



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.

Reformation Day

On October 31, much of the culture will be focused on candy and things that go bump in the night. Protestants, however, have something far more significant to celebrate on October 31. It's Reformation day, which commemorates what was perhaps the greatest move of God's Spirit since the days of the Apostles. But what is the significance of Reformation Day, and how should we consider the events it commemorates?

At the time, few would have suspected that the sound of a hammer striking the castle church door in Wittenberg, Germany, would soon be heard around the world and lead ultimately to the greatest transformation of Western society since the apostles first preached the Gospel throughout the Roman empire. Martin Luther's nailing of his Ninety-Five Theses to the church door on October 31, 1517, provoked a debate that culminated finally in what we now call the Protestant Reformation.

An heir of Bishop Augustine of Hippo, Martin Luther is one of the most significant figures God has raised up since that time. This law student turned Augustinian monk became the center of a great controversy after his theses were copied and distributed throughout Europe. Initially protesting the pope's attempt to sell salvation, Luther's study of Scripture soon led him to oppose the church of Rome on issues including the primacy of the Bible over church tradition and the means by which we are found righteous in the sight of God.

This last issue is probably Luther's most significant contribution to Christian theology. Though preached clearly in the New Testament and found in the writings of many of the church fathers, the medieval bishops and priests had largely forgotten the truth that our own good works can by no means merit God's favor. Salvation is by grace alone through faith alone, and good works result from our faith, they are not added to it as the grounds for our right standing in the Lord's eyes (Eph. 2:8-10). Justification, God's declaration that we are not guilty, forgiven of sin, and righteous in His sight comes because through our faith alone the Father imputes, or reckons to our account, the perfect righteousness of Christ (2 Cor. 5:21).

Martin Luther's rediscovery of this truth led to a whole host of other church and societal reforms and much of what we take for granted in the West would have likely been impossible had he never graced the scene. Luther's translation of the Bible into German put the Word of God in the hands of the people, and today Scripture is available in the vernacular language of many countries, enabling lay people to study it with profit. He reformed the Latin mass by putting the liturgy in the common tongue so that non-scholars could hear and understand the preached word of God and worship the Lord with clarity. Luther lifted the unbiblical ban on marriage for the clergy and by his own teaching and example radically transformed the institution itself. He recaptured the biblical view of the priesthood of all believers, showing all people that their work had purpose and dignity because in it they can serve their Creator.

Today, Luther's legacy lives on in the creeds and confessions of Protestant bodies worldwide. As we consider his importance this Reformation Day, let us equip ourselves to be knowledgeable proclaimers and defenders of biblical truth. May we be eager to preach the gospel of God to the world and thereby spark a new reformation of church and culture.

Robert Rothwell – Ligonier Ministries

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

Church family,

We are deep into Revelation and have been dealing with some of the most complicated and debated passages in the book, with plenty more still ahead. One question I often hear from people is, "Why should I work hard to understand this book when there are so many different interpretations?" It's a good question. I would like to offer a couple of reasons why this effort is worth it.

First, it is worth it because we have been commanded to read, meditate, and study God's Word. None of us would dispute that God has asked us to read His word. However, sometimes we act like this command only applies to the easy parts. Psalms 119 is all about the Psalmist meditating on and reading the law, which would have been the most difficult part of God's word to understand. He did not just read and delight in the easy things, but in the difficult parts. We must read all of God's Word, including challenging passages in Revelation.

Second, it is worth it because it changes us. The goal of Scripture reading is not necessarily to learn more things or grow in our understanding. That often happens and is wonderful when it does. But reading God's word always changes us. 2 Corinthians 3:18 reminds us that beholding God, especially in His word, transforms us more in the likeness of Jesus. It does this when we understand it, and it does it when we read it and aren't even sure what we just read. Not studying the hard parts is missing out on a chance to be transformed into the likeness of Christ.

Third, it is worth it because it humbles us. One of the challenges of being a Christian for a long time is that we can become overly familiar with the Bible, or at least we think so. We read our favorite passages, hear sermons on the parables, and listen to the famous stories so many times that it makes us believe we have the Bible all figured out. Studying difficult passages, especially ones that we cannot figure out, helps humble us. It reminds us that the Bible has depths we will never fully reach, and it can help us recognize we might not know the Bible as well as we think.

There are other reasons I could mention: it glorifies God, it increases our faith, it strengthens our hope, it increases our confidence in God's Word, it reminds us of the grandeur of God, and more. The short answer is that yes, it is worth it. There are countless benefits to reading scripture, even when we do not understand it. May we all grow in our faith as we continue our study of this wonderful book of the Bible.

Pastor David

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 - THE PRAYER PRACTICE meets Oct. 12th
- MEN'S BIBLE STUDY - RUTH meets Oct. 6th and Oct. 20th
- WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY - LUKE IN THE LAND Meets Oct. 9th and 23rd
- PARENTING CLASS - Meets Oct. 7th and 21st
- AWANAS - Every Wednesday 6:30 PM
- COMMUNION - Oct. 19th
- KINDRED COMMUNITY - Oct. 28th 6:30PM Chisholm Trail Church of Christ

Time Change
Sunday, November 2nd

Discipleship Class

Meets October 12th

The Prayer Practice

by John Mark Comer

In the hurry, distraction, and noise of the modern world, few things are more difficult or more rewarding than developing a life of prayer. As an apprentice of Jesus, it is vital to set aside time to be more deeply connected with the Father.

