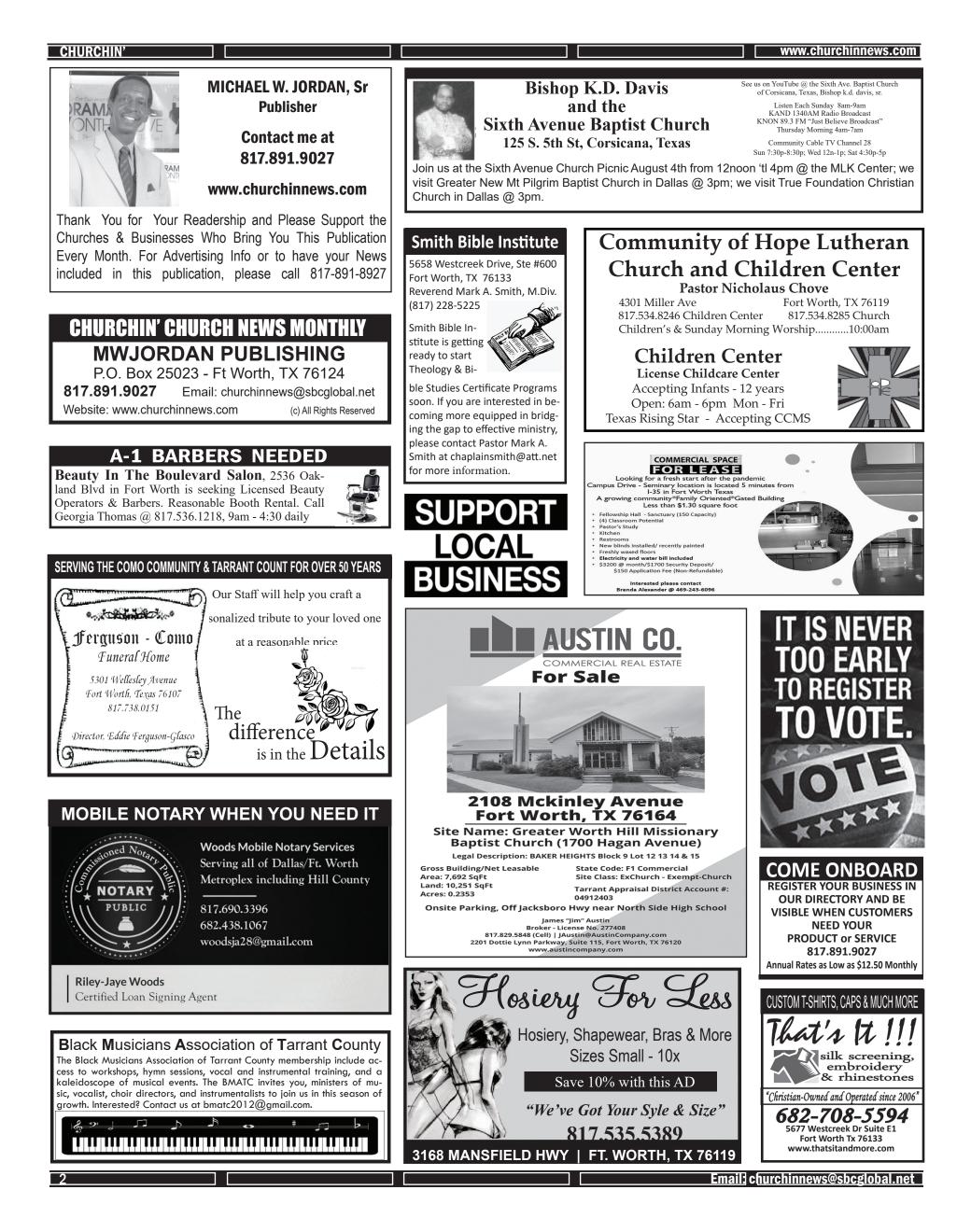


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"The LEADER'S EDGE" by drmichaelbell

Jesus is called the world's greatest teacher; and rightfully so. No one ever spoke the way he did. He understood clearly the motives, the hopes, the dreams, the fears and the frustrations of those to whom he spoke.

Scottish theologian and Professor of Divinity and Biblical Criticism at the University of Glasgow, William Barclay, who died in 1978, points out that in the New Testament gospel accounts we find several titles for Jesus. He is called Rabbi, Teacher, and Master more than 50 times. All three titles really mean "Teacher." In fact, the word translated most frequently "master" is "didaskalos," meaning an instructor, or teacher; it is, in actuality, translated ten times "teacher" elsewhere in the Word.

