvary's students to bring their backpack to worship for a "Blessing of the Backpacks." As we pray for our children and youth, we will also commit to pray for the excellent work of all the educators in our church and community. We hope you can join us!

Budget Planning to Begin

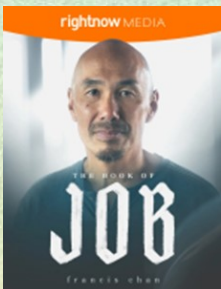
Calvary's Finance Committee will soon begin developing our church budget for 2024. To aid in this process, all committees and ministry teams are asked to submit their budget requests no later than Friday, August 25. Leaders can obtain budget worksheets by contacting any member of the Finance Committee: Karen Moser, Tony Martin, Lilnette Phillips, Steve Simandle, Charlotte Hudson, and Clay Nowlin.

Wednesday Nights This Fall

Midweek Ministries will resume on Wednesday, August 23. Activities will begin each week at 6 o'clock in the Fellowship Hall with a shared time of prayer. This will be followed by growth opportunities for kids, youth, and adults. Adult options will include "The Way of the Chosen" (Becky Critz), "Revelation" (Pastor Alex), and "Responding with Grace on Divisive Issues" (Carol Lowe). Watch the Sunday bulletin for more details.

Right Now on RightNow Media

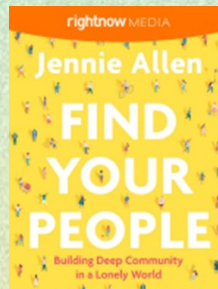
If you're a participant in the life of Calvary, you have free access to an incredible library of Christian growth resources through **RightNow Media**. If you aren't currently taking advantage of these resources, and you want to learn more about creating an account, please contact the church office. If are signed up—and if you'd like to delve more deeply into the content Pastor Alex will be covering in his August sermons, why not check out these resources:



"The Book of Job" by Francis Chan

This 8-session video series explores the idea that we exist not for ourselves but to glorify the God who deserves all worship and praise.

A free study guide is included.



"Find Your People" by Jennie Allen

This 7-session series helps us learn how to experience biblical community, as God intended it to be.

A Study guide and book are available for purchase.



"Upside Down" by Jeremy Ellis

This 5-session series asks: "What is God's design and how have we flipped it?" and "How do we find the truth we need to thrive?"

Free study guide included.