



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.

HOLY LIVING

In order to address the question of how to live a holy life, we must first understand what *holy* means. To be holy means to be set apart or separate from sin and evil. God is holy—completely separate from everything that is evil (1 John 1:5). God calls us to be holy, just as He is (1 Peter 1:16, quoting Leviticus 19:2), but it’s vital to understand that apart from God this is impossible. We must have the Holy Spirit indwelling us and filling us with His holiness. We can only live a holy life through the power of the Spirit; thus, the first step to living a holy life is to accept Jesus as Savior (Ephesians 1:13).

Once we have taken that step of salvation, we are *declared* righteous (Romans 5:1). But what does it look like to be *actually* righteous—to live a holy life? In 1 Thessalonians 4:3–8, Paul emphasizes sexual purity as part of holy living: “It is God’s will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; that each of you should learn to control your own body in a way that is holy and honorable, not in passionate lust like the pagans, who do not know God” (verses 3–5).

Beyond avoiding sexual immorality and keeping sex within God’s design for marriage, we can live a holy life by being obedient to God in all areas of life (1 Peter 1:14–16). Knowing and obeying God’s Word is key (John 17:17). Hiding God’s Word in our hearts keeps us from sin (Psalm 119:11). When we live in obedience to God, we are staying separate from evil. We are offering our bodies as “living sacrifices” to God (Romans 12:1–2). The purpose of living a holy life is to glorify God and display His nature to those around us (Matthew 5:16). Living a holy life of obedience to God is living in true freedom from the bondage of sin (Romans 6:6).

It’s not always easy to choose obedience to God, especially if we’re trying to do it all on our own. Satan would love nothing more than to bring us back into bondage through disobedience. But we have the promise, “You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world” (1 John 4:4). The Holy Spirit will produce Christlikeness in us, and, as we yield to Him, we can live a holy life (Galatians 5:16). (Cont’d on page 3)

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,

I have been reading studying some of the early Christian apologists lately. They are some of the first Christians who wrote to non-believers in defense of the faith. They usually answered some of the false charges against Christians and tried to explain why Christians were being wrongly persecuted. But there is one line of argument many of them used time and time again I cannot get out of my mind. They repeatedly referred to the holy lives of Christians as proof of the Bible's truth.

They simply invited non-believers to examine the lives of Christians and compare it to the lives of regular citizens. They boldly and loudly proclaimed that Christians lived righteous lives filled with love and they avoided the vices of the world. The holiness of Christians lives proved God was with them. I cannot imagine trying to make this argument today. If you tried to make this argument to a non-Christian today, they would simply laugh at you. I think the failure is not with the apologists' logic but with our morality.

The primary verse this makes me think of is John 13:35 "by this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." Is this how the world knows us? Do they see the love of Christ in the church or when they think of Christians, do they think of evangelists who prey on the poor while flying private jets? When the world thinks of Christians, do they think about moral people or about the multitude of sexual abuse scandals?

How should we respond? First, I think that we need to lament and repent. We should lament the current state of the global church and our history. We need to acknowledge our failure and recognize that it is not okay. We also should repent for our personal failure. We need to repent for the ways we have failed to be faithful witnesses to Jesus.

Second, we should be encouraged to holy living. We need to see that we preach the Gospel through our words and through our deeds. We serve as ambassadors for Christ (2 Corinthians 5:20). Everything that we do is a reflection of Jesus. This should make us want to be holy ambassadors who represent our Savior and His Kingdom well. What a difference the church could make in the world if we could tell the world to look at our lives and they would see Jesus and the truth of the Gospel.

In Christ,
Pastor David Shields

(Cont'd from page 1)

Here is the mindset we should have: "Count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus" (Romans 6:11). Any time we face temptation, we should say, "I'm dead to that! That was part of my *old* life! I am a new creation in Christ!" (see 2 Corinthians 5:17). To live a holy life, to separate ourselves from sin, we must see ourselves as God does—as born-again children of the Most High, clothed with the righteousness of Christ.

We also have the benefit of being part of the Body of Christ. Fellowship with other Christians and making ourselves accountable to them is a great source of strength in living a holy life. As Christians, we are called to encourage one another in this matter (Hebrews 10:24–25).

Remember, we are not trying to live a holy life in order to earn salvation; living a holy life is a natural outgrowth of being saved by God's grace and filled with His Spirit. It is also important to not give up when we mess up. When we fail, our response should be to confess the sin and keep moving forward in our Christian walk (1 John 1:9). Romans 8:1 says, "There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus." God's grace doesn't go away when we make mistakes.

