

Calvary Protestant Evangelical Free Church

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CALVARY CHRONICLE

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This is an excellent article, "Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it" (Prov. 4:23). Take and eat. Pastor Charles Lucchesi

THE HEART OF THE MATTER

By Sinclair Ferguson

Sometimes people ask authors, "Which of your books is your favorite?" The first time the question is asked, the response is likely to be "I am not sure; I have never really thought about it." But forced to think about it, my own standard response has become, "I am not sure what my favorite book is; but my favorite title is *A Heart for God*." I am rarely asked, "Why?" but (in case you ask) the title simply expresses what I want to be: a Christian with a heart for God.

Perhaps that is in part a reflection of the fact that we sit on the shoulders of the giants of the past. Think of John Calvin's seal and motto: a heart held out in the palm of a hand and the words "I offer my heart to you, Lord, readily and sincerely." Or consider Charles Wesley's hymn:

O for a heart to praise my God!

A heart from sin set free.

Behind the giants of church history stands the testimony of Scripture. **The first and greatest commandment is to love the Lord our God with all our heart (Deut. 6:5). That is why, in replacing Saul as king, God "sought out a man after his own heart" (1 Sam. 13:14), for "the Lord looks on the heart" (16:7).** It is a truism to say that, in terms of our response to the gospel, the heart of the matter is a matter of the heart. But truism or not, it is true.

What this looks like, how it is developed, in what ways it can be threatened, and how it expresses itself will be explored little by little in this new column. But at this stage, perhaps it will help us if we map out some preliminary matters in the form of a catechism on the heart:

Q.1. What is the heart?

A. The heart is the central core and drive of my life intellectually (it involves my mind), affectionately (it shapes my soul), and totally (it provides the energy for my living).

Q.2. Is my heart healthy?

A. No. By nature, I have a diseased heart. From birth, my heart is deformed and antagonistic to God. The intentions of its thoughts are evil continually.

Q.3. Can my diseased heart be healed?

A. Yes. God, in His grace, can give me a new heart to love Him and to desire to serve Him.

Q.4. How does God do this?

A. God does this through the work of the Lord Jesus for me and the ministry of the Holy Spirit in me. He illumines my mind through the truth of the gospel, frees my enslaved will from its bondage to sin, cleanses my affections by His grace, and motivates me inwardly to live for Him by rewriting His law into my heart so that I begin to love what He loves. The Bible calls this being "born from above."

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Q.5. Does this mean I will never sin again?

A. No. I will continue to struggle with sin until I am glorified. God has given me a new heart, but for the moment He wants me to keep living in a fallen world. So day by day I face the pressures to sin that come from the world, the flesh, and the Devil. But God's Word promises that over all these enemies I can be "more than a conqueror through him who loved us."

Q.6. What four things does God counsel me to do so that my heart may be kept for Him?

A. First, I must guard my heart as if everything depended on it. This means that I should keep my heart like a sanctuary for the presence of the Lord Jesus and allow nothing and no one else to enter.

Second, I must keep my heart healthy by proper diet, growing strong on a regular diet of God's Word — reading it for myself, meditating on its truth, but especially being fed on it in the preaching of the Word. I also will remember that my heart has eyes as well as ears. The Spirit shows me baptism as a sign that I bear God's triune name, while the Lord's Supper stimulates heart love for the Lord Jesus.

Third, I must take regular spiritual exercise, since my heart will be strengthened by worship when my whole being is given over to God in expressions of love for and trust in Him.

Fourth, I must give myself to prayer in which my heart holds on to the promises of God, rests in His will, and asks for His sustaining grace — and do this not only on my own but with others so that we may encourage one another to maintain a heart for God.

This — and much else — requires development, elaboration, and exposition. But it can be summed up in a single biblical sentence. Listen to your Father's appeal: "My son, give Me your heart."

New Year Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father as Your grace shine on us help us to yield to You to develop our faith in You Lord, our God that we may accomplish the task You have planned ahead for us in 2022. For You alone knows the task that is ahead of us. So, dear Heavenly Father be our Guide in both word and action in Jesus name. Amen.

