



# 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.*

## Lion and the Lamb

Typically, when someone is thinking of the "lion and the lamb," Isaiah 11:6 is in mind due to it often being misquoted, "And the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and the leopard will lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together." The true "Lion and the Lamb" passage is Revelation 5:5-6. The Lion and the Lamb both refer to Jesus Christ. He is both the conquering Lion of the tribe of Judah and the Lamb who was slain. The Lion and the Lamb are descriptions of two aspects of the nature of Christ. As the Lion of Judah, He fulfills the prophecy of Genesis 49:9 and is the Messiah who would come from the tribe of Judah. As the Lamb of God, He is the perfect and ultimate sacrifice for sin.

The scene of Revelation 4-5 is the heavenly throne room. After receiving the command to write to the seven churches in Asia Minor, John is "caught up in the spirit" to the throne room in heaven where he is to receive a series of visions that culminate in the ultimate victory of Christ at the end of the age. Revelation 4 shows us the endless praise that God receives from the angels and the 24 elders. Chapter 5 begins with John noticing that there is a scroll in the "right hand of him who was seated on the throne." The scroll has writing on the inside and is sealed with seven seals.

After giving us a description of the scroll, an angel proclaims with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?" John begins to despair when no one comes forth to answer the angel's challenge. One of the 24 elders encourages John to "weep no more," and points out that the Lion of the tribe of Judah has come to take and open the scroll. The Lion of the tribe of Judah is obviously a reference to Christ. The image of the lion is meant to convey kingship. Jesus is worthy to receive and open the scroll because he is the King of God's people.

Back in Genesis 49:9, when Jacob was blessing his sons, Judah is referred to as a "lion's cub," and in verse 10 we learn that the "scepter shall not depart from Judah." The scepter is a symbol of lordship and power. This was a prophecy that in Israel the kingly line would be descended from Judah. That prophecy was fulfilled when David succeeded to the throne after the death of King Saul (2 Samuel). David was descended from the line of Judah, and his descendants were the kings in Israel/Judah until the time of the Babylonian captivity in 586 BC.

Con't on pg.3

\*\*\*\*\*

**Sunday Worship Service:** 9:30 AM

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

Youth (6<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> 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 am not particularly handy or good at fixing things. Most of my efforts to fix minor things around the house end in anger, frustration, and my needing to call an expert. It results in me usually feeling like it wasn't worth the effort, and I shouldn't have tried anyway. Unfortunately, this is how some of us approach Bible study, especially in hard books like Revelation. The book is so hard to understand that our best efforts can feel like they have resulted in nothing. But I want to give you three reasons Revelation is worth our effort even if we never understand it and it feels like banging our heads against a wall.

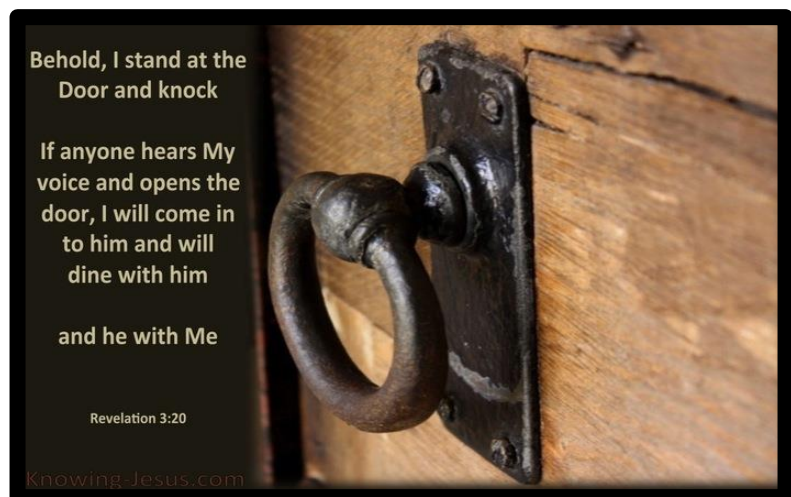
Revelation is worth wrestling with because we are commanded to love God "with all our hearts, all our soul, and all our mind" (Matthew 22:37). Sometimes, that means using intellectual effort. Sometimes, that means forcing our brains and minds to work even when it is uncomfortable, pushes us, or makes our heads hurt. Serious study of Revelation is heavy intellectual work. But it is work we should undertake because our Savior has asked us to. And to do so is a way we cannot just be obedient but also show our love for Him.

