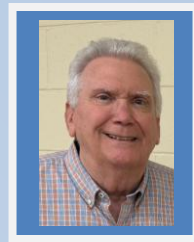




Greetings, Calvary Family!
Let's CONNECT this month!
February 1, 2026-- #82

Dear Calvary Family,

Pastor's Paragraph



"That I may know Him and the power of His resurrection" is from Philippians 3:10, where the apostle Paul expresses his desire for a profound, personal relationship with Jesus Christ, beyond mere intellectual understanding. This verse is not just a theological statement; it is a cry of the heart, a declaration of life's highest pursuit. In a few short words, Paul captures the essence of Christian discipleship: a yearning to know Christ intimately and to experience the life-altering power that raised Him from the dead.

To understand the depth of Paul's longing, one must first consider the context. In Philippians 3, Paul lists all the things he could once boast about: his heritage, his religious zeal, his moral record. But in verse 7, he declares, "But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ." Paul dismantles every human credential and places all his confidence in Christ alone. He is not satisfied with religious achievement or theological precision; he wants Christ Himself. The phrase "that I may know Him" speaks to a deeply relational, experiential knowledge, not merely information about Jesus, but life in communion with Him.

In Scripture, the word "know" often implies intimacy, even covenantal closeness. It is the kind of knowing that transforms a person from the inside out. Paul's hunger is not for doctrinal theory, but for divine encounter. He has already met Christ on the Damascus Road, and yet his longing persists. This tells us something vital: to know Christ is a never-ending pursuit. The closer one walks with Him, the more one desires Him. Christian maturity is not measured by how much we know about God but by how deeply we know Him personally.

But Paul does not stop at "knowing Him." He continues with, "and the power of His resurrection." This is not a disjointed idea. It is a natural extension of knowing Christ. To truly know Jesus is to encounter His resurrection power. This power is not merely a historical event confined to the empty tomb. It is a present reality for every believer. Paul is speaking of a spiritual force that raises the dead and brings them to life, a power that breaks the chains of sin, reorders priorities, and infuses divine strength into human weakness. The resurrection of Jesus was the ultimate demonstration of God's power over sin, death, and the grave.

What does it mean, practically, to know the power of His resurrection? It means that in our deepest despair, hope rises. In our weakest moments, strength is given. In our habitual sins, there is deliverance. The resurrection power of Christ is not theoretical; it is transformational. It changes desires, heals brokenness, restores relationships, and empowers obedience. It is the power that fuels sanctification and makes holiness possible.

As believers, our greatest aim should mirror Paul's: not merely to believe in Jesus, but to know Him; not only to celebrate His resurrection, but to live in its power daily; not simply to avoid suffering, but to embrace it as a pathway to deeper fellowship with Christ. As we walk this path of knowing Him and the power of His resurrection, we will find what Paul found: that everything else is loss compared to the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus our Lord.

-- Pastor Sells

Please call in any prayer requests, praises, news, events or other notifications for the CONNECT letter to Gradetta (text or voicemail -- 704-425-6804)

CHURCH CALENDAR for FEBRUARY 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURS	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
* = birthday today	"Pray for 5" every day!					
1 SS, 9:45 AM Worship @ 11:00 AM AWANA--5:30-7 PM (Tex-Mex night)	2*	3*	4 6:30 PM Prayer & Bible Study 7:30 - Choir Practice	5**	6**	7 8:30 AM Baptist Men (breakfast incl)
8 SS, 9:45 AM Worship @ 11:00 AM AWANA--4-5:30 PM (Super Bowl Night)	9 6:30 PM WMU-- Meal & program	10	11 6:30 PM Meal & Devotions	12*	13	14  1 John 4:19 We love Him, because He first loved us. 
15** SS, 9:45 AM Worship @ 11:00 AM [Church Assessments are due to the Pastor today] AWANA--5:30-7 PM (Valentines Party & Double Buck Night)	16	17*	18 6:30 PM Prayer & Bible Study 7:30 - Choir Practice	19	20	21
22 SS, 9:45 AM Worship @ 11:00 AM AWANA--5:30-7 PM (AWANA store)	23 6:00 PM Deacons' meeting	24	25 6:30 PM Prayer & Bible Study 7:30 - Choir Practice	26	27	28



- 2.....OyVonda Culp(6165 Meadow Lane, Salisbury 28147)
- 3.....Martha Belk(6311 Miller Rd., Kannapolis 28081)
- 5.....Charles House.....(210 Eddie Ave., Kannapolis 28081)
- 5.....Faye McDaniel(408 Dodge St., Kannapolis 28083)
- 6.....John Goodnight.....(205 W. 21st St., Kannapolis 28081)
- 6.....Phyllis Burris.....(1409 Longbow Dr., Kannapolis 28081)
- 12.....Joe Hall(4918 Copper Creek Trail, Kannapolis 28081)
- 15.....Cheryl Keene.....(800 Safrit Ave., Kannapolis 28083)
- 15.....Mary Strickland.....(10003 Brousell Dr., Abbeville, LA 70510)
- 17.....David Foster.....(330 Piney Wood St., China Grove 28023)



Thank you for praying for last month's "5".
This month we will remember these 5 in our prayers:

Pastor Steve Sells AWANA Ministry Sunday School Teachers
Pastor Search Team NEW PASTOR

CHURCH-WIDE ASSESSMENT

Calvary Baptist Church

Kannapolis, NC

Listening • Discernment • Renewal

Pastor Sells has an assessment document for all members to prayerfully complete and return to him by FEBRUARY 15TH. If you need one, please see him after the worship service. This is very important for our church leadership as they serve in this next season of the life of Calvary Baptist.

1 Corinthians 16:14 - Let all
your things be done with
charity.

John 13:34-35 - A new
commandment I give unto
you, That ye love one
another; as I have loved you,
that ye also love one
another.

John 3:16 - For
God so loved the
world, that He
gave His only
begotten Son . . .

1 Peter 4:8 - And above all
things have fervent charity
among yourselves: for charity
shall cover the multitude of
sins.

1 Corinthians 13:13 - And
now abideth faith, hope,
charity, these three; but the
greatest of these is charity.