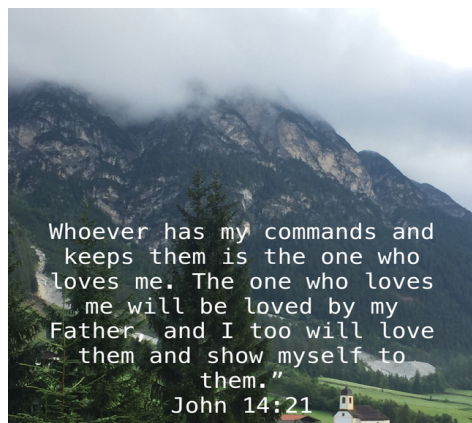


## We've called many to faith, but few to obedience

BY GREG WEST  
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I write with deep conviction and an urgency as I try to understand the times. God's people, the Church, are to be ambassadors of Christ, to reflect the life of our Lord and Savior, Jesus. Honestly, how do you think we are doing?

Evangelism is sharing Christ with others and calling people to faith and belief. However, if we only call them to faith in Christ for the purpose of forgiveness and rescue but fail to call them to obedience to

greatly.

I've seen the rush to get people to "accept Christ" even when they know very little of what they are signing up for. Yes, we want everyone to know the love of God in Christ, but we cannot cheapen the message by minimizing the cost of discipleship. When we do, we get people who are Christian in name, but live in ways that are clearly contrary to the teachings of Jesus. This repels people. It repels unbelievers and even causes people in the Church to renounce their faith! God help us!

Jesus questions us all, "Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say (Luke 6:46)?" He follows this up with the story of two people building houses, one on a foundation of rock and the other on sand. The message is simple, if "disobedience and neglect" are the building blocks of our lives, they will crumble in the storms of life. If the foundation of our lives is loyalty and allegiance to Christ and all of his teachings, we'll withstand the tempests that are sure to come. Let's be found faithful!

In the U.S.A. right now, we are in multiple crises at the same time: the pandemic with the number of dead nearing

200,000; the ongoing struggle for racial justice with far too many wounded, suffering and dead; an economic crisis for many with desperation growing; and a political battle that's raging with ratcheted up accusations, tensions and attacks every day. Please ask with me, are we as Jesus' people reflecting His character, His grace and His truth into these crises? Are we offering help, offering hope, loving our neighbors and yes, loving our enemies? Do we know and proclaim that justice is an essential part of the Gospel (see [Matthew 12:17-21](#))? These are not options for us to consider. If we follow Jesus, they are commands to be obeyed; and we obey not merely out of a sense of duty, but with joy knowing that our lives will please God and help manifest the Kingdom of God, which is coming "on earth as it is in heaven."

In light of some recent failures among prominent Christian leaders, Melissa Stuebing, a friend of mine, posted an article. Her husband, David, called out an amazing quote, "There are men that would take on Christ's name and none of His attributes." Wow! This one made me think deeply. I believe many are well intentioned, but they drift from Jesus' teachings, if they ever knew them.

The Grand Inquisitor believes he has found better methods than Christ's teachings to get to the same end. It never works. We have to pursue a righteous aim, but then endorse any method to get them there and become corrupt. In Dostoevsky's "The Brothers Karamazov", we see a profound betrayal of Christ by the Church.

We have to be vigilant, making sure we're not in error or deceived. Martin Luther King Jr. knew this was a danger to the Civil Rights Movement and spoke boldly, "I have consistently preached that nonviolence demands that the means we use must be as pure as the ends we seek."

Friends, remember "... our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ (Philippians 3:20 NRSV)." Beware of the tribalism that can divide us. Remember the catastrophic lessons of tribalism within the "Christian culture" of Rwanda in 1994. Their loyalty to their tribe, whether Hutu or Tutsi, was greater than their loyalty to Christ. We must be sure of where our allegiance lies and who we will follow, in good times and bad. We are not only citizens of heaven, but ambassadors as well. "Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth (1 John 3:18 NIV)."

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## Upcoming events

- **Preaching at New Town UMC (tentative)**  
Sunday, Sept. 13
- **Preaching at Nimmo UMC**  
Sunday, Oct. 11
- **Preaching at Virginia Beach Christian Church:**  
Sunday, Oct. 18
- **Speaking at Mission Charlottesville:**  
Sunday, Oct. 25
- **Preaching at Nimmo UMC**  
Sunday, Nov. 22



## BibleProject

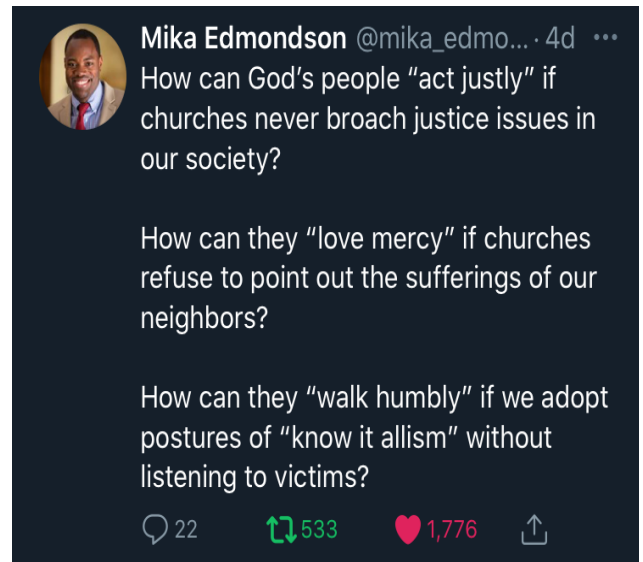
BY ASHLEY KLINE  
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The Bible Project is a non-profit organization aiming to communicate the Bible's story globally through animated videos, podcasts and a plethora of other easily accessible resources. This is an organization that no doubt has a global impact. The Bible Project has worked tirelessly to localize their videos and distribute them in multiple languages. Their website reports that 52% of their views are from outside the U.S., they have released videos in 18 different

languages, and have localized over 1,100 videos.

All of the videos and podcasts offered by the Bible Project are free and can be accessed through the organization's [website](#) or via their [YouTube page](#). Approachable, transformative and engaging are just three of the adjectives the organization uses to describe these resources.

# Tweets worth sharing...



## A call for prayer for our world, the Church, and this ministry

Pray for a great turning from darkness to light in our land; for repentance and a hungering for righteousness to come. [Colossians 1:13-14](#), [2 Peter 3:9](#), [Matthew 5:6](#)

Pray for the church, God's people, to be in unity and One with Christ and the Father as Jesus prayed. Pray for repentance in the Church and for our allegiance to be to Christ and the Kingdom. [John 17](#)

For the church to embrace Christ not merely in name, but all His teachings and attributes, that we would be like him. Christ-likeness in us draws people to Jesus our Lord! [Luke 6:46-49](#)

Pray for an openness in my spirit and yours so we'd be like Philip in Acts 8, following the leading of the Holy Spirit to go and share Christ! [Acts 8:26-40](#)

Pray for my upcoming preaching/teaching at Nimmo UMC, Virginia Beach Christian Church, Mission Charlottesville, and New Town UMC [Colossians 4:3-4](#)  
Also, pray for my meetings with individuals as I seek to share Christ and disciple others.

Pray for favor and guidance with raising support for Life in His Name Ministries. We are currently at 27% of our monthly needs, but do have some reserves. God's people and a number of churches have been very generous and signed on for monthly financial support!