



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

Second Advent

The Old Testament does prophesy the second coming of Christ, also referred to as the second advent of the Messiah. Some Old Testament prophecies concern the first advent, when Christ was born as a human being. Others concern the second advent, which is the ultimate triumph of this Messiah. It's important to remember that prophecy does not describe the future in the same detail as history describes the past. So, while the prophecies of the Old Testament certainly describe both the first and second advents, most early interpretations of these prophecies melded them into a single event. Particularly during the years leading up to Jesus' birth, it was assumed Messiah would be a political/military figure with an immediate worldly kingdom (Luke 19:11). In the light of Jesus' ministry, it is possible to understand the true purpose of Christ and the real nature of His kingdom.

A careful look at Old Testament prophecies shows an underlying assumption of two advents. Micah 5:2 and Isaiah 7:14 predict the first advent. Separately, Isaiah 53:8-9 predicts a suffering and dying Messiah, who will be given life and greatness according to Isaiah 53:11-12. Daniel 9:26 describes the Messiah being killed after His appearance. At the same time, prophets such as Zechariah (Zechariah 12:10) say this same "pierced" Messiah will be seen again by His enemies. So, the clues are there.

Many Old Testament prophecies foretell the ultimate triumph of Christ, which will occur at the second advent. These include statements from the books of Zechariah (Zechariah 9:14-15; 12:10-14; 13:1); Amos (Amos 9:11-15); Jeremiah (Jeremiah 30:18; 32:44; 33:11, 26); and Joel (Joel 3:1); which describe the Messiah coming in triumph to lead Israel into salvation. Note that these are in the context of passages such as Deuteronomy 30:3-5 and so are predictions of the time of Messiah's final victory.

Also, Scripture records Jesus making direct comparisons to Old Testament prophecies when making His own claims to a second advent. For example, His words in Matthew 24:31 and Mark 13:27 parallel the descriptions of Isaiah 52:15 and Isaiah 59-62.

All in all, the Hebrew Scriptures indicate that the Promised One would appear, be cut off, and then reappear in victory. The first advent has occurred; the second is still future. Both the New and Old Testaments predict a second advent of the Messiah.

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

Dear TBF church family,

December begins the season of Advent in the Christian calendar. Advent comes from the Latin word for “coming.” This is the time of year we celebrate Christ’s first coming and look forward with hope toward His coming again. Lent is a more sober, serious time focused on the cross and marked by fasting. Advent is a time of celebration and anticipation.

I did not grow up with the Christian calendar or celebrating Advent. I discovered it later in life and have found it immensely helpful. It has kept me focused on what this season means for followers of Christ instead of being swept up in the world’s ideas. For the month of December, I want to help teach you about the meaning of Advent and help us all stay focused on Jesus.

As part of our observance of Advent this year, we will light Advent candles as a church family. Advent candles are basically a countdown to Christmas. Growing up as a family, we had a calendar we used to countdown to Christmas. This tradition of lighting candles to countdown to Christmas is a recent development that started in the early eighteenth hundreds in Germany. It slowly made its way over to America in the twentieth century.

Each Sunday we will light a candle as we read the Scriptures reminding us of the significance of Jesus’ coming. There are five advent candles. One is lit each week; the fifth candle is usually white and represents Christ. The last candle is usually lit on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. The other four candles each represent a theme of Advent: hope, joy, peace, and love.

Our sermon series will examine each of these “themes” of Advent, one at a time. We will study four different passages in Isaiah that prophecy how Jesus will bring true hope, joy, peace, and love. Each week we will see what Israel believed the Messiah would do, how Jesus fulfilled God’s promises in His first advent, and what we are still waiting for Him to accomplish.

My hope is that this Advent we will be able to focus on Jesus together. That these candles will remind us how the light of Jesus shines even in a very dark world. Remember that Jesus came and look forward to His coming again.

Pastor David Shields



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: The Mystery of the Trinity
- ✚ MEN'S BIBLE STUDY: Acts
- ✚ WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY: Jesus and Women
- ✚ PARENTING CLASS: Duties of Parents by JC Ryle.
- ✚ TEA & TINSEL: December 9th
- ✚ WASSAIL NIGHT: December 10th
- ✚ NO CHURCH WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 27TH

TBF Men's Ministries

Meets TBF Youth Room – 6:30 PM

Monday Dec. 11: Week 5 - Acts 6:8-7:50 - Stephen's Witness

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.

2nd Part of the Study of Acts starts in January!

Kindred Community

New Hope Baptist Church

Thursday, December 14th 6:00 – 8:00 PM

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 - Jan Palovik 580.786.6009

TBF *Women's Ministries*

December Happenings:

Christmas Decorating

The current plan is to meet together on December 4th to decorate the church for the holiday season. Anyone with an eye for decorating or just a desire to give a helping hand is welcome to join us.

