



### UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, January 1st—New Year's Eve Day: Church Office Closed  
 Monday, January 19th — MLK Day: Church Office Closed  
 Sunday, February 5th, 12th 19th & 26th GCBC Church Anniversary  
 Sunday, February 19th — Youth Black History Live Museum - After Morning Worship  
 Monday, February 20th — President Day: Church Office Closed  
 Saturday, February 25th — Moncrief Cancer Institute Mobile Unit  
 Sunday, February 26th — Unity Service  
 March 13th thru March 17th - Spring Break  
 Sunday, March 26th — Church Outing @ 3pm to Greater El Bethel MBC

### ONE CHURCH...TWO SERVICES

UNA IGLESIA... DOS SERVICIOS

SUNDAYS / DOMINGOS

English 10:00 a.m.~Español 10:00 a.m.



### Dr. Douglas E. Brown, Pastor-Teacher Start and Finish with Jesus

I remember the song "I Woke Up This Morning With My Mind On Jesus." I woke up this morning, I'm singing and praying, walking, and talking with my mind stayed on Jesus. The song was speaking of a life that throughout everyday your focus is on Jesus. That is thoughts of Jesus permeates every activity of our day.

When your eyes open in the morning, think of Jesus. While at work, school or wherever your day takes you think of Jesus. When your eyes close at night, think of Jesus. *Revelation 22:13, Jesus says, "I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last."* The idea here is, that he will thus show that he is the first and the and last—the beginning and the end. He originated the whole plan of salvation, he will determine its close; he formed the world, and he will wind up its affairs. In the beginning, the continuance, and the end, he will be recognized as the same being presiding over and controlling all. Jesus is the originator of everything we know. He is the Master/Lord of all that is or ever will be.

So, as you start your day today and as you finish it, let Christ centered thoughts be on your mind. It will affect how we treat those we encounter, how we handle the unwelcome and unwanted turbulence of our day. As we apply this minute by minute, hour by hour, and day by day, a Jesus culture will form in your life. Jesus will go from Alpha and Omega of your day to Alpha and Omega of your life.



***And don't get drunk with wine, which leads to reckless actions, but be filled by the Spirit.***

***Ephesians 5:18 (HCSB)***

### Dr. L - First Lady Change

While 2022 may have been amazing for some...not so great for others...2023 is here and I'm here for it! Happy New Year to my GCBC Family! With every new year comes new opportunities, new challenges, new hopes, new dreams, and yes, unfortunately even new nightmares... ***"Behold, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth I tell you of them" Isaiah 42:9 ESV.*** But thanks be to God...and his unchanging hands, we can approach each new year with great joy in knowing that God is still God, and He will be with you in this year just as He was in the years past.

While last year brought its own ups and downs, I am so very thankful that I remained committed to surrendering it ***ALL*** to the Lord. In refusing to no longer walk in fear, discouragement or even self-doubt, ***"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you, wherever you go!" Joshua 1:9,*** I now have a new way in which I view new year resolutions. I no longer see new year resolutions as though they are just another way of setting another set of elaborate goals...instead I view resolutions as what I believe they were intended to be...As a personal, firm decision, to make a needed change in my life...whether it be spiritually, mentally, physically, emotionally, or financially. It is about making a change that will be for the betterment of self and for those who are around and are connected to me. But of course, with change can come opposition (yes, even opposition within oneself). You may find yourself going back and forth trying to justify the decisions you have chosen or not chosen to make. But change can also bring about renewal.

And I am so thankful for the change God has brought into my life, no matter how small it may seem...because thanks be to God, I am Evolving Yet Changed: ***"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come" 2 Corinthians 5:17.*** I may not be all I should be...but I am definitely not what I used to be. So, whatever the change maybe, whether big or small...Let 2023 bring about a change that will truly renew your soul!!

Love Ya!! Dr. L



## Teaching the Saints

### Bible Study Methods

We are still talking about interpretation of the Bible, as we continue our series on how to study the Bible. While studying the bible, problems arise when a word or phrase is familiar and the meaning we attach to it makes sense in the context, yet our lack of knowledge about the history of the language misleads us. To avoid this, an accurate understanding of Scripture requires what has come to be known as exegesis.

Exegesis is reading the meaning out of the text, and is the opposite of eisegesis, reading a meaning into the text. Exegesis is allowing the Bible to speak for itself, without carrying our preconceived ideas into it. John Calvin stated, "It is the first business of an interpreter to let his author say what he does, instead of attributing to him what we think he ought to say".

We must approach the Bible text like a crime scene investigator looking for clues. While researching, having preconceived ideas about what we will find will tend to cloud the evidence, or even worse, it could possibly allow us to totally miss some evidence all together. So again, why must we interpret Scripture? Why can't we just open the Word of God, read what we are supposed to read, and then do it? Why do we have to go to so much trouble to understand the text? The answer is that time and distance have thrown up barriers between biblical writers and us, which block our understanding. We need to appreciate what those roadblocks are. They are not insurmountable, but they are substantial. In the next article, we will list those barriers that block our understanding during this interpretation process of studying the Bible.