Revelation is worth wrestling with because it will leave us blessed. This is one of the promises the book makes to us in the very beginning in 1:3 "blessed are those who hear." If there is a blessing just from reading aloud and hearing the book, how much more is there a blessing for those who listen closely? When we are willing to wrestle with the book and do the hard work of serious reading, it leads to greater blessing.

Revelation is worth wrestling with because it will leave us transformed into the likeness of God. We are sanctified by soaking in the words of truth (John 17:17). Every time we read the Word of God, it sanctifies us. This sanctifying work takes place whether we feel it or notice anything new or not. Reading the Bible is like exercise. Sometimes it feels great, other times it feels bad, but it is always good for us.

I named this series Wrestling with Revelation because our goal is not perfect understanding of every mystery. Our goal is to wrestle with the book and strive with God, knowing that we will be forever changed afterward. I hope these reminders can encourage us to continue to wrestle with God's Word in Revelation, knowing that doing so makes us obedient, blessed, and transformed.

In Christ,  
Pastor David Shields



This imagery of kingship is further enhanced when Jesus is described as the "root of David." This harkens us back to the words of Isaiah the prophet: "There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. . . . In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious" (Isaiah 11:1, 10). As the root of David, Jesus is not only being identified as a descendant of David, but also the source or "root" of David's kingly power.

Why is Jesus worthy to open the scroll? He is worthy because He "has conquered." We know that, when Jesus returns, He will conquer all of God's enemies, as graphically described in Revelation 19. However, more importantly, Jesus is worthy because He has conquered sin and death at the cross. The cross was the ultimate victory of God over the forces of sin and evil. The events that occur at the return of Christ are the "mop-up" job to finish what was started at the cross. Because Jesus secured the ultimate victory at Calvary, He is worthy to receive and open the scroll, which contains the righteous judgment of God.

Christ's victory at the cross is symbolized by his appearance as a "Lamb standing, as though it had been slain" (Revelation 5:6). Prior to the exodus from Egypt, the Israelites were commanded by God to take an unblemished lamb, slay it, and smear its blood on the doorposts of their homes (Exodus 12:1–7). The blood of the slain lamb would set apart the people of Israel from the people of Egypt when the death angel came during the night to slay the firstborn of the land. Those who had the blood of the lamb would be spared. Fast forward to the days of John the Baptist. When he sees Jesus approaching him, he declares to all present, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29). Jesus is the ultimate "Passover lamb" who saves His people from eternal death.

So when Jesus is referred to as the Lion and the Lamb, we are to see Him as not only the conquering King who will slay the enemies of God at His return, but also as the sacrificial Lamb who took away the reproach of sin from His people so they may share in His ultimate victory.

\*\*\*\*\*

## 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](http://tbfduncan.org)
- WOMEN OF TANGLEWOOD BIBLE FELLOWSHIP– Facebook page
- TBF WORSHIP TEAM MUSIC PRACTICE. Join Us! See Dale Corbin or Lana Sleeper for details.
- DISCIPLESHIP CLASS – March 2<sup>nd</sup> (the Last Class)
- MEN'S BIBLE STUDY –
- WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY: Every Other Thursday 9 AM and 6 PM
- PARENTING CLASS –
- 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 - 5<sup>th</sup> Grade
- COMMUNION – March 16th
- KINDRED COMMUNITY – March 24th

## 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.

# TBF Men's Ministries

# REVELATION 4-5

## THE THRONE AND THE LAMB

A WordGo Study  
TBF Youth Room 6:30-7:30 PM  
Led by Wolfgang Deeg

- **Session 1 (Mar. 3):** Step into the dazzling throne room of God where His power and majesty are on full display, and He is perpetually worshipped.
- **Session 2 (Mar. 17):** Encounter heaven's Lamb as John recounts his vision of the One who is worthy to take up the scroll – the One who by His blood “purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation.”

What do you worship? What in your life do your affections most gravitate toward?

Many of us worship that next thing we see on the horizon of life – a promotion at work, the hope of buying a house, a successful relationship – and we place our focus and striving there. We become restless with the mundane and miss out on the majestic.

In Revelation chapters 4 and 5, the apostle John's words reorient our worship in the only direction it should rightly point. John experiences a magnificent vision of the throne room of heaven and the worship of the Lamb of God. In this two-week study, Revelation: The Throne and the Lamb, John invites us into the presence of God. The multitude of creatures in the throne room of heaven yield all glory and honor to God and to the Lamb, beckoning us to do the same.