Tea and Tinsel

Save the date! T & T has been scheduled to take place on Dec 9th at 10 am at the church. We will brunch and enjoy a time of worship and teaching via podcast from Kristi McLelland. The title of her presentation is "Prepare Him Room." Those of you who have participated in the Women's Bible Study recently will know that this will be an awesome time of learning from Kristi. There will be a sign-up sheet for attendance and help with food in the foyer in the next few weeks. Please invite your friends to share this time of fellowship and worship with us. Just let us know how many you are bringing with you!!

Wassail Night

Sunday, December 10th. Church wide dinner. Soups provided by the Women's ministry. Sign up sheet in the foyer.

Christmas Outreach

We will be planning a Christmas mission project. Details will be forthcoming.

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. Dates and time to be announced.

TBF Family Ministries

Happy December, church family!

This month, in honor of Christmas, I want to talk about the four themes of Advent and how they should help frame our thoughts, not only in the Christmas season but for the entire year. The four themes if you, like myself, grew up not celebrating Advent are hope, peace, joy, and love.

Hope is a word that is thrown around so much that it has lost a lot of its power. Hope is not simply a wish for a better turnout, but rather a statement of trust that a circumstance will change for the better. Isaiah 11:1-10 is such a beautiful illustration of hope. It is based on Jesus first and foremost, and who Jesus is. He is the just judge directed not by what he hears or sees but rather by the fear of the Lord, based on righteousness. Verses 6-9 show us the world that we are hoping for; the world ruled by the just judge. And verse 10 gives us faith in our hopes because Jesus is not only for a select few but for any of the nations who will call upon His name. We should have hope in our lives, a confident belief that it will get better, despite what is happening around us not because we think it might get better but because we know the King and we know that if not in this life, then in the next world, everything will be perfect.

Our hearts' desire is for peace, but we are never able to find peace in the things of this world. Matthew 11:28-30 is Jesus' offering for peace, offering it to anyone who is weak and heavy laden. All have been trying to find something to have a sense of fulfillment or peace in earthly things, but instead, it leaves them always wanting more and tired. Jesus offers something better: He offers himself and in Jesus we find peace, but not idleness; rather we are called to learn from Jesus to take on His yoke and do the work that He commands us to do. We sometimes (especially if we have been following Jesus for a long time) think that we should just be idle because we don't feel at peace anymore, but Jesus calls us to take His yoke, and in that yoke, we will find peace and rest for our souls.

Joy and happiness have similar meanings, but they are not the same. They depend on what your focus is on. If you find your joy in the things of this world, then when they are taken away you will lose your happiness and anger will take its place. But if you find your joy in the Lord rather than an idol, then you can lose everything and still have joy because the focus of your life is on the unchanged God of the universe rather than our fleeting circumstances. I love Psalm 16 because it paints such a profound and stark difference between finding joy in God and joy in the idols of this life and it ends with a powerful statement: "You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore." Where our joy is found will direct how we hope and if we have peace.

Love is both the glue that binds us and what animates us. Love is an attribute of God; it is the thing base our hope on, that we find peace from, and where our joy originates. God is love. If we do not love then we cannot be of God (1 John 4:7-12). 1 Corinthians 13 tells us what love is and it is how we should treat one another. Love is an action, not a feeling.

As we enter into Christmas time, I pray that it is a peaceful time spent with family and friends and reflecting on what Jesus' first coming meant for us as we look forward to His return and the new world He will bring. I hope that these themes of Advent don't stop pricking each of our hearts and continually lead us closer to Christ.

In the love of Christ,

Pastor Rob

World Religious Views



Sun Worship – Solstice and Equinox Rituals

The Bible has quite a bit to say about sun worship, because ancient cultures commonly worshiped the sun, and God had a different plan for His people. In pre-scientific, pagan understanding, it was the sun that was responsible for bringing about each new day. It also warmed the earth and finally brought about the end of each winter, providing the necessary conditions for planting and cultivation. It was the largest object in the sky. Its brilliance was overpowering, and its heat could destroy. In the ancient world, the sun was the most powerful object known to man. As a result, it was common for ancient peoples to worship the sun or perhaps, more accurately, the sun-deity. The ancients would not have viewed the sun as an inanimate object, but rather as a deity or as part of a deity. The distinction between the physical and spiritual or the natural and supernatural was far less distinct than in modern thinking.

All of the nations surrounding Israel were involved in sun worship. In Egypt the sun god was called Amun-Ra; in Mesopotamia, Shamash; and in Canaan, Shemesh. One of the Canaanite cities conquered by the Israelites was Beth-Shemesh, "house of the sun," which may have been a center of sun worship (Joshua 19:22). The Babylonians and Assyrians were also involved in sun worship.

