



The purpose of Bethany Baptist Church is to bring glory to God by making disciples who reflect the character and priorities of Jesus Christ.

SUNDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE

9 AM Fellowship Coffee
10:30 AM Worship Service
6 PM Prayer Meeting

Nursery is available in the supervised room downstairs or the unsupervised room in the back of the sanctuary with audio

Sermon
Speaker: Pastor Peter
Scriptures: 1 Cor. 9:19-27

OUR ELDER SHEPHERDING GROUP

A-B → Lyndon Unger
C-D → Tim Archibald
E-H → David Street
I-M → Pastor Peter Erratt

N-R → Tom Smith
S → Cory Leniuk
T-Z → Dennis Burriss

According to the first letter of your last name, feel free to bring any questions or concerns to your assigned elder or email them at elders@bethanybaptist.ab.ca

GET TO KNOW US

✉ office@bethanybaptist.ab.ca
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☎ 403-347-7900
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Lead Pastor:
Peter Erratt
peter@bethanybaptist.ab.ca
Assistant Pastor:
Daniel Lara
daniel@bethanybaptist.ab.ca
Church Admin & Children's
Ministry Coord:
Lilian Lara
lilian@bethanybaptist.ab.ca

PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES

- Health Needs: Curt Radke & Damaris Hofer
→ Email us your prayer requests or to join the Prayer Line!

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Children's Church
Children's Church will resume in September! We currently have two teachers and several teaching assistants, and we are looking for more brothers and sisters who would be willing to teach or assist a teacher. The Gospel is understandable even to children, and teaching them is a wonderful opportunity for us to grow in our own understanding of God's Word and learn to communicate what we believe. If you are interested in serving in Children's Church, please let Lilian know.

JOIN OUR LIFE GROUP

EVERY SUNDAY AFTERNOON

- Tim & Michelle Archibald

EVERY OTHER SUNDAY

- Martin & Lorna Scholz
- Tom & Tina Smith
- Peter & Nancy Erratt

EVERY WEDNESDAY

- Don & Jan Collier
- David & Laurel Street

EVERY THURSDAY

- Mark & Shannia Guenther

EVERY OTHER THURSDAY

- Lyndon & Leah Unger

UPCOMING EVENTS

MON AUGUST 17
7 pm SLB Meeting

WED AUGUST 19
6:30 am Men's Breakfast
9:30 am Summer Mom's Group

TUE AUGUST 25
6:30 pm Youth Night

TUE SEPTEMBER 1
9 am Pastoral Meeting
6:30 pm Adventure Club Leaders' Meeting

Sept 4 - 6
Family Camp

TUE SEPTEMBER 8
6:30 pm Adventure Club
6:30 pm Youth

WED SEPTEMBER 9
6 pm Shelly Brown's Bridal Shower

SUN SEPTEMBER 13
9 am Ministry Kick-off Potluck Breakfast

"Sin is a fundamental relationship; it is not wrong doing, it is wrong being, deliberate and emphatic independence of God."
- Oswald Chambers

July Financial Report		
General Fund Donation	Monthly Budget	Received
	\$31,835	\$32,590.42
Missions Giving	Received YTD	July
	\$22,835	\$3825

OFFERING

E-TRANSFER: treasurer@bethanybaptist.ab.ca

OR DROP OFF YOUR EVELOPE AT THE OFFICE

Donation Policy

The spending of funds received by Bethany Baptist Church is confined to Church approved programs and projects. Each gift designated toward an approved program or project will be used as designated with the understanding that when any given need has been met, or the specified program or project cannot be reasonably carried out or has not been approved, designated gifts will be used where needed most. Where appropriate, an official receipt for tax purposes will be issued as soon as possible after the year end.

What does it mean to become all things to all people (1 Corinthians 9:22)?

To understand what the apostle Paul meant when he wrote, “I have become all things to all people,” we must keep the statement in context. Paul was explaining to the Corinthian church his motivation for submitting himself to a hard life. He had relinquished his rights to be married (verse 5) and to draw a salary from the church (verses 6–12). Paul had completely abandoned himself to the purposes of Christ and bore the marks of that decision in his own body (see [Galatians 2:20](#); [6:17](#)).

Part of Paul’s calling was to preach to the Gentiles ([Galatians 2:8](#)), and that required him to change elements of his approach when needed: “Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God’s law but am under Christ’s law), so as to win those not having the law. To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some. I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings” ([1 Corinthians 9:19–23](#)).

What this does NOT mean is that we are to compromise with the world in order to fit in. Some have used Paul’s statement “I have become all things to all people” as an excuse to live worldly lives, assuming that unrepentant sinners will be impressed and want to come to Christ. But Paul never compromised God’s moral standards set forth in Scripture; rather, he was willing to forgo traditions and familiar comforts in order to reach any audience, Jewish or non-Jewish.

For example, when in [Athens](#), Paul established rapport with the Greeks before telling them about Jesus. He stood amidst their many idols and commented about their devotion to their gods ([Acts 17:22](#)). Rather than rail against the idolatry of Athens, Paul used those symbols of pagan pride to gain their attention. Another time, when speaking to educated Jewish leaders in Jerusalem, Paul pointed out his own high level of education in order to earn their respect ([Acts 22:1–2](#)). Later, when in Roman custody and about to be flogged, Paul mentioned that he was a Roman citizen and avoided the flogging ([Acts 22:25–29](#)). He never bragged about his credentials, but if pertinent information would give him credibility with a specific audience, he did what he could to find common ground with them. He knew how to behave in a Hebrew household, but he could dispense with the cultural Jewish traditions when he was in a Greek household. He could be “all things to all people” for the sake of the gospel.