Revelation chapters 4 and 5 transition us from John's letters to the seven churches to God's glorious throne and the One who sits at His right hand. Here we enter the heart of the book of Revelation – God's glory. Will you enter this book and let God's glory change where you place your worship?

# JONAH

## THE DEPTH OF MERCY

- **Session 1 (Mar. 31):** Dive into this classic tale of Jonah's reluctance to obey God's call to preach to the evil city of Nineveh. Watch God patiently pursue his prophet into the depths of the sea. Experience for yourself Jonah's dramatic transformation from rebellious wanderer to humble servant in the belly of the big fish.
- **Session 2 (Apr. 14):** Witness Jonah's anger flare against God once again as the Ninevites repent of their evil ways and avoid disaster. God's powerful yet tender rebuke reveals His abounding compassion and desire to save all people from sin.

We often feel safe within the boundaries of prejudice or self-righteousness we establish for ourselves, but problems arise when we fail to remember we are all sinners in need of a merciful Savior.

In this two-week course, Jonah: Depths of Mercy, discover God's barrier-breaking impartiality in His mercy and judgments. Unpack the life of Jonah, a prophet from Israel sent to speak outside Israel. Jonah's hard-heartedness against the city of Nineveh and resentment towards God's mercy led him to run from God's call. However, the central message of this book is not Jonah's resistance or Nineveh's peril, but God's heart for the people He created.

# Discipleship Class

March 2<sup>nd</sup>

## When Your Way Isn't Working

by Kyle Idelman

Don't miss out! This will be the last scheduled Discipleship class for a while.

Discipleship class led by Mike Palovik

\*\*\*\*\*

## TBF *Women's Ministries*

Ladies' Bible study

### When You Pray by Lifeway Women

See Bulletin for Details.

Do you have trouble thinking of words to say to God when you pray? Are you afraid some emotions are too intense to express to God? Do you reach the end of a day only to realize you haven't prayed at all? You're not alone. Prayer is the way we relate to God, but sometimes it's a struggle. Throughout God's Word, we encounter many voices who teach us how to pray.

In this 7-session study, join with six beloved Bible teachers who will help you study prayers in the Bible that can inspire your own. You'll learn that God welcomes your praise and lament, your thanksgiving and intercession. You'll see examples of how to pray when you're alone and when you're gathered with others. Above all, you'll notice there's no one right way to pray. As you draw near to God through prayer, you'll find your faith strengthened and your heart united to Christ.

\*\*\*\*\*

SAVE THE DATE

## WOMEN'S MINISTRY ORGANIZATION MEETING

There will be a Women's Ministry organizational meeting on Monday, March 10th in the youth room. 4 PM. All are invited!!!

# TBF Family Ministries

Happy March, Church Family!

Continuing our discussion from last month on love, I wanted to take an entire letter to discuss the fourth Greek love word. In review, the English word love has four different Greek translations. These are: storge (STOR-gee), a familial love or universal love, the most widely used “love”, philia (FILL-ee-uh), brotherly love, and how Christians should feel for one another, and eros (AIR-ose), marital love, how a husband and wife should love each other, as Christ loves the Church in such a manner that life can occur. This month we will discuss agape love.

Agape love is defined as a pure, willful, and sacrificial love that intentionally desires another’s highest good. It originates from scripture, unlike the other types of love. One of the biggest differences with this love is that it is not a feeling or an obligation, rather it is a choice. The Bible verse that explains this the best is John 3:16: “For God so loved the world that He gave His only son so whoever believes in Him shall have eternal life.” God did not have a feeling of love that drove Him, nor was it an obligation, it was a choice. While we were enemies, Christ died for us. In war, you do not choose to jump on the grenade for an enemy, but for a brother in arms. Jesus chose to die for our sins to make us sons and daughters of the King. Jesus did not do this for anything that we can give to God. Our righteous deeds are filthy rags (Isaiah 64:6), and we are unable to justify ourselves by our own actions. We needed a pure and righteous sacrifice who, by His own choice, came and tabernacled with us, lived among us, and willingly laid down His life to rescue us