Jesus was a theological educator. He was, of course, much more than that, but certainly no less. He was always teaching, even at the age of twelve, in his discussion with the religious leaders in the temple (Luke 2:46-47). His work at teach ing others was tireless. Jesus taught large groups and small groups, including his closest disciples. He took the time to teach individuals. He met at night with Nicodemus, a revered and aged member of the Sanhedrin (John 3:1 ff). Seated beside a well in Samaria, he taught a solitary woman from a nearby city (John 4:7 ff).

Regardless of the time, place, or size of his audience, Jesus taught. This trait of being a "Christian leader" has been pressed upon all disciples, especially regarding the issue of teaching others. In giving the Great Commission, Jesus charged the disciples to "go and teach" (Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16). We must follow our Lord's example and be teachers.

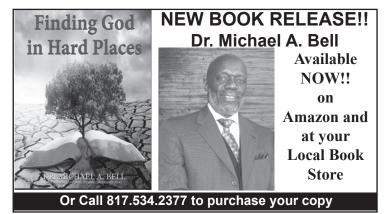
The church that Jesus built is a learning and teaching organism. Teaching is foundationally indispensable to the life of the Church. The Community of the followers of Christ – from its inception – has always been a teaching movement. Teaching must happen for Christians to grow. This is where leadership within a local congregation is critical. What are the clergy and lay ministry doing to develop a love for learning and teaching within the heart of each member of the congregation?



The biblical writers and Jesus in particular, claimed to offer knowledge about the way things are - not simply spirituality tips about being a better person. Jesus offered knowledge about the way things really are. Hosea 4:6 opens with profound insight, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge." Knowledge is what puts us in touch with reality, with truth. It allows us to successfully navigate reality.

Let me break this down like a fraction. Every ministry leader is a teacher, or at least should be. I read in a book somewhere that "any sermon that starts in the Bible and stays in the Bible is not biblical." The church's preaching and teaching should help us traverse the rocky terrain of reality. So, the church is on point when it teaches about the peril of Project 2025 or the treacherous intentions of those who work overtime to suppress voter participation. The Word of God speaks to these existential threats and the pastor should lead the charge in bringing biblical revelation to bear on the way things really are and what our next potential moves should be. AND ministry leaders should step up and shoulder the responsibility for connecting what God says to the choices we make and the way we live our daily lives.

drmichaelbell is Senior Pastor-Resident Theologian of Greater St. Stephen First Church FtW, a seminary adjunct professor and a certified Life Coach. He conducts leadership seminars and conferences across the country. He is the author of "Finding God in Hard Places" and is a contributor to the book "Justice Looks Like."





The Greenway Church Virtual Services & Worship

Faith and worship don't happen in one room, they happen wherever you are. The Greenway Church offers virtual church services to customers in Fort Worth and beyond. We celebrate our shared faith and fellowship even when we can't physically come together, to nurture shared community and spiritual needs. Http://tegreenwaychurch.mymobisite.us

Speak Life Thought with First Lady & Co-Pastor Yolanda G. Butler

"An Impatient Life"

"Patience leads to abundant understanding, but impatience leads to stupid mistakes." Proverbs 14:29 CEB

The Biblical definition of patience is steadfast waiting, endurance, sustaining power, perseverance, slowness in avenging wrongs, forbearance, and calm. Its antonym, "impatience," is a lack of patience; irritation with anything that causes delay; and a restless desire for change and excitement.

Impatience can stem from pride, unbelief, and frustration. It can be rooted in self-centeredness and even a rebellious mindset when you place other matters, people, and things as more important than God. Impatience can cause you to become restless, irritable, quick-tempered, agitated, frustrated, and snappy. Impatience can cause faith to become dim and hope to become grim. It can cause you to waver at the promises of God and not trust His timing or will for your life.

Impatience will rob you of forbearance, praying for others, doing good for others, sharing love with others, and friendships. It can cause you to make hasty or irrational decisions and ally with unhealthy relationships. Impatience can cloud your judgment, common sense, and perception pushing you to make poor decisions that can cost you much.

Abraham became impatient and fathered Ishmael out of his own flesh, which caused problems that continue to this day. Sarah became impatient and doubted God's promise to Abraham that he would be the father of many, which caused her belief to waver. Moses became angry and impatient with the people. In his frustration, he struck the rock, and while it released water for the nation, he could not enter the promised land because he misrepresented God. King Saul became impatient when Samuel didn't arrive on time, which led him to act in haste and cost him the kingdom. Peter's impatient personality magnified his faults, but he eventually learned the power of the fruit of patience.

