



NEWSLETTER

Tanglewood Bible Fellowship

EIC: Wendy Powers

The Mission of TBF is to glorify God (Psalm 86:11-13; 115:1 and 1 Peter 2:12; 4:16) by actively participating in the ongoing fulfillment of the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20) as a body of believers (1 Cor 12:13; 1 John 5:1-5) who collectively/individually (Phil 1:27) serve our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ (Rom 12:1-2) and one another (Phil 2:3-4) functioning as a spiritual Greenhouse (Eph 4:11-16) such that by our interactions together we are catalyzed to grow (Acts 2:42) and to reproduce (Acts 2:47) spiritually

Melchizedek

Melchizedek, whose name means "king of righteousness," was a king of Salem (Jerusalem) and priest of the Most High God (Genesis 14:18–20; Psalm 110:4; Hebrews 5:6–11; 6:20—7:28). Melchizedek's sudden appearance and disappearance in the book of Genesis is somewhat mysterious. Melchizedek and Abraham first met after Abraham's defeat of Chedorlaomer and his three allies. Melchizedek presented bread and wine to Abraham and his weary men, demonstrating friendship. He bestowed a blessing on Abraham in the name of *El Elyon* ("God Most High") and praised God for giving Abraham a victory in battle (Genesis 14:18–20).

Abraham presented Melchizedek with a tithe (a tenth) of all the items he had gathered. By this act Abraham indicated that he recognized Melchizedek as a priest who ranked higher spiritually than he.

In Psalm 110, a messianic psalm written by David (Matthew 22:43), Melchizedek is presented as a type of Christ. This theme is repeated in the book of Hebrews, where both Melchizedek and Christ are considered kings of righteousness and peace. By citing Melchizedek and his unique priesthood as a type, the writer shows that Christ's new priesthood is superior to the old Levitical order and the priesthood of Aaron (Hebrews 7:1–10).

Some propose that Melchizedek was actually a pre-incarnate appearance of Jesus Christ, or a Christophany. This is a possible theory, especially given that Abraham received such a visit later, in Genesis 17–18, when Abraham saw and spoke with the Lord (*Yahweh*) in the form of a man.

Hebrews 6:20 says, "[Jesus] has become a high priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek." This term *order* would ordinarily indicate a succession of priests holding the office. None are ever mentioned, however, in the long interval from Melchizedek to Christ, an anomaly that can be solved by assuming that Melchizedek and Christ are really the same person. Thus the "order" is eternally vested in Him and Him alone.

Hebrews 7:3 says that Melchizedek was "without father or mother, without genealogy, without beginning of days or end of life, resembling the Son of God, he remains a priest forever." The question is whether the author of Hebrews means this *actually* or *figuratively*.

If the description in Hebrews is literal, then it is indeed difficult to see how it could be properly applied to anyone but the Lord Jesus Christ. No mere earthly king "remains a priest forever," and no mere human is "without father or mother."

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Sunday Worship Service: 9:30 AM

Adult Services AND Children's (0-12 years) Programs

Youth (6th -12th grade) meets Sunday evenings at 6 PM

Wednesday P.M. Service: 6:30-7:30 PM

A Word from Pastor David Shields

TBF family,

It is hard to believe that it is already 2024. This is a time when we typically look back over the previous year and look ahead into the future. The last year brought plenty of challenges for my own family. We began hosting an exchange student, which brought unique changes and profound joy. But there have also been hard things and disappointments. I do think this is a good time of year to look back on what life has been like for you and to spend time lamenting and weeping over the hardships and challenges; to spend time rejoicing and praising God for the blessings He brought. Overall, we should look back to see how God has been faithful to us.

As I look back over this past year as a church, I am grateful for God's faithfulness to us. The simple fact that we, and our church, continue to exist is an example of God's grace that we shouldn't take for granted. I am especially proud of our church this year. We grew in generosity as we fed far more families with Thanksgiving Baskets than last year. We gave more gifts to children in need. The generosity of our church never ceases to encourage me. I hope it continues to grow in the years to come.

As good as it is to look back, it is also good to look forward to what the next year will bring. Some pastors like to vision cast or loudly declare what the coming year is going to look like. You probably know by now, that isn't the kind of pastor I am. I wish that I could tell you exactly what challenges we will face and the victories we will celebrate. Pastoring through 2020 taught me that you never know what the future will bring. All we can do is be faithful in what God has given us today and let Him take care of tomorrow. However, I want to give a small peak to what is ahead in the life of our church this coming year. I don't know everything that the year will bring, but I do plan and hope to finish the Gospel of Luke.

