

John 3:16 Conference examines Calvinism

Compiled from BP Reports

WOODSTOCK, Ga. – The John 3:16 Conference, described by organizers as a biblical and theological assessment of and response to 5-point Calvinism, was held Nov. 6-7 at First Baptist Church of Woodstock, Ga.

The conference was sponsored by Jerry Vines Ministries, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary, Luther Rice Seminary and Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

The gathering, which drew about 1,000 pastors and laypeople, is the latest in a string of conferences and studies that examine Calvinism and its resurgence in the Southern Baptist Convention. Recent studies conducted by LifeWay Research and the North American Mission Board's Center for Missional Research (2006 and 2007, respectively) have found that Calvinism is certainly on the rise.

According to the LifeWay Research study, about 10 percent of SBC pastors consider themselves to be 5-point Calvinists. However, the NAMB study, which targeted ministers who graduated from seminary between 1998 and 2004, found that 29 percent responded that they consider themselves to be Calvinists.

TULIP is an acronym for the five points of Calvinism—total depravity, unconditional election, limited atonement, irresistible grace and perseverance of the saints. Individual speakers addressed each point. New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary Provost Dr. Steve Lemke spoke to the point of irresistible grace.

Lemke's address of irresistible grace was particularly important in light of the NAMB research project. That study found that 67 percent of respondents consider God's grace to be irresistible and that "people do not



"What you believe determines how you behave," said Johnny Hunt, host pastor for the John 3:16 Conference held Nov. 6-7 at First Baptist Church, Woodstock, Ga.

choose to become Christians, God chooses and calls people who respond to him."

Lemke gave careful attention the nature of God's call and the responsibility of people to respond.

"Salvation is tied in some measure to our response," Lemke said, citing several biblical examples of what he said were people resisting God. For example, in Acts 7:51 the Jewish men who stoned Stephen were said to be "always resisting the Holy Spirit."

Lemke said that while Calvinists don't deny people can resist the Holy Spirit in some situations, they believe the effectual call is irresistible.

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This Week in Chapel



TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18

Dr. Richard Land

President, Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission, SBC

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20

Dr. John Gibson

NOBTS

Next Week in Chapel

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2

Dr. Chuck Register

Senior Pastor, FBC Gulfport, Miss.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4

Christmas in the Atrium

Hardin Student Center

NOBTS Library

Thanksgiving Hours

November 21-30

- Friday, Nov. 21, 7:30 a.m.-5 p.m.
- Saturday, Nov. 22, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
- Monday, Nov. 24, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
- Tuesday, Nov. 25, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
- Wednesday, Nov. 26, 8 a.m.-12 noon
- Thursday/Sunday, Nov. 27-30, CLOSED



Carols and Candlelight

Before final exams begin and the rush of the Advent and Christmas seasons overwhelm, the seminary family is invited to spend an evening in The Quad – gathered with family and friends, bundled in warm clothing, holding candles – hearing and singing the story of Christ’s birth.

Place: The Quad. Date: Tuesday, Dec. 2. Time: 7 p.m.

Beth is coming back!

Bible teacher Beth Moore is coming to the New Orleans Arena April 3–4, 2009, as the featured speaker of LifeWay’s Living Proof Live event. Tickets are currently on sale at www.lifeway.com/women. When Moore was last here (in 2003), the venue sold out, so don’t wait. For more information on involving your church as a Ministry Partner or to volunteer at the event, contact Dr. Judi Jackson at ext. 3223 or jjackson@nobts.edu.



Register now for REC LAB 09

Do you like to play sports or hunt? Maybe your hobby is crafts. All of these interests (and more) can be used to minister to our leisure-oriented culture. Plan now to attend Rec Lab 09 and discover how to turn your interests into a ministry focus. Sponsored by LifeWay Christian Resources, Rec Lab 09 will be held in San Antonio, Texas, January 25–29, 2009. For more information on this valuable conference or on how you can earn seminary credit for attending, contact Dr. Judi Jackson at ext. 3223 or jjackson@nobts.edu.