Can you identify? Has impatience invaded your life? Do you find yourself paying the price for surrendering to impatience rather than patience?

Two areas that challenge patience for me are poor communication and disorganization on the part of others. Recognizing that when these buttons are pushed can cause my attitude to turn to frustration and irritation, I find myself daily asking Holy Spirit



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to help me magnify the fruit of patience above the flesh of impatience.

1 Cor 13:4 tells us that "love is patient." Therefore, patience is motivated by love. In all that you endeavor to do, if love is the motivating factor, patience will follow suit. The fruit of patience says I am not swayed away from deliberate purpose nor faith by even the greatest challenges, tests, or trials. So dear hearts, if patience leads you to good understanding then be determined to yield to this fruit of patience, motivated by love, and let it have its perfect work in you (James 1:4).

Dr. Yolanda G. Butler is Co-Pastor and Church Administrator of Praise Center Community Church, where her husband Bishop Donald H. Butler is the Senior Pastor. She is an intercessor, evangelist, mentor, and published author. Follow her on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and www.firstladybutlerministries.net..

6 Key Facts: What the Law Says Pastors and Churches Can **Do During Election Season**

FOR THE SAKE OF AMERICA PRAY VOTE STAND

As the 2024 election rapidly approaches, religious leaders and people of faith across the country are asking, "What are my rights when it comes to addressing political issues?"

4 Things Churches and Pastors Are Legally ALLOWED to Do **During Elections**

The number of things pastors can do during election season far outweigh the number of things they can't do-in both quantity and importance.

It's Okay to Speak About Political Issues in the Church

It is a misconception that pastors cannot address political issueseven "hot button" issues like abortion, same-sex marriage and gun control—from the pulpit. Any person or entity that attempts to silence a pastor for addressing these issues is violating that pastor's constitutional rights under the First Amendment. Pastors have every right under the First Amendment to talk about any of those issues, and there's never been any case in American history that said pastors can't do that. Historically in America and in many places around the world, government and religion have never been mutually exclusive concepts; rather, they coexist. America's Founders saw religion as a necessary component to a healthy, moral society-not a taboo topic to bar completely from the political realm; neither was political talk to be barred from churches. Sermons on politics, government and controversial issues were common at our nation's founding, and popular among pastors and churches on varying sides of the political spectrum.

Religious Leaders Can Educate Their Congregation About Politics

Religious leaders are tasked with equipping their congregants in works of service, and that includes representing their faith and morality in the voting booth. Pastors are fully protected when it comes to issues like educating members of their church about the political process, handing out non-partisan voter guides and flyers so members can read about each candidate's platform, and even providing the opportunity for members to register to vote.

Inviting Political Candidates to Speak at Church is Allowed

Contrary to popular belief, pastors and churches can invite political candidates to address their congregation from the pulpit, as long as all the candidates in a race are included in the invitation. What if only one candidate accepts the

invitation and shows up? No problem!

Pastors Can Participate in Politics in Their Individual Capacity Serving in ministry does not disqualify pastors or other religious leaders from their individual rights as U.S. citizens. Pastors can participate on political campaigns, hold office on political campaigns, and even endorse a candidate in their individual capacity.

2 Things Religious Leaders **CANNOT Do During Elections**

According IRS regulations, there are only two things that pastors and churches, when classified as a 501(c)(3) organization, cannot do:

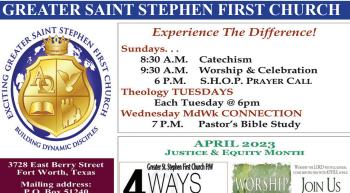
A Church Entity May Not Endorse One Candidate Over Another

This does not mean that a pastor-in his individual capacity as an American citizen-may not endorse one candidate over another. A 501(c)(3) church or organization may not, however, endorse one candidate over another or be publicly against one candidate over the other.

A Church May Not Give its Money to One Candidate Over Another

This doesn't mean that pastors or church members, in their individual capacities as American citizens, cannot donate to the political campaign of their choice. They can even be the Campaign Chair for a candidate if they want. But an official 501(c)(3) organization may not donate church funds or resources to one political candidate over another. Of course, this is not something we have ever seen churches desiring to do.

CHURCH FAMILY...



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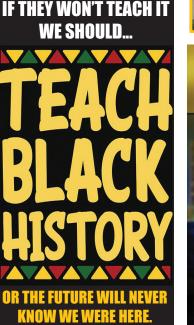
Mt. Ararat Missionary Baptist Church 1313 East Mulkey St | Fort Worth, TX 76104 | (817)-923-9761 "The Church That Cares About Your Soul! - WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES -Sunday School......9:45 a.m.

