



Epping Bible

STATE
OF THE
CHURCH

Sunday, January 26, 2025

Matthew 22:32-40

³² ‘I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, the God of Jacob’? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living.” ³³ And when the multitudes heard *this*, they were **astonished at His teaching**. ³⁴ But when the Pharisees heard that He had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. ³⁵ Then one of them, a lawyer, asked *Him a question*, testing Him, and saying, ³⁶ “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?” ³⁷ Jesus said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ ³⁸ **This is the first and great commandment.** ³⁹ And *the second is like it*: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ ⁴⁰ **On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”**

Mark 12- ²⁸ Then one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, perceiving that He had answered them well, asked Him, “Which is the first commandment of all?” ²⁹ Jesus answered him, “The first of all the commandments is: ‘Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. ³⁰ And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, **and with all your strength.**’ This is the first commandment. ³¹ And the second, like *it*, is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”

Luke 10-²⁵ And behold, a certain lawyer stood up and tested Him, saying, “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” ²⁶ He said to him, “What is written in the law? What is your reading *of it*?” ²⁷ So he answered and said, “ ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,’ and ‘your neighbor as yourself.’ ” ²⁸ And He said to him, “You have answered rightly; do this and you will live.” ²⁹ But he, wanting to justify himself, said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

John 13- ³⁴ A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. ³⁵ By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

What did EBC look like in 2024 and what will it look like in 2025?

Looking back- great growth as a church family 2024 was a positive year as a church family.

Salvation and discipleship

The Gospel continues to be the focus

Growth strategy- go to them or bring them in-

People inviting others is amazing! **No gimmicks needed**

Growth brings new challenges- more people, more ideas, more suggestions, more growing pains.

I am always open to meet to talk about your input. You are valuable. It's hard to go from a small church mentality into a larger church mentality.

My future moving forward

Retirement

Hearing issue

Responsibility to bring someone along

Developing leadership is what I want to do.

Preacher boy's class

It's not about the building, it's about the people.

Future building plans- parking lot with potential multi-purpose building.

Bringing people into membership and church growth. Membership brings accountability.

New member's class on a Saturday. Adding a testimony writing workshop.

Faith Bible Institute

Elder's meetings

Overseers not micromanagers Check out who oversees what

My personal goal-

Fierce Marriage course

Working on bringing people into vital service using their spiritual gifts.

I value every one of you and want to you to find and live in the potential God has given you.

It must always be about bring glory to Jesus.

III. Christian concert experiences

Churches do not just happen. Every church has a different personality. **An effective church has leaders that take the call of God on their lives seriously.**

Leadership is vital to develop and inspire vision in others!

Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he.- Proverbs 29:18

Acts 20 ¹⁸ And when they had come to him, he said to them: “You know, from the first day that I came to Asia, in what manner I always lived among you, ¹⁹ serving the Lord with all humility, with many tears and trials which happened to me by the plotting of the Jews; ²⁰ how I kept back nothing that was helpful, but proclaimed it to you, and taught you publicly and from house to house, ²¹ testifying to Jews, and also to Greeks, repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ. ²² And see, now I go bound in the spirit to Jerusalem, not knowing the things that will happen to me there, ²³ except that the Holy Spirit testifies in every city, saying that chains and tribulations await me. ²⁴ But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.

²⁷ For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God. ²⁸ Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. ²⁹ For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. ³⁰ Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. ³¹ Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears. ³² “So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an

inheritance among all those who are sanctified. ³³ I have coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. ³⁴ ¶ Yes, you yourselves know that these hands have provided for my necessities, and for those who were with me. ³⁵ I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'

How do we measure success?

Programs can be misleading

Painting, landscape, building websites, cleaning the house, etc.- Ministry is so different

Not to be measured by the facility, by the number of attendees or by the programs. Not be measured by the offering.

We measure success by:

✓ **Living by the Word** **LBTW**

³³ And when the multitudes heard *this*, they were **astonished** at His **teaching**.

The Bible is King!

What does the Bible say?

Gender issues, marriage issues, abortion issues, child discipline issues (Gentle parenting), Ultra charismatic teachings like the New Apostolic Reformation, (grave sucking, power of declaration, etc.

Ill. Deer hunting principle that has never left me.

Faith Bible Institute, Preaching, Teaching, Small groups, Bible studies, etc.

Ill.- The Shack Catechisms

Ill. SS Curriculum

³⁷ Jesus said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with **all** your heart, with **all** your soul, and with **all** your mind.’

We measure success by:

✓ **Loving on the People LOTP**

It’s always about your love for God and your love for people (2022)

‘You shall love your neighbor **as** yourself.’