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.
- ✚ DICIPLESHIP CLASS - November 3rd and 17th
- ✚ MEN'S BIBLE STUDY -
- ✚ WOMEN'S FALL BIBLE STUDY: Every Other Thursday 9 AM and 6 PM
- ✚ PARENTING CLASS - Oct 8th and 22nd
- ✚ TBF YOUTH - Meets Sunday Nights at 5:30 PM (Jam Session) and 6 PM (Study)
- ✚ AWANA CLUBS - Meets Wednesdays at 6:30 PM Ages 2 yr. old - 5th Grade
- ✚ CLOTHES DRIVE - Ends Nov. 17th Heather's Hope and Helping Hands Clothes Closet
- ✚ COMMUNTION - November 24th
- ✚ KINDRED COMMUNITY - Nov.21 Duncan High School
- ✚ THANKSGIVING BASKETS - Watch Bulletins for Details
- ✚ CHRISTMAS PROJECT - In the Planning



Opportunities to Serve

Awana Volunteers Needed.

Looking for fun on Wednesday nights? Have a love for God and want to plant seeds in the lives of children? Be a TBF AWANA Volunteer. There's something for everyone. Please see Pastor Rob Girvin for details.

Let's give our moms a break....

Volunteers needed in the nursery and pre-school areas on Sunday mornings. Sign-up Sheet in the Foyer. Please see Pastor Rob Girvin.

Bible study childcare worker needed.

Childcare is needed for the Thursday morning study. Please let us know if you know of someone available on Thursday mornings who loves kids and could use a little extra spending money. See Jean Crow if you know of someone or want to volunteer.

Heather's Hope and Helping Hands Clothes Closet.

We will be collecting women's, men's and children's clothing from now until Sunday, Nov 17th. So while you're changing out your closet from summer to fall and winter please consider donating those items that you have not worn in awhile to help out. They will be much appreciated by that community.

Coming Soon....

Thanksgiving Baskets
Christmas Project

As each has received a gift, use it
to serve one another, as good
stewards of God's varied grace.

I Peter 4:10

Kindred Community

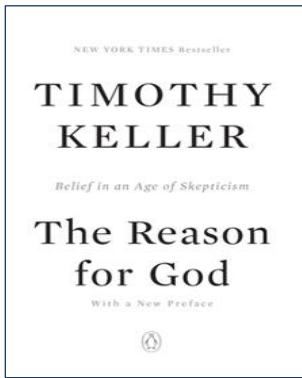
November 21st 6-8 PM

Duncan High School

Hosted by Seventh Day Adventist and

Duncan High School Student Council

If you are a TBF woman with a heavenly husband or know of a woman you would like to invite to this event, please RSVP by November 14th - Jan Palovik 580.786.6009



Discipleship Class

November 3rd and 17th

The Reason for God

by Timothy Keller.

How could a loving God send people to hell? Why does he allow suffering? Can one religion be "right" and the others "wrong"? Responding to the questions of open skeptics and ardent believers, Keller's writing draws from literature, philosophy, reason, and real-life conversations to explain how faith in a Christian God is a soundly, rational belief.

Timothy Keller, the founding pastor of Redeemer Presbyterian Church in New York City, addresses the frequent doubts that skeptics, and even ardent believers, have about religion. Using literature, philosophy, real-life conversations, and potent reasoning, Keller explains how the belief in a Christian God is, in fact, a sound and rational one. To true believers he offers a solid platform on which to stand their ground against the backlash to religion created by the Age of Skepticism. And to skeptics, atheists, and agnostics, he provides a challenging argument for pursuing the reason for God.

Discipleship class led by Mike Palovik



TBF Men's Ministries WISDOM

PRAYER, PSALMS, AND PROVERBS
TBF Youth Room 6:30-7:30 PM
Led by Wolfgang Deeg

- **Session 1 (Nov. 4):** Solomon's prayer for wisdom (I Kings 3)
Hear Solomon's prayer, inspired by his father David's passion for God. Solomon asks the Lord for wisdom with a wholly dependent heart, and God replies with abundant grace.
- **Session 2 (Nov. 18):** Psalms
Sing praises with selected psalms of David, whose hymns of faith lead God's people wisely across time. David models how to cultivate wisdom in every circumstance by living in worship of the Lord.
- **Session 3 (Dec. 2):** Proverbs
Pray through the words of Solomon's book of Proverbs, where God's inspired instruction, warnings and even humor have the power to inform and transform the believer's walk in this world.