Morning Worship......10:30 a.m. Streaming on Facebook Live Wednesday Night Bible Study Zoom Meeting......7:00 p.m. Pastor Donald F Wilson Jr. 1st Lady Rebecca Mack Wilson



Pic 1) With Judge Maryellen Hicks, Elrita Penson-Rogers, And Edna Wilson-Wilkins at BooRays of New Orleans at Bridal Shower of Miss. Preshawn Ford; Pic 2) Bride to Be Preshawn Ford her Daugther, Trinity with Paulette Sheree Byars with her Mother Jacqueline Byars and Daughter; Pic 3) At Double Tree Hilton Hotel for Masonic Easten Star with Queen of the South Chapter of Ft. Worth members at 2024 Grand Session.

Around the Community with Pastor Sharon Ford-Turner



Email: churchinnews@sbcglobal.net



CHURCHIN'

Project 2025 - there are those who don't wish you well



The 2025 Presidential Transition Project, also known as Project 2025, is an initiative organized by the Heritage Foundation with the aim of promoting a collection of conservative and right-wing policy proposals to reshape the United States federal government and consolidate executive power should Donald Trump win the 2024 presidential election. The Project asserts that the entire executive branch is under the direct control of the president under Article II of the U.S. Constitution and the unitary executive theory. It proposes reclassifying tens of thousands of federal civil service workers as political appointees, in order to replace them with loyalists more willing to enable Trump's policies. In doing so, proponents argue that the change would dismantle what they view as a vast, unaccountable, and mostly liberal government bureaucracy. The Project seeks to infuse the government and society with Christian nationalist values. Critics have characterized Project 2025 as an authoritarian, Christian nationalist plan to steer the U.S. toward autocracy. Many legal experts have said it would undermine the rule of law, the separation of powers, the separation of church and state, and civil liberties.

Project 2025 envisions widespread changes to the government, particularly economic and social policies and the role of the federal government and its agencies. The plan proposes taking partisan control of the Department of Justice (DOJ), the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the Department of Commerce, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), dismantling the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and sharply reducing environmental and climate change regulations to favor fossil fuel production. The blueprint seeks to institute tax cuts, though its writers

disagree on the wisdom of protectionism. Project 2025 recommends abolishing the Department of Education, whose programs would be either transferred to other agencies or terminated. Funding for climate research would be cut and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) would be reformed according to conservative principles. The project seeks to cut funding for Medicare and Medicaid, and urges the government to explicitly reject abortion as health care. The project seeks to eliminate coverage of emergency contraception under the Affordable Care Act and enforce the Comstock Act to prosecute those who send and receive contraceptives and abortion pills nationwide. It proposes criminalizing pornography, removing legal protections against discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, and terminating diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) programs and affirmative action by having the DOJ prosecute "anti-white racism." The Project recommends the arrest, detention, and deportation of illegal immigrants living in the U.S. It proposes deploying the military for domestic law enforcement. It promotes capital punishment and the speedy "finality" of those sentences.

Some conservatives and Republicans have criticized the plan for its stance on climate change and foreign trade. Other critics believe Project 2025 is rhetorical "window-dressing" for what would be four years of personal vengeance at any cost, in addition to trying to undo "most everything implemented" during the Biden administration. The project's authors acknowledge that most of the proposals would require the Republican Party to control both the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate. Some aspects of the plan have recently been ruled unconstitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court and would face court challenges, while others are norm-breaking proposals that might survive court challenges.

This is just a brief summary of only a few aspects of Project 2025. If any of these proposals concern you or effect you, I urge you to study the entire over 900 page document and educate all people with whom you have influence and vote to keep this from happening.

Our education begins at church, teach your people so they may prosper and be made free.











CHURCH DIRECTORY



Religion vs Spirituality: 7 Major Differences



A lot of people mistake Spirituality for Religion or some mysterious, supernatural occurrence. Some even think of it as a sect but this is because of their lack of knowledge and their fear of being manipulated.

If we move past this and try to study and understand what spirituality actually is, we'll come to a realization that it is nothing mysterious or supernatural nor in any way connected to a sect of any kind.

These differences between Religion and Spirituality will help you understand what Spirituality actually is.