Student Theological Fellowship Weekly Symposia

Would you like a chance to discuss theology outside the classroom? Every Friday from 12 to 1 p.m., the Student Theological Fellowship meets in front of Café New Orleans for a time of fellowship and tutorial.

Come and eat your Lunch with theologians and discuss theological issues that impact your lives and ministries.



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“It doesn’t seem to me that [the effectual call] helps in this particular situation, because the Jews after all were God’s chosen people, they were under the covenant. If you have a covenant theology, then these people would seem to be among the elect. ... It is precisely these divinely elected people who are resisting God.”

Whether generalized or personalized, Jesus’ teaching pattern seems to be inconsistent with irresistible grace, particularly in his lament over Jerusalem, Lemke said. In Matthew 23:37 and Luke 13:34, where Jesus longed to gather his people as a hen gathers her chicks, Lemke said the Greek verb “to will” has an even sharper contrast, so Jesus is saying, “I willed but you were not willing.”

In both examples, Lemke said, it is not just the current generation that is being addressed but many generations. In addition to the all-inclusive invitations of scripture, when people in the Bible ask, “What must I do to be saved?” Lemke said they are told to repent and believe.

He expressed concern that irresistible grace can lead to the denial of the necessity for conversion. “Some Calvinists ... understand the effectual call to be grounded in double predestination and therefore conversion is unnecessary; it’s under the covenant; it’s infant baptism that is affirmed. Children [born into a Christian family] are seen as coming under the covenant of God. This is the position of the Synod of Dort, so if you say, ‘I’m a 5-point Calvinist,’ ... know what you’re affirming,” he said.

Lemke also addressed the question as to whether a man is saved because he believes in Christ, or whether he believes in Christ because he’s saved. Irresistible grace, Lemke said, reverses the biblical order of salvation, so that regeneration precedes conversion. He cited passages such as John 5:40, “You were unwilling to come to me so that you may have life;” John 20:31, “by believing you may have life through His name;” and John 1:12, “But as many has received him, to them he gave the power to become the sons of God, even them that believe on His name.”

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“[The Bible] does not say that by having life we might believe that Jesus is the Christ,” he noted. “It says we believe in order that we might have life.”

Speakers to the other points of Calvinism included Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary President Paige Patterson (total depravity), President of the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission Richard Land (unconditional election), Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary’s School of Theology Dean David Allen (limited atonement), and

Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary Dean of Graduate Studies Ken Keathley (perseverance of the saints). Conference organizers

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– NOBTS Provost Steve Lemke

affirmed that the meeting was informational and not antagonistic.

“I want to help our people understand the issue,” Jerry Vines said in a phone interview prior to the conference. “I don’t expect to change a whole lot of minds; my primary interest is to bring balance to the issue.”

During the conference, Vines and other speakers emphasized that the event was intended to address theological issues and provide information rather than attack Calvinists.

“I’ve never felt that disagreeing was attacking,” Vines said, adding that he has many friends with different views.

Vines spoke on John 3:16, a verse he described as the gospel in a nutshell. The verse indicates God’s love is global, sacrificial, personal and eternal, he said.

“We will never exhaust the content and the meaning of John 3:16. Here is a simple Biblicism that tells us of the mind of God, the heart of God and the will of God,” he said.

Charles Stanley, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Atlanta and founder of In Touch Ministries, closed the conference with a call for the church to fulfill its mission of evangelizing the world. His was a call to greater perspective.

Stanley challenged the audience to obey God and leave the consequences to Him. “If you obey God, can you fail?” he asked.

“This is the first generation that has the capacity to get the Gospel to every single person on earth,” he said. “Ask God, ‘Lord, what do you want me to do?’”

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The sale goes from Dec. 1 to Dec. 15. Watch the demo at www.logos.com/demo. Compare libraries at www.logos.com/academic/details/comparison. For more information or to make a purchase, visit www.logos.com/academic/nobts/winter2008 or call 800.878.4191.