The Challenge of the Inevitable-Death

By Sotar Lloyd

As a professional former Veteran Health Administration Chaplain specialize in death and dying and completed my dissertation for my degree in Doctor of Ministry in death and dying I have concluded the importance of addressing spiritual unfinished business when face with our love ones or self mortality. My doctoral studies and profession have demonstrated when spiritual unfinished business is not address death becomes a struggle for the dying. Because death is inevitable it is a part of life that everyone will come face to face sometime. However, death can cast a long shadow and steals the precious moments of opportunities. But, when people are at peace (meaning "freedom from chaos)- spiritually, physically and psychologically, they frequently find the inner strength to connect with God, their family and themselves. They also find moments of insightful meaning in their final journey of life. Finding such meaning and comfort can make a great difference in the part of life that is inevitable- death.

One such way to find meaning is in a person spirituality. It is a perspective of life that can be beneficial in a person dying process. Spirituality can help a person to seek and express meaning and purpose. This experience helps a person to be able to connect to the present, to self, and to his or her surroundings. Such spiritual practice provides the sacredness that gives one a sense of security and conviction that they are not alone, a security of feeling safe within, a piece of mind that produces a sense of easiness in dealing with the process of dying.

Spirituality must be recognized as an important issue during the dying process and as a tool to assist a person to find closure during their final days. When a person given an opportunity to address spiritual issues such as forgiveness, acceptance, and gratitude, the healing course of action set in motion. The key clinical component in the dying process is for a person to die well, that is, to obtain great comfort, which includes physical, psychological, and spiritual care. Each of these components plays a major role in the fabric of a person life that leads to self-sufficiency as death draws near. Therefore, to neglect the spiritual care component can result in a lack of quality of care to fulfill the true meaning and goal of dying in peace and comfort. Those who are not given the opportunity to address their spiritual issues can result in the loss of the completion of life satisfaction during their dying process. Such lost opportunity can leave behind unaddressed issues, unspoken words, and many unanswered questions for the person and their families and friends. In terms of quality of life, a person should not experience this lost opportunity in the most delicate period of their lives.

The spiritual issues forgiveness, acceptance, and gratitude are some of the main problems a dying person struggles with. These are spiritual issues that many people hold on to and do not receive or obtain assistance about how to resolve. It has been determined that un-addressed spiritual issues become a burden that causes a dying person to become overwhelmed and put them in a place in life where they cannot release the burden and dying becomes unpeaceable.

Forgiveness: The power of forgiveness is religiously and traditionally well known in all faiths. For example, in the Buddhist faith believes forgiveness affects a person's karma. The Sikhism teaches that forgiveness is stimulated by compassion which generates the spiritual nature of peace, tranquility, and humility.

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The Christian faith teaches that forgiveness is an important responsibility in their spiritual life. The Lord's Prayer exemplifies the attitude, of "...forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us" (Matthew 6:12); "Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you (Colossians 3:13). ...People need to feel forgiven-and to forgive-is a recurring lesson in every spiritual tradition...our human capacity to forgive and to be forgiven is enormous...[and] the practical power of forgiveness to enrich the lives of the people they leave behind [is great] ... Forgiveness does not excuse someone from doing something wrong. It does not alleviate their guilt or lessen their transgression. Instead, forgiveness accepts the past as it was, embraces the present, and faces the future. Forgiveness is a strategy for you to become free of emotional baggage...an act of affirmation on your part. It is a way of letting go of old wounds that weigh you down... (Byock, 2004, p. 37-38, 76: *The Four Things That Matters Most*. NY, NY: Free Press).

Acceptance: The hymn, "Just as I am, without one plea" by Charlotte Elliott can clearly relate to the need of acceptance. Its lyrics clearly brings to light that

Acceptance is not agreement or approval; rather it is a warm and positive evaluation of the individual...It does not evaluate the individual's experience in terms of what is important or worthy; instead it respects and cherishes the individual experience for its own sake. In this sense, acceptance is permissiveness... This paradoxical truth is crucial to Christians [to all that believe in God] healing, for it frees individual from the compulsive need to make themselves acceptable and assures [them] of God's unqualified love... (Hunter et. al., 2005, p. 4: *Dictionary Of Pastoral Care and Counseling*: Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press).

Gratitude: When person becomes aware of the spiritual powers of gratitude their self-value and their value of those around them is highly regarded and the desire to express that appreciation becomes a need for celebration. The Palliative Care Physician Dr. Byock stated that this can be greatly seen in the people who experience the End of Life stage. They feel drawn as if by gravity to density and richness of their accumulated life experience. They often express intense gratitude about their lives and for the people they have known...In gratitude we celebrate who we are to one another [and to God] ... (Byock, 2004, p. 106: *The Four Things That Matters Most*. NY, NY: Free Press).