We started Luke last year at Christmas time. We have been slowly working through the book taking periodic breaks for Easter, Advent, the Psalms, Jonah, and Micah. Moving forward, we are not going to take any more breaks, Lord willing. Jesus has finally entered Jerusalem, and the end of the book is in sight. My hope is that we will go through the rest of the book continually and culminate by studying the resurrection of Jesus on Easter Sunday. That was my original plan, and despite plenty of changes, it looks like we will be able to do it.

I don't know what else the year will bring for you personally or for our church. But I do know that our God holds the future. We can do our best to make plans and then watch as God improves and shifts them. I can't wait to see what God brings in the coming year.

In Christ,
Pastor David Shields

(Melchizedek con't)

If Genesis 14 describes a theophany, then God the Son came to give Abraham His blessing (Genesis 14:17–19), appearing as the King of Righteousness (Revelation 19:11,16), the King of Peace (Isaiah 9:6), and the Mediator between God and Man (1 Timothy 2:5).

If the description of Melchizedek is figurative, then the details of having no genealogy, no beginning or ending, and a ceaseless ministry are simply statements accentuating the mysterious nature of the person who met Abraham. In this case, the silence in the Genesis account concerning these details is purposeful and better serves to link Melchizedek with Christ.

Are Melchizedek and Jesus the same person? A case can be made either way. At the very least, Melchizedek is a type of Christ, prefiguring the Lord's ministry. But it is also possible that Abraham, after his weary battle, met and gave honor to the Lord Jesus Himself.

GotQuestions.org

What's Happening at TBF

- ✚ WEDNESDAY NIGHT PRAYER AND SHARE Every Wednesday at 6:30 PM. Join us for a time of prayer and praise followed by a lesson from Pastor David.
- ✚ DAILY DEVOS WITH PASTOR DAVID - TBF Facebook Page
- ✚ MISS A SUNDAY? Check out the sermons on the TBF Facebook page or tbfduncan.org
- ✚ WOMEN OF TANGLEWOOD BIBLE FELLOWSHIP- Facebook page
- ✚ TBF WORSHIP TEAM MUSIC PRACTICE. Join Us! See Dale Corbin or Lana Sleeper for details.
- ✚ WOMEN OF TANGLEWOOD BIBLE FELLOWSHIP- Facebook page
- ✚ TBF YOUTH - Meets Sunday Nights at 6 PM (Study)
- ✚ DICIPLESHIP CLASS: Culture Shock by Chip Ingram
- ✚ MEN'S BIBLE STUDY: Acts 8-15
- ✚ WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY: Better by Jen Wilkin
- ✚ WOMEN'S PLANNING COMMITTEE: January 9, 11 AM at TBF

TBF Men's Ministries

Acts II: Chapters 8-15

The Gospel's Spread from Jerusalem to Antioch

Meets TBF Youth Room – 6:30 PM

Starts Monday January 8th:

Our study of the book of Acts resumes on January 8, 2024. The next 5 lessons (January 8, 22 (subject to change), February 5 & 19, and March 4) covering Acts 8:1-15:35, follow the Gospel's spread from Jerusalem to Samaria and Antioch. We'll also see God calling the man who will later preach the Gospel message throughout the then known world. You're invited you to follow the activities of the two great Church leaders – Peter and Paul. But these men do not stand alone. The support and service of others, such as John, Stephen, Philip, Barnabas, James, Apollos, Priscilla, Aquila, and Lydia, maximized the impact of Peter and Paul's leadership. These faithful believers display Spirit-led inter-dependency of Christian leadership and community – a legacy for us to carry on today.

Acts describes the explosive spread of God's good news. After Jesus' Ascension, the gospel was first proclaimed in Jerusalem and to the Jews. It then spread to Samaria, the coastal plain and Caesarea, before expanding to all cities of the Mediterranean, including Rome, the great capital of the known world.

All men are invited. Through daily Bible reading and questions, group discussion, and study notes, God's Word comes to life in new and unexpected ways. Study led by Wolfgang Deeg.

Discipleship Class

Culture Shock by Chip Ingram

Session 1 & 2: January 14th and 28th Led by Mike Palovik

We'll be meeting in the youth room from 10:45 am to 11:30 am
The Nursery will be staffed on the dates we meet.

Description: Where do you stand on issues like: Truth, Sex, Homosexuality, Abortion, the Environment, and the Church and Politics? More importantly, what does God say? More than ever before, believers must develop convictions based on research, reason, and biblical truth. But it doesn't stop there. It's equally important that you're able (and willing) to communicate these convictions with a love and respect that reflects God's love. This series will help you learn how to respond with love, even in the face of controversy. In the process, you'll discover the power of bringing light—not heat—to the core issues at the heart of society today.