*Rev Terrence Howard, T.H.W*

### Reach the Sinner Planting A Gospel Seed

GCBC's theological foundation is centered on the gospel, supplied with the following vital doctrinal essentials. The "coming of the Messiah," "his death and burial," and "his resurrection and his returning" are strategically laid out within the Scriptures from Genesis to Revelations. As a result of these theological facts, it is intuitive that believers recognize and understand we are to purposely live before God and our neighbor with respect to the gospel.

Therefore, GCBC, we must always give meaningful consideration to the above-listed theological facts. If you are asking why we are to do so? The answer is well documented throughout the Scriptures we are the light and a source of encouragement so that believers and non-believers may always recognize our lives are an acknowledgment and reality of the effectiveness of the gospel's power (Rom.1:16).

Therefore, without any uncertainties, believers have the authoritative consent to have the "gospel in the center" conversation, regarding our relationship with God, through his Son, which is regulated by the Holy Spirit. Our prayer for GCBC believers and all believers everywhere is that we are being enlightened and encouraged about our relationship with Yahweh, the self-existing God before creation. Hence, he existed in eternity past, proving his eternal state is forever.

The "gospel in the center" conversation is necessary due to the theological emphasis intentionally given in the Scriptures, that exposes the realism sin does exist. Consequently, sin interrupts, and interrupted the vertical relationship between humanity and a Holy God. Therefore, believers are faced with the reality we should always take into account the "gospel in the center," which is not an attempt to create an algorithm, meaning a process of rules to be followed to perform some approach to God.

The "gospel in the center" ultimately is to agree with Yahweh, the self-existing God that desires to interact in the lives of humanity according to (John 3:16), furthermore, the only approach to live with God throughout eternity (John 14:6). Therefore, as a believer, our conversation and lifestyle foundationally must exhibit that the "gospel in the center" is a reality. Likewise, we are a witness and must be ready to share with anyone that is willing to allow us to have the "gospel in the center" conversation (2 Pet. 3:15).

If a believer should study the GCBC gospel tract with the intent to have the "gospel in the center" conversation. You have a sound theological approach to lead non-believers to Christ. The "gospel in the center" conversation can begin by asking, do you know what it takes to have eternal life and go to heaven? If the answer is yes smile and praise God, however if the answer is no, ask if it is ok, I would love to share how that can happen for you.?

Then, after sharing the scriptures, end the "gospel in the center" conversation by restating, today are you ready to trust in Jesus Christ, who died for our sins according to Scripture and rose on the third according to Scripture, and if the decision is yes, (Matt 28:18-20) is being honored and fulfilled right before your eyes. Please encourage the new believer to follow Christ in Baptism. Please provide this email [dallen@gcbcfw.org](mailto:dallen@gcbcfw.org) and 817-346-1869 ext. 1008.

*Dr. Dale Allen*

### Strengthening the Family What Really Matters? **RELATIONSHIPS**

We are so busy with sports, cheerleading, school, extracurricular activities, book clubs, volunteering, hobbies, video games, promotions, working long hours, trying to please others, trying to achieve a certain rank, title, or salary. We have fallen right into the enemy's trap or disconnection and isolation. We don't have time to pray together, read our Bibles, parent our children, clean our own homes, cook at home, have meals together, take vacations together, and plan family reunions.

What really Matters: Relationships-Two are better than one, because they have a good return on their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up. Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But, how can one keep warm alone? Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken. Stick together, stay together, pray together, struggle, support together, and succeed together. This applies to everyone-parents, spouses, siblings, extended family, coworkers, believers, and unbelievers. Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

**Respect** for God, responsiveness, and realistic expectations are foundational for all relationships. **Empathy** is essential to cohesive connections and effective communications. **Love** covers and heals a multitude of sin, shame, shortfalls, struggles, stressors, and strains. **Access, accountability, and affirmation** help maintain the connections. **Trust** is the glue to all of the elements of a healthy relationship. The truth is revealed during conflict. **Intentionality** shows the other people they are important and not an inconvenience. **Openness** heals and helps establish unbreakable and unshakeable bonds.

**Nice words**, gestures, and attitudes are necessary and nurturing for the development of the relationship. **Safety** is critical to long lasting relationships especially during difficult, disruptive life events. **Hopefulness and helpfulness** are required when hurtful events and incidents surface. **Investment of time**, energy, and effort breed the best and most healthy relationships. **Presence of mind**, body, and spirit send a resounding message that you are a priority.

Shared Understanding is displayed when there is sympathy for each other and leads to harmony. A shared understanding creates opportunities to discover together and explore deeper meaning leading to limitless possibilities.

*Rev. Tyron Morgan*