As a former board-certified Veteran Health Administration Chaplain, specialized in palliative care and hospice I personally witness the challenges people of all walks of life faces in the moment one is confront with their mortality. Believers in Christ as well as non-believers, blue-collar workers as well as white-collar workers, the rich as well as the poor, no matter where ones status is in life the spiritual entity call "fear" swallow up "faith in God" and interfere with ones emotions, behavior and more of ones state of mind. For death is a challenge despite what the scripture stated, "do not fear for Jesus Christ gave us victory over death" (1 Corinthians 15:54-55). Facing the unknown such as death the heart, mind and soul struggles to grasp its meaning. However, along with the word of God, God provide spiritual tools to settle within our hearts a place of peace and comfort when the moment of death is imminent. By applying these three spiritual godly forms of action- forgiveness, acceptance and gratitude in a person's dying process starts the process that brings forth, a peace that would transcend all humanistic comprehension. (This Article is Excerpted From "How Creating Personalized Prayerful Ritual for the Dying Impacts Self-Acceptance and Reconciliation" By Dr. Sotar Alfonso-Lloyd).



Celebration of Christmas

The Christmas celebration at Calvary Church is always a delightful time. The atmosphere change by embrace the meaning of Christmas and the spiritual preparation in Advent with expectation for both the celebration of the Nativity of Christ at Christmas and the return of Christ at the Second Coming. In observance of this celebration our Church decorated the Sanctuary. The lighting the Advent wreath, erecting a Christmas tree as well as setting up Christmas decoration with traditional colors of Christmas, pine green (evergreen), red and gold. However, this year the Children Church Members added a new piece of art to the Christmas decoration. They created a huge birthday card for Jesus, wishing Jesus a Happy Birthday. What a way to worship the Savior not only traditionally but with a child like touch which all the children wrote to Jesus in their own way saying "Happy Birthday Jesus" with love.

The Quest For Knowledge in God's Word

SECTION A: Unscramble the following letters to get the names of 12 Books of the Bible.

1. mlepnoih
2. ttelaamosin
3. oesnitsnsalah
4. hhieenma
5. wbheres
6. iaspiiplphn
7. uytnermeodo
8. hbiaoad
9. djeu
10. teessiclsca
11. nhhaizeap
12. sncihreolc

SECTION B: Questions on 1st, 2nd Samuel and Psalms

1. What was Bathsheba's grandfather's name?
2. What was the name of the prophet who rebuked David for his sins- Bathsheba and her spouse?
3. Which one of David's son revenged for the crime committed against his sister Tamar?
4. Which one of King David's mighty warriors David premeditated his death?
5. What was the name of Bathsheba's second son?
6. What relationship was Mephibosheth to King Saul?
7. What was the names of the two advisors to Absalom, advising him on how to attack his father, King David?
8. Which psalms did King David prayed as a prayer of repentance after the prophet confronted him of his sins?
9. Which of the plagues for punishment did King David selected for the sin- taking the census?
10. What was King David's greatest desire to do for God and why God denied David in fulfill his desire?
11. How King David worship God when the ark was being moved from the home of Obed-Edom to Jerusalem?
12. When King Saul visited the medium whose spirit he requested to speak to?

SECTION C: Questions from the Old Testament and New Testament

1. Who was the oldest person written in the Bible?
2. What is the shortest verse in the Bible?
3. In the Gospel, what genre did Jesus used to enhance His messages?
4. In 1 Corinthians which is the greatest imperishable spiritual qualities?
5. What is the last word in the Bible?
6. What did Joshua commanded to stand still on the day the LORD handed over the Amorite to Israel?
7. What every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is?
8. What is the longest chapter in the Bible?
9. Who were John the Baptist's parents?
10. Who was the prophet that an angel of the Lord touched his lips with burning coals to purify and cleanse him?
11. What was the name of the apostle Jesus said to "...on this rock I will build My Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it"?
12. Among the Israelites who were brought out of Egypt who were the only two allowed to go into the Promised Land?

Answers-Page 7



Seniors Luncheon

The seniors had a festive celebration on Tuesday December 7th. Chef Ralph had an excellent menu, roast pork tenderloins, red potatoes, a variety of vegetables and scrumptious dessert. The food was delicious, the camaraderie was delightful and the laughter among friends were sweet. The seniors sang Christmas carols and while they were enjoying their meal Christmas carols were playing in the background by Valerie. It was a great afternoon as everyone was filled with the Christmas spirit. Pastor Charles delivered a Christmas message and the meaning of the celebration- Christmas. We also like to thank Valerie for her musical touch making the moment very special.