The Prayer Practice offers spiritual exercises, reflection questions, guided readings, and additional resources to help you and your community. Be equipped to:

- Develop a daily rhythm of prayer using both liturgical and personal approaches
- Engage in various forms of prayer, including gratitude, lament, and intercession
- Listen to God's voice through practices like *Lectio Divina*
- Move beyond words to experience contemplative union with God

Discover how dedicating intentional time to communicate and commune with God can lead to a transformed life, deeper spiritual growth, and a renewed sense of partnership with God in the world.

TBF MEN'S MINISTRIES

This year (2025-2026) our focus is two-fold: Jesus' / God's presence in our life and our relationship with Jesus. We will be studying the books of Ruth, 1 John, 1 Peter, 1 Samuel chapters 1 through 8, and John chapters 3 and 4 using the respective BSF WordGo study materials.

CONSERVATIONS WITH GOD
TBF Youth Room 6:30-7:30 PM
Led by Wolfgang Deeg

RUTH

- **Session 3 (Oct. 6):**
- **Session 4 (Oct. 20):**

Our first study is a 4-session study of the book of Ruth. The Book of Ruth tells the story of how God used a faithful non-Israelite woman to bring restoration to God's people. It's an example of love and loss and depicts a beautiful redemption in Ruth and Naomi's life pointing us toward Christ's redeeming work. In this 4-session study you will see how God's purposes and sovereign plans interplay with the human experience, with our lives.

PASTOR APPRECIATION DAY SUNDAY, OCT 12, 2025

Let's join in unity and prayer giving thanks for
Pastor David Shields and his Family

And we urge you, brethren, to recognize those who labor among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you; and to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. Be at peace among yourselves.
I Thessalonians 5:12-13

TBF Women's Ministries

Ladies' Bible study
Meets Mondays and Thursdays October 9th and 23rd
Mornings – 9:30 AM and Evenings – 6 PM

Luke in the Land
By Kristi McLelland

LOOKING AHEAD..... WOMEN'S MINISTRY FALL / WINTER PROJECTS

1. Thanksgiving baskets
2. Christmas service project
3. A new community project to help support Helping Hand in Comanche and Christians concerned in Duncan.

Watch bulletins for details on how you can volunteer, help, pray for, and/or donate to the above service projects.

TBF Family Ministries

AWANA

AWANA Every Wednesday in September at 6:30 PM

We would love to have more friends join us, so invite kids you know to AWANA (ages 2 to 5th grade) and their parents to come to Wednesday night prayer and share!

If you are interested in volunteering, please reach out to Brianna.

Parenting Class

OCTOBER 7TH AND 21ST 5:30PM

“ANXIOUS GENERATION”

MEETS IN THE CLASSROOM AREA. DINNER WILL BE PROVIDED.

Kindred Community

Meets October 28th from 6-8 PM

Chisholm Trail Church of Christ, Duncan, OK

Ladies are encouraged to come in costume if they choose to do so.

It will be a fun night for sure!

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 Beautiful Day 580.786.6009

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.

The Unfinished Bombing by Edward Tabor Linenthal

This book has little to do with the Oklahoma City bombing itself. Instead, it is primarily focused on the community and national response to the bombing. This unique viewpoint can be difficult to adjust to if you are expecting a closer examination of the bombing itself and the events leading up to it, but it offers insight that has been lost in other kinds of works. I am not sure that I have ever read anything quite like this book.

It is thoroughly researched. The author wrote this book a few years after the bombing. It gave me plenty to chew on. He repeatedly wonders at religious people's inability to sit in silence or to lament violence. Too often, there is a quick response to explain away the devastation. The chapter examining how the memorial was created is worth the entire book. It was a long and difficult process that somehow managed to end with all of the various groups of people satisfied.

One of the interesting perspectives of the book is that it was written before 9/11. He repeatedly wonders if this event will just be forgotten after the next attack. He was also ahead of the curve in noticing how everything was being labeled as PTSD and trauma. He was right that this event was difficult for even those on the periphery. However, he was uncomfortable with someone who watched it on the news being diagnosed the same as an emergency worker who carried out the bodies of the dead.

Overall, this is a niche book. Don't read it if you just want to learn more about the bombing itself. But it is worth reading if you want to learn more about the memorial, or how human beings respond to tragedy and the stories we tell ourselves.

The Art of Disagreeing: How to Keep Calm and Stay Friends in Hard Conversations by Gavin Ortlund

Gavin is a wonderful model of how to disagree well with others. I have seen him live this out through his example and the way he engages with critics in his apologetic work. This short book does a great job of encouraging the right way to enter into these discussions. I especially appreciate how he focuses on how to have the hard conversation in a way that is good instead of simply trying to avoid the conversation or ignore the disagreement. It is a timely book that we all need in these divisive days. It is probably one that I will reread every few years.

The Power Broker: Robert Moses and the Fall of New York by Robert A. Caro

This book is a masterpiece. Robert Caro has set the gold standard for what biographies should be like, and no one else comes close. I will be thinking about this book for a long time. The biography is about Robert Moses, but it is also the story of power and New York City. Moses physically shaped the destiny of NYC more than any other individual in history, becoming the most powerful person in the city who withstood mayors, governors, and even presidents, and managed all this through a simple parks department.

The biography is shaped around power. It follows Moses's early life and first attempts in politics as an idealist reformer. He compromised his ideals in order to gain power to make his dreams a reality. And slowly over time, the power shaped him into a monster. His destruction and wickedness continually floored me.

This book is a massive tome. It is not an easy read and is filled with plenty of Caro-style meandering; the 200 pages about electricity coming to Texas in his LBJ biography came to mind. However, it is absolutely enthralling and never boring. He manages to craft this story in a way that kept me turning and staying up late into the night, reading about roads and the inner workings of politics.

Soli Deo Gloria