King David and his son King Solomon demonstrate: **the foundation of all wisdom is loving reverence for God – Wisdom is His glorious Person revealed in the Word.** Personal, transforming, and everlasting wisdom comes from God who graciously makes Himself known and gives His people wisdom. Will you know, love and worship God through faith in Jesus and treasure His Word today? **Will you go to God for the Wisdom only He provides?**

TBF *Women's Ministries*

FALL BIBLE STUDIES



Jonah - Navigating a Life Interrupted by Priscilla Shirer

What do we do when God interrupts our lives? Many times, like Jonah, we run! In this 7-session Bible study, Priscilla redefines interruption and shows that interruption is actually God's invitation to do something beyond our wildest dreams. When Jonah was willing to allow God to interrupt his life, the result was revival in an entire city.

Meets Every Other Thursday Morning 9:30 AM (Nov. 7th and 21st)

Evening study Krist McLelland: Walk Through the Bible.

Meets Every Other Thursday Evening 6 PM (Nov. 7th and 21st)

WOMEN'S MINISTRY ORGANIZATION MEETING

The Women's Ministry Organizational Committee meet on **Tuesday November 12th**. We meet to coordinate the activities of the women's ministry at Tanglewood. We invite all the ladies of Tanglewood to join us for those meetings. The areas of ministry and the women who coordinate those areas are as follows:

- Finance-Kitty Lewark
- Decor-Kyleen Driggs
- Super Summer Saturdays-Linda Keeney
- Bible Study-Jean Crow
- Events-Alex Stewart
- Communication-Bri Shields
- In Reach- Megan Wilkins
- Outreach and Bible Studies- Jean Crow

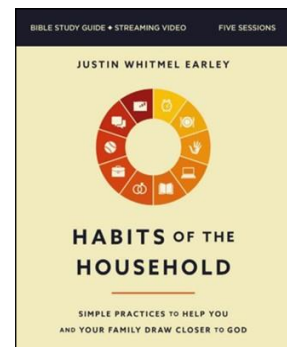


Our November meeting will be centered around our Thanksgiving and Christmas outreach projects, a Christmas event, and deciding on Spring Bible Study courses. Lots going on so if you have any input or desire to help, come to the meeting or speak with one of the above women. Without all of your help and prayers these events are difficult to bring to completion.

Parenting Class

Tuesdays at 6 PM
Meets at TBF in classroom

Habits of the Household
Practicing the Story of God in Everyday Family Rhythms
By Justin Whitmel Early



TBF Family Ministries

Happy November Church Family!

This month, I wanted to take a break from our discussion on biblical views of emotion and talk about Job. During my study for preaching in Joel chapter 2, I kept thinking about Job. We all know the general swaths of Job's life. In the opening chapters, God allows the tempter to take Job's riches and his lineage, as well as his health, to test Job's faith in God. Job's wife tells him to curse God and die, and his friends come to mourn with him.

In the following 36 chapters, Job's friends accuse and reason with Job in an attempt to find out for what purpose God allowed all these horrible things to happen to him. These arguments are very interesting to look at. While they express the logic of the different ancient religions, the premises that they work on are the same as the ones we often hear today. His three friends brought up the idea that the wicked suffer, that a hidden unrepentant sin was causing his trouble, that he needed to meticulously repent for his sins, and evil causes evil. While Job did not turn his back on God, he did get very defensive at one point calling on God to come down so that they could have a trial to find out why these things had happened. It is incredibly easy for us to be like Job's friends or Job when suffering occurs. We are not God, we do not know the ways of God, and when we try to ascribe reason for our suffering, we tend to miss the mark. While yes, each of these may have a grain of truth in them, they also have a heaping of falsehood attached to them as well. The beginning portion of this book disproves all of them. Job suffered because he was faithful. His suffering was not a complete destruction, but rather it was tightly controlled by God.