1 John 4:7-5:4 talks about love. Beginning with the truth that God is love. This love is not storge, a love for anyone for any reason, or philia, a love for those like Him, rather God is agape, a pure, willful self-sacrificial love. Further along, we are told that we need to love (agape) others. The beauty of this kind of love is that it multiplies in our lives. But remember, this love is not a feeling we have toward others, nor is it an obligation, rather it is a choice we must make moment by moment. As we choose to love others, it becomes easier to love and care for others. The clearest place that we are called to agape love is with our closest neighbor: our spouse. In Ephesians 5:25 husbands are called to agape love their wives as Christ agape loved the church. Before people quote verse 24 where wives submit to their husbands, the husband must choose to love her self-sacrificially caring for her needs before his own, then she can agape love him by submitting to him. This month I want us to think about how we are showing agape love in our lives. How are we showing that Jesus agape loves the world through our lives?

In the love of Christ,  
Pastor Rob

## Parenting Class

Tuesdays at 6 PM  
Meets at TBF in classroom

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



# Kindred Community

Monday, March 24th 6-8 PM  
Stephens County Fairgrounds  
Hosted by Open Range Cowboy Church

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 March 17th - Beautiful Day 580.786.6009

\*\*\*\*\*

## Listen Up and Save the Date, Tanglewood! WOW Wednesday-April 30<sup>th</sup>

Some of you may already be familiar with our special guests, Gospel singer Dale Rochell and his wife Janell from Marlow. Janelle is the former teacher this area and is one of the exercise instructors at the Simmons Center.



Dale is a very popular Gospel music singer and has appeared with many other well-known Gospel singers at various places like Branson and Nashville. It is an honor to have him share his talent with Tanglewood.

His resume includes three #1 singles and ten have made the top 10 nationally, a music video that was nominated for top country Gospel music of the year. Currently his music video "Home" was nominated for Country Gospel Music Video of 2024.

Be sure to invite a friend or two!

# 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.

## **Resurrection by Leo Tolstoy**

I love Tolstoy. The more explicitly Christian, "moralizing," or political his writing is, the more I enjoy it. There is something so profound in his writing I haven't been able to find anywhere else.

This is the easiest to read of his three large novels. It is much shorter and has an easier-to-follow, simpler narrative. It follows a young noble who ends up on a jury to judge a young prostitute for murder. The problem is our noble seduced this young woman, got her pregnant, and then abandoned her, which led her down her current life choices. The rest of the novel is our hero wrestling with his own spiritual awakening and trying to do what is right.

A lot of the story centers around prison and the justice system. Here you can feel the full force of Tolstoy's political raging. But I don't know how you can complain about it. The justice system in Russia at this point was horrific. The morality of every character in the story is revealed in how they respond to the suffering of others.

I loved the story. It was easy to follow and to get wrapped up in the spiritual and emotional journey. It gave me plenty to think about and meditate on.

## **Diary of a Pastor's Soul: The Holy Moments in a Life of Ministry by M. Craig Barnes**

This is a book I would have laughed at and mocked in seminary, but now I find it healing and comforting. The book is a weird place of fiction and non-fiction. It is the diary of a pastor in his last year of ministry before he retires. The author has taken plenty of his own story and feelings while pastoring and written them down here while changing details here and there. I interpret it as a fictional story from a real pastor who knows what it is like.

There is plenty I would disagree with and do differently. But the beauty of the book is that you can find another pastor who knows what it means to pastor. If you have ever wondered what it feels like to be a pastor, this is a great book to read.

## **Marriage and Virginit by St. Augustine**

Augustine, and the patristics in general, are often characterized as having bizarre theological opinions around sex. The strength of this collection is that it allows Augustine to speak in his own words. This brings together five different works on marriage, adultery, widows, virginity, and celibacy. There is a short introduction before each work that provides helpful context which is useful in understanding why he would state something that he does. The translations are also accessible and easily readable, at least I found them to be so.

I was honestly surprised by what I found in Augustine's writings. He is incredibly consistent in his convictions around sexuality, and they are far more based on the Biblical text than I was led to believe. His primary guiding force seems to be where Paul describes singleness as better than marriage. Since it is better, it is not just something optional but something all believers should pursue. This guides his opinion about sex inside of marriage, divorce, and the possibility of remarriage.

In our sex-obsessed and confused culture, it is good to read Christians from another culture and age reminding us what Christians have always believed about sexuality. Even though we will disagree with his conclusions, it will do us good to have our blindspots confronted.