Picayune Church Seeks Interim Youth Minister

Roseland Park Baptist Church in Picayune, Miss. (50 miles from campus), is seeking an interim youth minister. The job entails 20 to 30 hours a week and pays \$400 to \$500 per week plus mileage. For more information, please contact Pastor Kriss Haymes at 601.798.5620.

Campus Blood Drive

Donate blood and help save lives! When: Dec. 1, 8 a.m. to noon, and Dec. 2, noon to 5 p.m. Email campuslife@nobts.edu to make an appointment. Donors will have the chance to win a variety of prizes, and those with appointments will be entered into a special drawing for an Elmo Live.

Manual Help Needed

Byrne, Rice and Turner, a marine supplier in New Orleans, is looking for some men to provide manual labor for a local trade show. For more information, call 504.525.7137.

**In concert before the
R+L Carriers New Orleans Bowl**

**Louisiana Superdome
December 21, 2008
Concert at 5:15 PM
Kickoff at 7:00 PM**

\$10 Tickets Available

**Come by the
Dean of Students Office
before Dec. 3rd for more information!**

Church Desires Ministry Support

Main Street Baptist Church in Bogalusa, La. (70 miles from campus), is seeking someone who can help their church in any capacity (youth, music, education, senior adult).



The church has a home in which the student and his or her family could live and will provide a monthly stipend. For more information, contact Pastor Charlie New at 985.735.8184 or 985.294.1847 or thegoodnews@bellsouth.net.

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Other

Full-time

- FBC Marlow, Marlow, Okla.; Associate pastor
- Ogetown BC, Newark, Del.; Administrative Pastor
- Northcliffe BC, Spring Hill, Fla.; Education
- Trinity BC, McAllen, Texas.; Associate Pastor (Mandarin Speaking)
- Stewartville BC, Laurinburg, N.C.; Christian School Administrator
- Clear Creek Baptist Association, Anna, Ill.; Associational Executive Director
- Meadville BC, Meadville, Miss.; Minister of Education

Church-Minister Relations

Ministry Opportunities

The following are a few of the ministry positions received by the Church-Minister Relations office. Churches are listed according to the type of ministry position needed and whether the position is classified as part-time or full-time. All positions within a 2-hour radius of New Orleans are listed separately with the approximate distance in parentheses. To contact any of these churches, or to have your resume sent to other unpublished ministry opportunities, visit the CMR office (second floor, Frost Building) or contact them at 504-282-4455 or 1-800-662-8701, ext. 3291, or cmrconsultant@nobts.edu.

New Orleans Area

Full-time

- Evans Creek BC, Pearl River, La.; Senior Pastor (45)
 - Hays Creek Southern BC, Franklinton, La.; Pastor (77)
 - FBC, Plaquemine, La.; Pastor (88)
 - Steep Hollow BC, Poplarville, Miss.; Music and Education Minister (70)
 - Roseland Park BC, Picayune, Miss.; Youth Minister (49)
 - FBC, Kenner, La.; Minister of music (16)
 - FBC, Franklinton, La.; Minister of Music/Worship (71)
 - Memorial BC, Bogalusa, La.; Minister of Music (68)
 - FBC, Greensburg, La.; Pastor (89)
 - Baker FBC, Barker, La.; Pastor (93)
 - Harmony BC, Picayune, Miss.; Pastor (48)
 - The Lord's Church, Kentwood, La.; Youth and Music (88)
 - Escatawpa BC, Escatawpa, Miss.; Minister of Youth and Music (104)
- ##### Part-time
- Westside BC, Ponchatoula, La.; Minister of Children (54)
 - Palestine BC, Bogalusa, La.; Music Minister (63)
 - Thompson BC, Smithdale, Miss.; Music minister (123)
 - Hebron BC Soso, Miss.; Youth Minister (145)
 - Calvary BC, Slidell, La.; Minister of Music (26)
 - Seminary BC, Seminary, Miss.; Minister of Music (127)