There are several ways we can “become all things to all people”:

1. Listen. We are often too eager to share our own thoughts, especially when we know the other person needs to hear about Jesus. One common mistake is to jump into a conversation before we really hear what the other person is saying.

We all appreciate being heard; when we extend that courtesy to someone else, he or she is more likely to listen to what we have to say. By listening first, the other person becomes an individual we care about rather than simply a mission field to convert.

2. Be kind. This should go without saying for Christians, but, unfortunately, we can forget kindness in the passion of the moment. This is especially true on the internet. Online anonymity leads many people, even some professing to represent Christ, to make rude or hate-filled comments. Getting in the last word does not mean we won the argument or earned the person’s respect. [James 1:19–20](#) admonishes us to “be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God.” Kindness and respect never go out of style and are appropriate regardless of the subject matter.

3. Be sensitive to culture. Trained missionaries know that, before they can reach a cultural group, they must understand the particulars of that culture. The same is true for every believer, even if we never leave our own city. Western culture is rapidly changing, and in many places [Judeo-Christian principles](#) are no longer accepted or even understood. We don’t have to approve of every part of a culture to understand it or reach those immersed in it. By first listening to discern where people are spiritually and then finding commonality with them, we may be able to reach those hungry for a truth they’ve never heard.

4. Deal with prejudice. Prejudice of every kind has been part of human history since the beginning. Despite how hard we try, we all carry some form of prejudice against certain other people groups. Ironically, even those who denounce prejudice of any sort are usually quite prejudiced against those they consider prejudiced! Admitting to God our own pride and repenting of judgmental attitudes and lack of love should be an ongoing process for Christians wanting to follow Paul’s example of being all things to all people. As a former [Pharisee](#), he had to deal with his own prejudice against Gentiles in order to spread the gospel to the people Jesus had called him to.

The goal of a Christian is to be inoffensive in every way except in the matter of the cross. The message of the cross of Christ naturally gives offense, but we cannot water it down. “The preaching of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing” ([1 Corinthians 1:18](#)). Jesus warned us not to be shocked when the world hates us—it hated Him first ([John 15:18](#)). Our message is offensive to human pride and contradicts the sin nature, so our behavior and our attitudes should not give offense. When we strive to follow Paul’s example and become all things to all people, we must be willing to humble ourselves, let go of our “rights,” meet people where they are, and do whatever Jesus calls us to do. He died to save them. We must love them enough to tell them that in ways they can understand.

MISSIONARY UPDATES

Vance & Korelei Nelson

Every day, Vance is working on new book projects. This involves a lot of research. He is also writing, and working to procure imagery for these up-and-coming books. Sometimes imagery is purchased, and sometimes imagery is created through photography during field research or in-house photography of artifacts, fossils, and other museum pieces that have been procured.

Besides this, there is preparation of the travelling exhibits: sometimes that means assembling displays, creating meaningful labels, purchasing display cases, etc.

The first half of the year, Nelsons are on the road (or in a plane) regularly travelling to and from events where Vance speaks on Genesis 1-11, often with museum-quality displays. Many people in the culture reject the gospel, because they have been trained that Genesis 1-11 isn't true. So, we present evidence that Genesis 1-11 is true, and follow with the gospel.

Between the books and live presentations, we regularly hear from people in Canada, as well as from all around the world that have been positively affected by our work for the Lord. In fact, we hear testimonies over and over again that people have been saved, and the saved have had their faith strengthened in the Word of God.

Monthly ministry costs, which include the above, are about \$6,000.00 per month (that is on top of our normal living expenses). God has sustained us financially for nearly 25 years. There are often tough months or periods of time each year, but we have trusted God to provide, and He always does.

We have found it is important to let people know our needs, and let God direct as He wills. This year, as has been the case for many people, funding is consistently falling short for the ministry work. So in this brief update, we ask you to prayerfully consider what the Lord might have you do: perhaps donate or pray for us. I will say again that this has been one of the toughest years financially that we have had in the last 25 years.

We want to thank everyone who has already generously donated this year. Without this financial support, Creation Truth Ministries would not exist.

Please consider helping us financially, so we can continue sharing that God's Word is true, Genesis 1-11 is true, and the gospel is true. The world needs Jesus and His saving grace.

Please also pray for us. We need God's leading on a daily basis, His protection (while travelling especially), and His hand in everything we do. He is our Lord, our Guide, and our strength.

Thank you and God bless.

LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS

1. Paul asked, in effect, "What will best advance the gospel?" How might your decisions change if you began asking that question before asking, "What do I want?" or "What am I entitled to?"

2. What are some practical ways Paul may have set aside his own preferences or freedoms to reach different people with the gospel? What is one preference, comfort, or freedom you could willingly set aside this week to better serve someone and point them toward Jesus?

3. Do you feel equipped to share the gospel with someone? If you do, who is one person you can intentionally reach out to this week? If you don't, who in our church could help equip you to confidently share the gospel?

4. Paul says, "I do not run aimlessly." What areas of your spiritual life have become routine without much intentionality? What would it look like to pursue Christ more purposefully in that area?

5. Athletes willingly say "no" to good things because they have their eyes on something better. What good things, habits, comforts, or distractions might you need to say "no" to in order to grow spiritually?

6. Paul was concerned that his own life might undermine the gospel he preached. Is there an area of your character or conduct that could weaken your witness to others? What step of obedience could you take this week?

7. Paul's two pursuits were inseparable: he pursued people with the gospel and pursued holiness in his own life. Which of these two "wings" is currently stronger in your life, and which one needs greater attention? What is one specific step you can take this week to strengthen the weaker wing?