TBF *Women's Ministries*

Organization Meeting: January 9th

Women's Ministry Organizational meeting. 11 am in the youth room. We will be reviewing last year's events and discussing plans for 2024 activities and ministries.

New Women's Bible Study

New Bible study to begin in January. We will be doing a study by Jen Wilkin entitled **Better**, A study of Hebrews. Begins January 11th at 9:30 AM and 6 PM. Sign up in the Foyer.

A Huge Thank You

A HUGE "thank you" to all whom helped us with our Thanksgiving and Christmas ministries. We were able to bless a lot of people. We are a church with a "good eye."

Baptism: Ruth Cummings



Ruth's Testimony: "I have attended church and known a lot about Jesus for most of my life. However, it was only after losing several family members and attending Tanglewood that I began to realize that I needed to give my life to Christ fully and to be thankful."

Ruth's favorite verses are:

Colossians 3:13 And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body.

Psalms 17:8 Keep me as the apple of Your eye; Hide me in the shadow of Your wings.

Kindred Community

No Kindred Community this month.

We look forward to seeing and serving our precious widows next month.

TBF Family Ministries

Happy January and New Year, church family!

It is wild to think that it is already 2024, and a new year can bring a lot of worry and fear into our lives. It is easy to say God is in control and don't worry, but it is incredibly difficult to live that out. To be fair, we live in a very anxious time, and this coming year is full of things that can cause us to fear; there is a presidential election, war in Europe for the first time since World War II, not to mention the war that is brewing in the Middle East. The United States is fractured into so many different factions and instead of just disagreeing with each other, there is animosity. Our culture celebrates evil as good and good as wicked, and truth is relative. People seem to worry more about their mental state than others' feelings. Needless to say, this world can cause us to worry, and that doesn't include the events in each one of our personal lives that can cause us to worry.

What is worry or anxiety? A simple definition that I like is this: it is a sense of dread coming from not knowing what the future will hold. The major aspect of worry is the not knowing. This is why we never worry about past events. Change is the major cause of anxiety, when things are different, we get worried, when things are unknown, we get nervous. So, if we want to stop worrying or feeling anxious, all we have to do is stay where we can control things, right? This is a major secular approach to dealing with anxiety, but this is no life for a Christian. We are called by Jesus to go to the far ends of the earth proclaiming His word to all nations, and this calls for a willingness to jump when God tells you to even if you don't know where you will land. Moreover, nothing in this world stays the same, the teacher in Ecclesiastes rightly calls all vanity a vapor that is here one day and gone another. Because of the impact of sin on our whole world, everything is decaying and falling apart. The only unchanging thing in this world is that it is changing.

Anxiety and worry are themes that the Bible does not shy away from. Elijah was anxious and prayed for his death fleeing from Queen Jezebel after his mountaintop experience. The Psalms are full of worried prayers. Even Jesus in the garden prayed until he sweated blood. None of these people were sinful for feeling anxious, especially Jesus who knew no sin. But they did not hold onto their worries or fears: they prayed and gave them to God. God is unchanging yesterday, today, and forevermore; this means that God will not change what it means to love Him, that His mercy is unchanging toward His children, and that His justice will stay true. We all have a throne in our heart, and something is always sitting on it, be that another person who can decide to change, or it could be a thing that gets old and falls apart with time. Or the person that changes the most: yourself. If something that can change is ruling on your throne, then life is a game of walking on eggshells hoping to keep everything okay. If you allow the unchanging king of all to sit on the throne of your life, the situations that cause anxiety will still occur, the "triggers," will still be around you. However, the thing that you associate with yourself, what you find value in, what your identity is rooted in, is not a thing of this world that can change, but it is in the eternal everlasting God who not only created you but prepared you for good works ahead of time (Eph 2:10).

Matthew 11:28-30 is a challenge that Jesus gives us, saying: "Come to me, all of you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, because I am lowly and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." Have you come to Jesus, not simply to purchase fire insurance, but come to Jesus to take His yoke onto your shoulders and to learn from Him? He is unchanging and His grace is salve for our weary souls.

In the love of Christ,
Pastor Rob

Friends are friends forever, when the Lord's the Lord of them.

Jeff, Brenda, Morgan, and Hannah Adams will be missed at TBF. We pray God's blessings over them as they make a new home in Colorado.