As pervasive as it was in the surrounding nations, sun worship was forbidden to Israel. The first chapter of Genesis sets the sun in proper context as a creation of God that He made to serve the needs of mankind (Genesis 1:14–19). Neither the sun nor the moon nor the starry hosts are deities. Deuteronomy 4:19 and 17:2–5 specifically forbid the worship of the sun. This prohibition notwithstanding, Israel did get involved in sun worship. Josiah in his reforms did away with the priests who had sacrificed to the sun (2 Kings 23:11). Ezekiel revealed that sun worship was taking place at the very entrance to the temple, "between the portico and the altar," as men were literally turning their backs on the temple of the Lord (Ezekiel 8:16). Jeremiah condemned the kings, officials, prophets, priests, and people of Jerusalem who had worshiped the sun. In fitting irony, Jeremiah predicts a coming judgment on the idolaters: "At that time, declares the Lord, the bones of the kings and officials of Judah, the bones of the priests and prophets, and the bones of the people of Jerusalem will be removed from their graves. They will be exposed to the sun and the moon and all the stars of the heavens, which they have loved and served and which they have followed and consulted and worshiped. They will not be gathered up or buried" (Jeremiah 8:1–2).

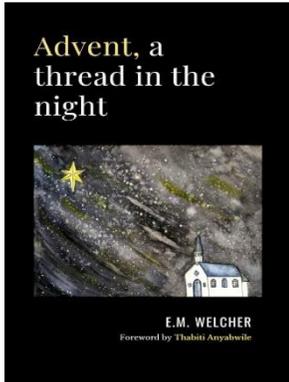
Romans 1 highlights mankind's descent into idolatry. When people look at the incredible power and brilliance of the sun, their first response should be to worship the One who made the sun, not to worship the sun itself. "The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness, since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse. For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened" (Romans 1:18–21). "They exchanged the truth about God for a lie; and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen" (verse 25). The sun was created as a good gift to benefit mankind. Our response should be to thank God for the sun, but, true to fallen human nature, people instead worship the sun itself, neglecting its Creator.

Gotquestions.org

Canaanite sun god Baal, Babylonian sun god – Marduk, Assyrian sun god – Hadad, Hindu sun god – Surya, Norse sun god – Sol, Hitite sun god – Arinna, Aztec sun god – Huitzilopochtli, Greek sun god – Helios, Incan sun god – Inti, Celtic sun god – Lugh, Persian sun god – Mithra, Japanese sun god – Amaterasu, Russian sun goddess – Saule, German sun goddess – Sunna, etc.....

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.

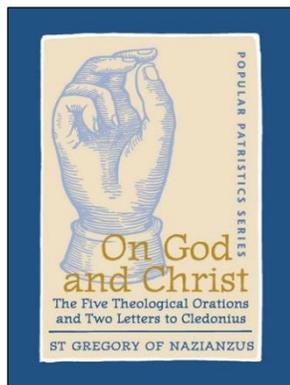
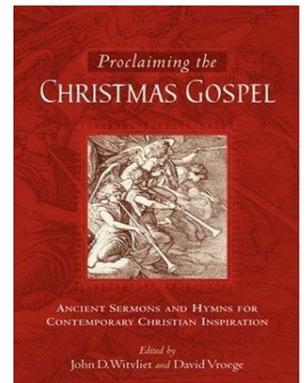


Advent, A Thread in the Night by E. M. Welcher

I really love this book. It is a book of short poems mostly about Evan's grief of losing his first wife to cancer. It is filled with raw honesty and yet is full of the hope of Jesus. It is meant to be read as Advent devotionals. I tried to only read one a day, but I eventually had to break down and read it all at once. It works perfectly as Advent reading but could be read any time during the year. I think even those who are turned off by poetry will be drawn in. Evan's poetry is simple and honest. The beauty is in the simplicity and profoundness of a few simple words. I continually had to put the book down and weep, or just stare off in the distance reflecting on his words. I especially recommend this to those who struggle during the holiday season.

Proclaiming the Christmas Gospel: Ancient Sermons and Hymns for Contemporary Christian Inspiration

This is a beautiful collection of Christmas sermons throughout church history. You have early patristic sermons, medieval offerings, and messages from the time of the Reformation. They all reflect on the beauty and wonder of the incarnation and birth of Jesus. I read it devotionally and loved it. Each sermon is encouraging in its own way. For two thousand years, Christians have proclaimed the good news of Christ's birth and yet we have not yet begun to run out of things to say about Jesus.



On God and Christ by Gregory of Nazianzus

Gregory was a pastor and theologian in the fourth century. He is most well known for defending the faith from heretics who denied the Trinity and the divinity of Jesus. These sermons are theologically rich but still understandable. These works are all centered on the Trinity and the divine/human nature of Christ. He defends both doctrines from heresy with some of the best and clear explanations I've ever heard. He even manages to work in some jokes. It is a gift to be able to read these sermons after so much time has passed.