We invite all our seniors to the next luncheon to be held on **Tuesday February 1st @ 12:00 noon**. Please let us know you are coming by calling the Church office at 516-223-4070.

Missions Corner

God's Eyes, Ears, Hands, Feet and Heart-Missions

As a church family we look back at a summer enriched by visits of many of the missionaries we support regularly. They all went through similar challenges as we did here at home, but in different countries, different cultures and speaking different languages.

Can you match the various international missionaries to the country or ministry they are serving?

John & Nancy DeValve	a) Haiti
Gary & Karen Shogren	b) China
Paul & Cheryl DeMena	c) Costa Rica
Peg Corcoran	d) France
Mike & Caryn DiGena	e) TWR (worldwide)
Steve Exantus	f) Niger

“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” Matthew 20:19-20

We are all called to “go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 20:19).

GO involves movement.

MAKE DISCIPLES involves sharing the gospel: preaching, teaching, testifying about God's love, coming alongside a person demonstrating God's watch care on them.

ALL NATIONS includes anybody anywhere!

Even being on Long Island we can move and share the gospel to all nations. Let's keep up the good work in doing so this coming year. Let us also keep praying and giving in support of our international missionaries. By prayer we grow as disciples and make disciples who love and worship Jesus.

Solution: John & Nancy DeValve, Niger; Gary & Karen Shogren, Costa Rica; Paul & Cheryl DeMena, China; Peg Corcoran, TWR (worldwide); Mike & Caryn DiGena, France; Steve Exantus, Haiti



Gifts Bags for men and women

This project was organized by the Ladies Bible Study Group. Their mission was to demonstrate the meaning of Christmas to the men and women who are trying to re-build a better “me.” The Ladies Bible Study Group came together on Tuesday December 21st to prepare Christmas gift bags for the men at Recovery House and women at Mercy Hall. Twenty very large gift bags for the men and nine for the women were filled with clothes, shoes, coats, socks, hats, ties, scarves, toiletries, and many other wonderful miscellaneous items. Some of the donated exquisite items were gift wrap to be presented to the men and women as Christmas gifts.

The Ladies Bible Study Group does this every year and each year the group are filled with joy and eagerness to bring blessings to the men and women whom God has placed on the heart to serve. May the riches of the Lord bless them as they fulfill their calling to serve others in love no matter where that person is in life. Also, we would like to thank the church family for their generous donations of many items to distribute to the residents who are currently residing at Recovery House and Mercy Hall.



St. Francis Hospital Outreach Bus

Free Health Screenings

Includes a brief cardiac history, blood pressure and a simple blood test for cholesterol and diabetes for adults 18 and older. We also provide patient education and referrals. No appointment is required.

FREE FLU SHOTS AVAILABLE

Calvary Church

2801 Park Avenue

Baldwin, NY 11510

February 1, 2022

10AM – 2PM

(Last screenings at 1:45pm)

ANSWERS: How many did you get correct? Please let us know by emailing us at calvarychurch@optonline.net or give us a call at 516-223-4070. We would love to get your feedback.

SECTION A

1. Philemon; 2. Lamentations; 3. Thessalonians; 4. Nehemiah; 5. Hebrews; 6. Philipians
7. Deuteronomy; 8. Obadiah; 9. Jude; 10. Ecclesiastes; 11. Zephaniah; 12. Chronicles

SECTION B

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|--|--|
| 1. Ahithophel (see 2 Samuel 11:3 (daughter of Eliam) then 2 Samuel 23:34 (Eliam son of Ahithophel) | 7. Ahithophel and Hushai (2 Samuel 17:1-13) |
| 2. Nathan (2 Samuel 12) | 8. Psalms 51 and 32 (Psalm 51 would have preceded Psalm 32) |
| 3. Absalom (2 Samuel 13; especially vv. 23-29) | 9. 3 rd selected three days of plague on the land, then with great remorse David asked God to stop and let His hand fall upon him and his family instead- (2 Samuel 24:13-17) |
| 4. Uriah (2 Samuel 11:14-17; 2 Samuel 23:8, 39) | 10. To build a House for the Lord (2 Samuel 7:2); See 1 Chronicles 22:8 why God rejected David's plans- building the house for Him. 4 |
| 5. Solomon (2 Samuel 12:24) | 11. David dance before the LORD (2 Samuel 6:14-15) |
| 6. Grandson (Mephibosheth was the son of Jonathan; and Jonathan was the son of King Saul: 2 Samuel 21:7) | 12. The prophet Samuel (1 Samuel 28:3-12). |