Tea and Tinsel December 9th, 2023
A Time of Fellowship After the Fall Women's Bible Study



TBF Wassail Night
A Time of Worship and Fellowship
December 10, 2023



World Religious Views

The Feast of Epiphany or Three Kings Day

Epiphany is celebrated 12 days after Christmas on 6th January (or January 19th for some Orthodox Church who have Christmas on 7th January) and is the time when Christians remember the Wise Men (also sometimes called the Three Kings) who visited Jesus. The Bible doesn't say how many Wise Men there were or that they were kings. The number three comes from the three gifts the Wise Men / Magi brought with them. [Other sources contend there were three kings (Melchior, Caspar, and Balthazar) represented Europe, Arabia, and Africa, and their coming together was symbolic of unity.] The gold offered by one is an acknowledgment of Jesus's royal standing. Frankincense points to the divine nature of the baby's existence as the "Son of God." And myrrh, which was used to embalm corpses, was a symbol of Jesus' mortality and that later He would die to cleanse mankind of its sins.

Epiphany is also when some Churches remember when Jesus was Baptized, when He was about 30, and started to teach people about God. Epiphany means 'revelation' and both the visit of the Wise Men and His Baptism are important times when Jesus was 'revealed' to be very important.

Some Churches use Epiphany to celebrate and remember both the visit of the Wise Men and Jesus's Baptism! Epiphany is mainly celebrated by Catholics and Orthodox Christians.

In Orthodox churches, Epiphany is also known as 'The Feast of the Holy Theophany' and it is as important as Christmas. During the services to celebrate Epiphany, on the eve of the feast and on the feast day, water is blessed (some churches only bless water at one service). This is to remember Jesus's baptism. The blessed water is used in church services during the rest of the year. People are often baptized on the Feast of the Holy Theophany. After the service, the water is also used by a priest to bless the houses of people in the church. It can sometimes take days or even weeks for the priest to visit all the houses and bless them.

Epiphany Around the World

In Spain, Epiphany is an important festival, where it's also known as 'The festival of the three Magic Kings' - 'Fiesta de Los tres Reyes Magos', and is when Spanish and some other Catholic children receive their presents - as they are delivered by the Three Kings!

In Spain on Epiphany morning, you might go to the local bakers and buy a special cake/pastry called a 'Roscón' (meaning a ring-shaped roll). They are normally filled with cream or chocolate and are decorated with a paper crown. There is normally a figure of a king (if you find that you can wear the crown) and a dried bean (if you find that you're meant to pay for the cake!). In Catalonia it's known as a Tortell or Gâteau des Rois and is stuffed with marzipan.

In [France](#) you might eat a 'Galette des Rois', a type of flat almond cake. It has a toy crown cooked inside it and is decorated on top with a gold paper crown.

There are similar traditions in [Mexico](#) where Epiphany is known as 'El Dia de los Reyes' (the day of The Three Kings). It's traditional to eat a special cake called 'Rosca de Reyes' (Three Kings Cake). A figure of Baby Jesus is hidden inside the cake. Whoever has the baby Jesus in their piece of cake is the 'Godparent' of Jesus for that year.

In Portugal, people take part in Epiphany carol singing known as the 'Janeiras' (January songs). On the Island of Maderia, they're known as the 'Cantar os Reis' (singing the kings).

In Italy, some children also get their presents on Epiphany. But they believe that an old lady called 'Befana' brings them. Children put stockings up by the fireplace for Befana to fill.

In Austria, at Epiphany, some people write a special sign in chalk over their front door. It's a reminder of the Wise Men that visited the baby Jesus. It's made from the year split in two with initials of the names that are sometimes given to 'the three wise men', Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar, in the middle. So 2024 would be: 20*C*M*B*24. The sign is meant to protect the house for the coming year. Some parts of Germany also have the tradition of marking over doors. The 'Four Hills' Ski Jumping Tournament also finishes on 6th January in Bischofshofen, Austria.

At Epiphany in Belgium, children dress up as the three wise men and go from door to door to sing songs and people give them money or sweets, kind of like Trick or Treating on Halloween. Children in Poland also go out singing on Epiphany.

In Ireland, Epiphany is also sometimes called 'Nollaig na mBean' or Women's Christmas. Traditionally the women get the day off and men do the housework and cooking! It is becoming more popular, and many Irish women now get together on the Sunday nearest Epiphany and have tea and cakes!

In the Ethiopian Orthodox Church (which celebrates Christmas on 7th January), twelve days after Christmas, on 19th January, the three-day celebration of Ethiopians Timkat starts. This celebrates Jesus's baptism.

In New Orleans, Louisiana, in the [USA](#), on Epiphany/King's Day, the Christmas Tree is either take down or the ornaments are replaced with Purple, Gold and Green ones and it's then called a 'Mardi Gras Tree'! People also like to eat 'King Cake' (a cinnamon pastry with sugar on the top and sometimes filled with cream cheese or jelly/jam). The King Cake will have a little baby plastic doll inside (which represents Jesus); whoever gets the piece with the baby has to supply the next King Cake! Some people have "King Cake Party" every Friday before Lent (the time before Easter).