Philippians 2:3-4; Colossians 4

How do we demonstrate John 13:34-35?

Ill.- Black coffee versus diet Dr. Pepper

Notes, time, gifts, hugs, attitude

Showing value is important in every relationship!

- Using our gifts to minister to others
- Resolving conflict Biblically-

Romans 14:19; 2 Corinthians 13:11; Ephesians 4:3; Colossians 3:15; 1 Thessalonians 5:13; 2 Timothy 2:22; Hebrews 12:14; 1 Peter 3:11

Missionary trip and football lessons

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1uFgTvUjMeKo_MjnxumUL2XBdWYgGe909/view

LET US BUILD- as I watched what was going on.

✓ **We are all on the same team**

¹⁸ And I told them of the hand of my God which had been good upon me, and also of the king's words that he had spoken to me.

So they said, "Let us rise up and build." Then they set their hands to *this good work*.

III. Conversation with Aaron

✓ **We all had a mind to work**

⁶ So we built the wall, and the entire wall was joined together up to half its *height*, for the people had a mind to work.

✓ **We kept focused on the goal**

✓ **We just joined in-** didn't ask permission- didn't need a job description.

Then all the people answered, "Amen, Amen!" while lifting up their hands. And they bowed their heads and worshiped the Lord with *their* faces to the ground.

⁴ Then Jeshua, Bani, Kadmiel, Shebaniah, Bunni, Sherebiah, Bani, *and* Chenani stood on the stairs of the Levites and cried out with a loud voice to the Lord their God. ⁵ And the Levites, Jeshua, Kadmiel, Bani, Hashabniah, Sherebiah, Hodijah, Shebaniah, *and* Pethahiah, said:

"Stand up *and* bless the Lord your God
Forever and ever!

"Blessed be Your glorious name,
Which is exalted above all blessing and praise!

⁶ You alone *are* the Lord;

You have made heaven,
The heaven of heavens, with all their host,
The earth and everything on it,
The seas and all that is in them,
And You preserve them all.
The host of heaven worships You.
7 "You *are* the Lord God,

Don't expect perfection

[Mark Andrews](#) dropped the ball, literally and figuratively.

The usually reliable [Ravens'](#) tight end had a night to forget in Buffalo, coughing up the ball with a fumble and a drop in the final moments.

As a result, Baltimore is heading home for the offseason with another early playoff exit as the comeback attempt fell short.

"There's nobody that has more heart and cares more and fights more than Mark," Ravens coach John Harbaugh said. "We wouldn't be here without [Mark Andrews](#). Destiny is a decision that you make and how you handle what comes in your life. Mark will handle it fantastic."

- "People don't turn on one another," Ravens safety [Kyle Hamilton](#) said. "One play doesn't define anybody. He's the all-time-leading touchdown receiver in Ravens history, so for anybody to say anything about him, you have to look in the mirror. He's been a consistent beacon of success the whole time he's been here, and for anybody to take anything away from him and his work ethic, I think it's just unfair."
- Jackson spoke to Andrews on the sideline after the failed 2-point conversion in the fourth quarter. "I'm just as hurt as Mark," Jackson said. "[It's not] his fault. All of us played a factor in that game. It's a team effort. We're not going to put that on Mark because he's been battling all season. He's been doing all the great things he's been doing all season. It [doesn't] always go our way. We want it to, but at the moment in time, it's not going our way. We need to figure it out."
- Most touchdowns : 51 (as of Week 18, 2024 [NFL](#) season) ^[68]
- Most single-season receiving yards: 1,361 (2021) ^[69]
- Most receptions in a single season: 107 (2021) ^[69]
- Most touchdown receptions by a tight end in a season: 11 (2024) ^[70]

- Most receiving yards by a tight end in rookie season: 552 (2018) ^[2]
- Longest regular season reception by a tight end: 74 yds (2018) ^[2]

- **Loving more**

And the Lord make you to increase and **abound** in love one toward another, and toward all men, even as we do toward you: 1 Thessalonians 3:12

Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would **abound** more and more. 1 Thessalonians 4:1

And indeed ye do it toward all the brethren which are in all Macedonia: but we beseech you, brethren, that ye **increase** more and more; 1 Thessalonians 4:10

- **Where do I fit in?**

- > Elderly
- > Young people- **You are the next generation!**
- > Long term members you have shaped and continue the heart of EBC
- > Short term members
- > Non members
- > New families

Giving Hope!!!! I am optimistic about the year 2025!

- **What does the future hold? It's up to you. EBC will become what you become. The stakes are high.**

- Seeking God and praying
- Service opportunities taken
- Missions
- Endeavoring to keep the unity of peace