

THE FIRST WORD for November 10, 2024



First Baptist Church Eden

A Place of Grace to
Believe, Belong, and Become

101 Burleson Street (325) 869-3681

Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Sunday Small Groups 9:30 am

Sunday Worship 10:45 am

Pastor: John Curry (432) 923-2163 edenpastor@frontier.com

Worship Ministry Leader: Mike Turner conchospringsgolf@yahoo.com

Youth Ministry Leader: Loren Briggs (325) 656-3234 loren3484@hotmail.com

Children's Ministry Leader: Pam Young (432) 413-3205 Pamela Young jeunejoven@gmail.com

Adult Ministry Leader: Teresa Escue (325) 450-7279 edenfbsec@frontier.com

**FBC Eden exists to bring glory to God by becoming a "3E community":
Embracing God in worship, Encouraging one another in love to become
fully-devoted disciples, and Engaging the world with the Good News of Jesus Christ.**

November 10: Psalms Journey in concert
Edward and Pailin Elder from Laos

November 11: 6:00 pm MOC Meeting

November 17: LORD's Supper
Church Thanksgiving Meal

November 24: 3:00 pm Nursing Home Ministry

November 25-29: Church Office Closed for Thanksgiving

December 3: 1:00 pm Decorate the Church for Christmas

December 14: "Let's Celebrate Jesus!" Ladies Christmas Luncheon

We're Counting Our Blessings!

We invite you to join us for our annual Thanksgiving meal on Sunday, November 17. We'll provide the turkey, dressing, gravy, and cranberry sauce. Please bring your favorite Thanksgiving dish to share.

FOR THE RECORD ...

Worship 108
Small Groups..... 76
Wednesday Night..... 57

**Thanks again to Tina
Briley for her article for
this week's First Word.**

A Provocative People

Leviticus 20:26, "You are to be holy to me because I, the LORD, am holy, and I have set you apart from the nations to be my own."

Provocative. Is that a word that you would use to describe yourself? Most of us would immediately say no because of the connotations associated with that word. I would dare say, however, that we, as believers, should be and are called to be, a provocative people.

The definition of provocative is "serving to stimulate discussion or excite controversy." We should live such provocative lives that our children ask questions and the world takes notice. When you look at our spiritual ancestors...Noah, Abraham, John the Baptist...they stood out as different. They stimulated discussion and definitely excited controversy. Unfortunately, many Christians look just like the rest of the world; there is no discernible difference between the children of light and the children of darkness.

How can we influence the people around us and convince them that they need what we have if our faith doesn't look any different than what they already have? What kind of people ought we to be? Peter said, "You ought to live holy and godly lives," 2 Peter 3:11. That's easy enough to say, but what does it look like?

Because we are human, believers face the same temptations, struggles, and difficulties that everyone else does. How we handle those situations is what should stand out. Noah, Abraham, and John knew what God wanted them to do, and even though they faced ridicule and misunderstanding, they did what they were called to do. We, too, know what we should do, but we allow the world to dictate our actions. Maybe it's time we sacrificed political correctness and the acceptance of others for spiritual provocation. Too often we are more concerned with the approval of people than God.

James said, "Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins," James 4:17. So as you respond to every temptation, struggle, and difficulty, ask yourself if your actions will be more pleasing to people or to God. I guarantee if you stand up for godliness in every situation you will stimulate discussion with your children and excite controversy with the world.

Dare to be different!