Other Epiphany Customs

Epiphany Eve (also known as Twelfth Night) marks the end of the traditional Christmas celebrations and is the time when you were meant to take Christmas decorations down. During the Elizabethan era people often left greenery up until Candlemas (this is still done by some people and in some countries).

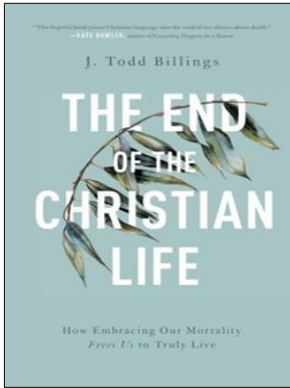
There is also a custom that when you receive your first Christmas card with the Three Kings on it, you put it over the front door (on the inside) and will bring you good luck for the following year. Several visitors to the site from Ireland or from Irish heritage in the USA have reported doing this, as well as a Russian visitor to the site! It could also be related to 'chalk' marks for Epiphany put on doors in parts of Austria and Germany.



David's Book Recommendations

Like many pastors, I am a big fan of books. The following books are all books you can find on my bookshelf, and I would be more than happy to lend them to anyone who would like to read them.

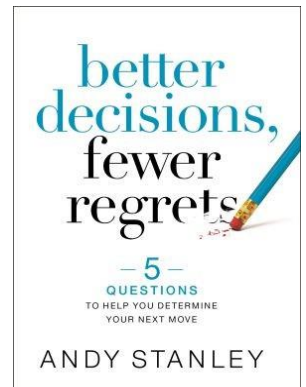
End of The Christian Life: How Embracing Our Mortality Frees Us to Truly Live by J. Todd Billings



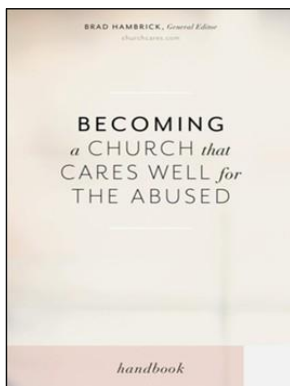
This is an incredibly powerful book on how Christians should think about death written by a man who is dying. I have always thought a lot about death. I could either blame my father, who would sing a lullaby to me as a child called, "Everybody Dies," or my struggle with depression. But the way Christians talk about death has often bothered me. We seem to avoid talking about it as much as unbelievers. It seems strange to avoid talking about it when it is the central problem of existence. Especially in light of our Christian hope. We should be the most likely people to think and reflect on what death means because of our hope of resurrection. This is the Christian book on death I have been waiting for. It is easily one of the best books I have read this year. It would make me weep and fill me with hope. It is not just a memoir or personal meditation on what dying has taught him. While it is personal, he manages to weave deep theological insight throughout the book without getting bogged down in academia. Quite simply, it is a beautiful meditation on Christ.

Better Decision, Fewer Regrets: 5 Questions to Help You Determine Your Next Move by Andy Stanley

This book is well-communicated simple wisdom that is not necessarily "Christian." I'm torn on Andy Stanley. I have problems with his theology and methodology, but he is an incredible communicator that I find captivating. This book has five simple questions to ask yourself before you make decisions. They are straightforward and some will feel like they just need the questions and don't need the book. I still found the book helpful as a way to remember and reflect on the questions themselves. The primary problem with the book is that he uses the Bible in sneaky ways. He does not want it to seem like a Christian book and it barely does outside of Biblical examples. It is funny to read other reviews of people disappointed that this book was "so Christian" while I am disappointed it was not Christian enough. There is even a point where he more or less says that there is no hope when we make the wrong decisions. That would have been a great opportunity to bring up the gospel, but he never did. Despite that very large caveat, I found this helpful. I think these are good basic questions to wrestle with before you make decisions.



Becoming a Church that Cares Well for The Abused edited by Brad Hambrick



As both a pastor and a survivor of abuse I have a significant interest in seeing churches care well for the abused instead of making the situation worse. This book is a resource provided by Church Cares 100% for free in multiple mediums. You can either access it as videos through their website or as a book. It's difficult to make something like this work in multiple mediums but this work is helpful enough that I think it works. You can either read this book or watch the videos that are word for word the same content. This book is meant to help the church. It is not just for pastors but anyone in the church who is interested in helping the church do better. If you are involved in the church and don't have any training in this area, then you should check out this book, or at least check out the video training.