SECTION C

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Methuselah lived to be 969 years old (Genesis 5:27) | 7. Lord (Philippians 2:11) |
| 2. "Jesus wept (John 11:35) | 8. Psalm 119- has 176 verses |
| 3. Parables (record in the Gospels) | 9. Zechariah and Elizabeth (Luke 1:5-13) |
| 4. Love (1 Corinthians 13:13) | 10. Prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 6:5-7) |
| 5. Amen (Revelation 22:21- meaning "so be it...") | 11. Peter (Matthew 16:18) |
| 6. Sun and the moon (Joshua (10:12-13) | 12. Joshua and Caleb (Numbers 14:21-24, 30) |

CHURCH UPDATES

The Sunday worship service is at 11:00 a.m. The message will be recorded and posted on the church's website - www.cpcbaldwin.com (click on YouTube), and also on "YouTube" at www.youtube.com (search for Calvary Church, Baldwin).

Adult Sunday School Class - Sundays @ 9:45 a.m. Studying the Book of Esther.

Children's Church is held during the service. The children are dismissed just before the sermon and meet in the fellowship room. On the first Sunday of each month (when Communion is schedule) Children's Church will not be in session.

Wednesday Night Bible Study - is held at the church at 7:00 p.m. Studying the Book of Ephesians, and also have a time of prayer.

Ladies Bible Study - 1st and 3rd Thursday every month @7:30 p.m. at Patti Senita's home. Studying the Book of Acts.

The most current information is sent out weekly via email on Fridays. If you have not been receiving any emails from the church, please inform us, we will gladly add you to the list.

Events in the month of January and February

Church Board Meeting - Thursday January 13th @ 7:30 p.m.

Seniors Luncheon is scheduled for **Tuesday February 1st**, at 12:00 noon. Please be sure to call the church (516-223-4070) to let us know you are attending.

Health Screenings- St. Francis Hospital Outreach Bus will be at the Church on **Tuesday February 1st**, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. to give free health screenings and flu shots. No appointment is necessary. Flyers with information are on the literature table. Please encourage/invite family members and friends to take advantage of this opportunity.

Calvary Chronicle

Calvary Protestant Church
2801 Park Avenue
Baldwin, NY 11510

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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BIRTHDAYS

JANUARY

1st Martha Mietenkorte
3rd David Brewster
4th Gregory Dapice
5th Magalie Alcinder
6th Fitz Alcinder Sr.
8th Matthew Lucchesi
9th Lorna Bigby
14th Dorothy Brown
16th Bob Benedetto
18th Raynell Falden
21st Eugene Lloyd
22nd Wally Capasso
22nd Erin Waldvogel
24th Magaline Alcindor
24th Vincent Rotolo
24th Tim Waldvogel
24th Finch Waldvogel
27th Dave Senita
29th Roy Knoernschild
29th Allison Linhart
30th Ralph Rose II
31st Chris Watts

FEBURARY

1st Nadia Elcock
2nd Barbara Lucchesi
3rd Amelia Rose Mandato
4th Peggy Corcoran
12th Ruth Mason
16th Aaron Nehring
17th Kirsten Watts
19th Mary Lou Ekstrom
23rd Athena Fazzino
26th Carol Chalavoutis
26th Joshua Lucchesi

**Happy
Birthday!**

ANNIVERSARIES

JANUARY

4th Charles & Barbara Lucchesi
21st Joe & Louise Fazzino
24th Matt & Karen Linhart

FEBRUARY

3rd Pete & Mary Lou Ekstrom
20th Brett & Melissa Rose

New Year Prayer

Lord, we thank You for Your kindness and blessing You have given to us in 2021. And as we begin in a new place in time of our lives, where no man has ever gone before, 2022, we look to You. For we do not know what lies ahead of us. Therefore, we place our hands into Your sacred and secure hands as You Heavenly Father lead the way before us. Help us to trust Your Spirit in this providence process because You already know the way. So, that our actions will bring praise and glory to Your name. In Jesus name. Amen.