Spirituality Sets You Free

Religion tells you to follow an ideology and obey certain rules or you'll be punished otherwise. Spirituality lets you follow your heart and what you feel is right. It sets you free to be what you truly are without bowing to anything that doesn't resonate as right with you nor to anyone because we are all one. It is all up to you to choose what you'll honor enough to make it divine

2. Religion Shows You Fear — Spirituality Shows You How to Be Brave Religion tells you what to fear and tells you consequences. Spirituality makes you aware of the consequences but doesn't want you to focus on the fear. It shows how to stand despite being afraid, how to move on doing what you feel it's right despite the consequences that may come. It shows you how to act on love and not on fear, it shows you how to control fear and use the best of it.

3. Religion Tells You The Truth -Spirituality Lets You Discover It Religion tells you what to believe and

what is right. Spirituality lets you discover it by yourself and understand it in your own unique way. It lets you connect with your higher self and see with your own mind what truth is because the truth as a whole is same for each one of us. It lets you believe in your own truth through your own perception of your heart.

4. Religion Separates from Other Religions — Spirituality Unites Them

Through our world there are many religions and they all preach that their story is the right story. Spirituality sees the truth in all of them and unites them because the truth is same for all of us despite our differences and uniqueness. It focuses on the quality of the divine message they share and not on the differences in details of the story they speak.

5. Religion Makes You Dependent -Spirituality Makes You Independent If you attend religious events only then you are seen as a religious person and someone who is worthy of happiness. Spirituality shows you that you don't need or depend on anything to be happy. Happiness is always found deep in ourselves and only we are responsible for it. We are always where we need to be and not just while attending at some events or buildings. Divinity is in us and that is why we are always worthy.

6. Religion Applies Punishment -**Spirituality Applies Karma**

Religion says that if we don't obey certain rules there is punishment that awaits us which relies on our belief. Spirituality lets us understand that every action has its reaction and realize that the punishment of our actions will be the reaction coming from the actions we set in motion. It relies solely on the fundamental forces of the Universe and it doesn't need you to believe in that force to be true.

7. Religion Makes You Follow Other Journey - Spirituality Lets You Create Your Own

The foundation of one religion is the story it tells about a God or Gods, their journey to enlightenment and the truth they have discovered making you follow their steps. Spirituality lets you walk your own journey to enlightenment and discover the truth in your own way following what your heart tells it's right because the truth is always the same no matter how you get to it.

Every religion came by spirituality, by the journey through which one person became God. The details of the story are not important they just help the character discover the truth. The message that shares the truth is what is important, the Divine Code of the human heart that resonates harmoniously through each of us. That is why every religion has something true in it, the truth.





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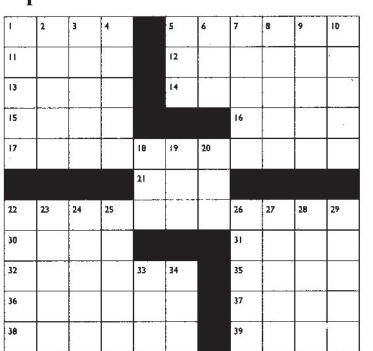
Monthly

supplies last

& Vegetables

BIBLE CROSSWORD PUZZLE **Topic: HIS**

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ACROSS

- I Familiar father
- 5 Gorges (Luke 16:26)
- II Styptic or astringent
- 12 Solid cylinder 13 Cut back
- 14 Faithless (John 10:35)
- 15 End of 22-across
- (Matt. 6:13)
- 16 Naturalness 17 Communion service (| Cor. | 1:33)
- 21 Leafy drink
- 22 Model invocation (Matt. 6:9-13)
- 30 Declare positively
- 31 Author Walter de la
- **32** Conductive elements
- 35 God's (churchyard) 36 Original
- 37 Cast off (Isa. 58:8)
- 38 Constant
- 39 Ideals, for short

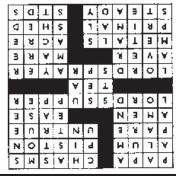








- I Re Roman church head
- 2 "Remember the 3 Cleaner (Phil. 1:15)
- 4 Rectify
- 5 Computer's "brain"
- 6 Hebrew half gallon
- 7 Walk start: 2 wds.
- (1 Sam. 17:39)
- 8 Length of leather
- 9 Computer pointing
- device
- 10 Contempt expression
- 18 Avenues: abbr. 19 Ninth mo.
- 20 Egypt-Syria alliance
- 22 Light providers
- (Exod. 25:6)
- 23 Not concealed
- 24 Knot again
- 25 Play script
- 26 Collect
- (I Chron. 29:25)
- 27 Pleasure boat
- 28 Strayed
- 29 Cane strips (Exod. 2:3)
- 33 Boy
- 34 Cunning



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