In the last few chapters of Job, God comes in a whirlwind. His first response is asking who obscures His counsel with ignorant words? Then, beginning with the creation of the world, He begins to ask questions about who created everything and sustains it all. At first, reading this response from God can seem harsh. Seven days prior, Job had lost his children and livelihood. But this is a kind response; God is reminding Job that He is the creator and sustainer of everyone and everything. He is the author of the story and nothing occurs without His expressed consent. This is a relieving fact, similar to Jesus's response in Matthew 6:25-34. If we believe that God is creator and sustainer and loves us perfectly, then even in the dark night of the soul, we can know that God works all things together for our good and His glory (Romans 5:8). I had a professor in seminary that once said that what we call suffering actually isn't. We do not see the world from God's point of view. You may have lost your keys and had to spend the next five minutes looking for them because there was going to be wreck on the road you were taking, and if you were five minutes earlier you would be involved with it. Or more seriously, the cancer that will ultimately take your life is a way in which you can minister to others and show the gospel lived out. While we are called to cultivate lives here, this place is not our home. This world is the closest a Christian will get to hell, and when we live like God is the author, it does not diminish the pain. Sin brings sorrow into this world, but we can think upon God's precious blessings and look longingly toward glory when God makes all things new.

Looking toward that day with you,

Pastor Rob

****Youth Bible Study -- Sundays 6-7 PM TBF Youth Room -- Journey Through the Bible**

A Day at the Pumpkin Patch

ORR FAMILY FARM



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.

Festal Orations by Gregory of Nanzianzus

Reading this one makes me feel like I don't know anything about preaching. This is a series of six sermons Gregory preached on special holy days (2 on Passover/Easter, 2 on Christ's baptism, Pentecost, and Christ's nativity) in the 4th century. I actually enjoyed these sermons more than his theological orations on God and Christ. These sermons feel like they could be preached today. They hold up not just theologically but rhetorically. There is some repetitiveness, but these were meant to be heard not read. I especially loved how Christ focused all of these were. Overall, these are sermons I will return to read again and again on these holy days.

Listening to Our Grandmothers' Stories: The Bloomfield Academy for Chickasaw Females, 1852-1949 by Amanda J. Cobb

This is a masterful work of local history. I randomly picked this one up from a used book sale when I noticed the copy was autographed. I've been wanting to learn more about the tribes in Oklahoma and this school was located in Ardmore for many years.

The book itself is focused on the history of a Chickasaw women's school named Bloomfield, later renamed Carter Seminary. What is unique about this school is that for much of its history, the Chickasaw nation had control over the school. Even in the later years under Federal control, the Chickasaw people were proud of the school and highly valued education.

The book is personal to the author. Her grandmother attended Bloomfield, and this personal connection led her to learn more. This helps give the book a personal touch, but it never veers into a full-fledged personal memoir.

I appreciated how the author connected the story of this school to the larger narrative of the Chickasaw nation itself. The nation has always placed a high value on education and literacy. Even though they recognized schools as tools of colonization, they saw there could be value in them.

The story itself is messy, as all history is. The school was both a tool of colonization, that denied girls the ability to speak their native language and a tool of freedom, which inadvertently strengthened the women's native identity. Almost all of the women interviewed had fond memories of the school and spoke of it highly. The book also wrestles with how Christianity was used by the school. At times it was used to try and "civilize" the Chickasaw" and at others, the Chickasaw were converted and pushed Christianity themselves even without federal control. I appreciated how the author fairly navigated this tension.

This is not a popular-level history book. I can see some picking this up and being disappointed that it is more academic than they might have imagined. But it is by no means dry or boring. Overall, this is a wonderful book. The prose is masterful. I felt the school of Bloomfield and the women themselves come alive through their stories.

A Treatise On the Soul by Tertullian

This book is a response to Platonism and other Greek philosophies on the soul from the 3rd century. He touches on the origin of the soul, how the soul relates to the body, death, and other issues. I was surprised to learn how different the Christian ideas of the soul were compared to the world around them.

The book is further evidence of Christian teaching on life beginning at conception. He is clear and explicit that the soul and body are created simultaneously. Interestingly enough, this contrasts with other philosophies that see the soul entering the body after birth.

He does have moments where he appears to be proclaiming some proto-purgatory idea. It is unclear what he truly thinks and believes about the intermediate state after death. It appeared to me like he is trying to affirm the resurrection that is coming and avoid the traps of Platonism. His ideas of Hades may simply be another way of describing heaven, but it is unclear what he means. I will have to read his book on the resurrection to investigate further.

There are also hints of Tertullian's Montanism in the book. There are a few mentions here and there. I still am not sure what to make of his "heresy." But overall, this work is largely orthodox and helpful.