- FBC, Hammond, La.; Minister of Music or Combination including Music (60)
- Big Level BC, Wiggins, Miss.; Youth director (96)
- Memorial BC, Bogalusa, La.; Minister of music (68)
- Bogue Falaya BC, Folsom, La.; Youth Minister (51)
- Immanuel BC, Hammond, La.; Minister of Music (62)
- Seminary BC, Seminary, Miss.; Minister of Youth (127)
- Oak Grove BC, Prarieville, La.; Youth Minister (68)
- Lake Martin BC, Prarieville, La.; Youth and Music (65)

Pastor

Full-time

- Calvary BC, Bel Air, Md.
- Sunrise BC, El Paso, Texas
- Grace BC, Philadelphia, Miss.
- Whitewater BC, Oglethorpe, Ga.
- Pineview BC, Barnesville, Ga.
- Arboles BC, Arboles, Colo.
- Eagles' Nest BC, Fruitland Park, Fla.
- Wagarville BC, Wagarville, Ala.
- Northwoods BC, Shreveport, La.
- Black Creek BC, Darlington, S.C.
- FBC, Coushatta, La.
- FBC, Franklin, N.C.
- FBC, Alice, Texas
- FBC, McAllen, Texas
- Portico, Joplin, Mo.
- First Southern BC, Salina, Kan.
- Casey FBC, Casey, Ill.
- Red Oak BC, Baxley, Ga.

Part-time

- Faith BC, Emporium, Pa.
- Expressway BC, Freeport, Pa.
- Tennille BC, Tennille, Ga.
- Lakeside BC, Battle Creek, Mich.

Music

Full-time

- FBC, LaBelle, Fla. (Bi-Vocational)
- South Mountain Church, Short hills, N.J.
- Central BC, Brookhaven, Miss.
- FBC of Battlefield, Battlefield, Mo.
- FBC, Willow Park, Texas
- Central BC, Waycross, Ga.
- Lakeview BC, Selmer, Tenn.
- Calvary BC, Florence, S.C.
- Mathiston FBC, Mathiston, Miss.

Part-time

- FBC, Irvington, Ala.
- Crestview BC, Shelby, N.C.
- St. Clare BC, Boyce, La.
- Midtown Bridge Church, Atlanta, Ga.

- Fellowship Church of Henry County, McDonough, Ga.

Youth

Full-time

- FBC, Opelousas, La.
- Cornerstone BC, Hartwell, Ga.
- Faith BC, Monroe, Ga.
- Chillicothe Baptist, Chillicothe, Ohio
- Mt. Vernon BC, Columbus, Miss.
- Mountain View BC, Hickory, N.C.
- Jubilee BC, Daphne, Ala.
- New Beginnings BC, Bixby, Okla.
- Beallwood BC, Columbus, Ga.
- FBC, Middleburg, Fla.

Part-time

- Glory Fellowship BC, Jasper, Ala.
- Teamon BC, Griffin, Ga.

Children and Preschool

- FBC, Cumming, Ga.
- Neptune BC, Neptune Beach, Fla.
- FBC, Crestview, Fla.; Children's Minister
- Hickory Grove BC, Charlotte, N.C.; Children's Minister
- FBC, Fairhope, Ala.; Minister to Children
- Jubilee BC, Daphne, Ala.

Combination

Full-time

- Hueytown BC, Hueytown, Ala.; Associate Pastor of Music/ Education
- Sans Souci BC, Greenville, S.C.; Associate Pastor of Music and Education
- East Thomaston BC, Thomaston, Ga.; Associate Pastor of Youth and Young Adults
- Mount Calvary BC, Albertville, Ala.; Youth and Children Minister
- Victor BC, Greer, S.C.; Minister of Music/ Youth
- FBC, Odessa, Texas.; Junior High Student/ Recreation Pastor
- Eden BC, Brooksville, Fla.; Associate Pastor/ Minister to Youth
- Parkway BC, Houston, Miss.; Minister of students/ Associate Pastor
- High View BC, Woodland Park, Colo.; Children and Youth Minister

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NEW ORLEANS
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