



The Messenger

Mother's Day: Honoring God's Indispensable Gift

Barrett Duke Baptist Press

"God couldn't be everywhere, so He made mothers." While not theologically accurate, this old Jewish saying describes beautifully the significant role mothers have in our lives.

Motherhood is one of God's greatest gifts to humanity. A loving, committed mother is an indispensable person in our development. Just imagine a world without mothers. It would be a sterile place indeed. Mothers instill powerful social and nurturing characteristics in each generation. It is principally from their mothers that children learn the virtues of sacrifice, sharing, valuing others, compassion, community and a host of other interpersonal values and skills that enable humans to live together in peace.



Biologically, women are designed for self-sacrifice. When pregnant, a woman's body focuses its primary attention to nurturing that new, growing life developing within her. Her body will automatically prioritize the needs of her unborn baby. And this inherent gift for self-sacrifice isn't only biological. After her children are born, a mother will continue to sacrifice herself for the needs of her children. She will do whatever she can to assure her children have what they need.

Mothers are also designed by God to nurture. There is just no greater nurturing power on the planet than a mother. When the apostle Paul was describing his love for the church at Thessalonica, he used the metaphor of a mother's love to describe how deeply he cared for the Thessalonians. He reminded them that he was like a "gentle" mother who "tenderly cares for her own children" ([1 Thessalonians 2:7](#)). When God described His love for Israel, He did so with a motherhood metaphor. He told Israel that He would comfort them like a mother comforts her children ([Isaiah 66:13](#)).

I am reminded of the closing chapters of the great biblical book of wisdom, the book of Proverbs. The book that has helped billions of people through millennia live better lives closes with a great testimonial tribute to women. That's right; the last words of the book of Proverbs don't extend praise to God, or exalt manhood. They speak of the beautiful, indispensable role that women play in God's creation. After 30 chapters of directions on living the good, godly, noble life, the great book of Proverbs closes with these words to the godly woman: "Her children rise up and bless her; Her husband also, and he praises her, saying, 'Many daughters have done nobly, But you excel them all.' Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the Lord, she shall be praised. Give her the product of her hands, and let her works praise her in the gates" ([Proverbs 31:28-31](#)).

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Upcoming Events

- May 8 Mother's Day
- May 15 Senior Graduate's Recognition Day

The best of all that God designed a woman to be is expressed in motherhood. Not one of us came into this world without a mother. And in these days of abortion on-demand, motherhood is a conscious, deliberate decision by a woman to enter into that noble, God-like act of loving self-sacrifice to participate with the God of all creation to bring a new life into the world -- you.

This Mother's Day, I hope you will take the time to say thanks to your mother in a special way. No she isn't perfect, and no she didn't do everything right, but she gave you life. And if she is like most mothers, she sacrificed for you and did what she could to prepare you to be a loving, caring person. And to mothers, I say thank you for all you have done to prepare your children to be the good men and women of the next generation. Our world cannot make it without you. Thank you for all you do. Happy Mother's Day.

Stitching with Love Ministry

meets every 1st Thursday
May 5 at 9am –12pm.

Men's Prayer Breakfast

Every 2nd Saturday of each month.
May 14 at 8 am

Extension Homemakers Club

meets every 3rd Wednesday
May 18 at 9:30 am

From the Pastor's Desk



Thank You!

For the last twenty-five years, 1997-2022, on my journey to eternity I have been blessed to travel with a faithful group of believers at Zion Hill Baptist Church. My goal throughout has been to reach lost souls and to prepare citizens for heaven. I want to thank God for the blessing that each of you have bestowed on my family throughout these past 25 years. Your impact on our lives has been tremendous. By the grace of God, you have inspired me to be a better servant of the Lord. Under the leadership of our good Shepherd the Lord Jesus Christ it has been possible to maintain harmony in the midst of controversy and conflict. I praise the Lord for your faithfulness in hard times, and your inspiration as I have walked beside many of you in grief, and illness. Your faith has triumphed and you have proven to be more than conquerors through Jesus Christ our Lord. I have also rejoiced with you in salvation, marriage, graduations, and the birth of children and grandchildren, and great grandchildren. You have celebrated with me and my family our milestones, and successes. You have comforted us in our times of grief and illness. I am confident that in the future God will continue to lead us and help us grow together, and keep the bond of love and unity we have shared for a quarter of a

century.

I feel the Lord challenging me as we celebrate two and a half decades together, to be the best pastor I can be for this congregation. To strive to do a better job as I declare God's word, and equip you to win those who do not know our Lord. Let us do it all for the glory of the Lord and by the power of His Spirit, for the Kingdom of God. I will continue to dedicate myself to His service. I will strive to reach the lost, those who do not know our Lord, and to encourage the saved to live as He would have us to live. To put my effort into leading the believers at Zion Hill to love the Lord Jesus in such a way, that they will tell their friends and family about Him. So that those friends and family members will receive Christ and I will get to use the baptistry every Sunday.

So, with heartfelt gratitude to God I say thank you to each of you for the past 25 years, May God bless you for your patience with me and support for my family. May our passion for the Lord increase each day as we work together to promote His kingdom and to reach our community, and our world with the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ. It is with love to all that I say Happy Anniversary.

Terry Fortner

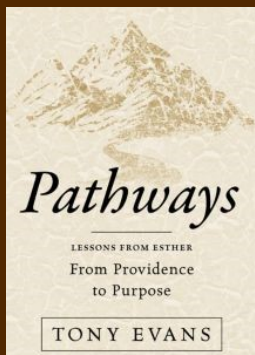
What is Five Wishes?

Five Wishes is the first living will (also called an advance directive) that talks about your personal, emotional, and spiritual needs as well as your medical wishes. It lets you choose the person you want to make health care decisions for you if you are not able to make them for yourself. Five Wishes lets you say exactly how you wish to be treated if you get seriously ill. It is an easy to complete form that lets you say exactly what you want. Once it is filled out and properly signed, it is valid under the laws of most states. Come learn more about it on May 12 at 11:00 am

Celebrate & Praise Service

May 29 at 6:00 pm

Come and share a song, poem or skit as we enjoy an open mic fellowship.

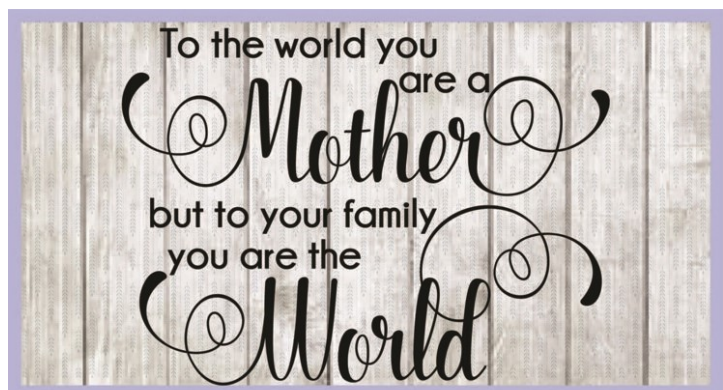


**SUNDAY
NIGHT
GROWTH
GROUP**

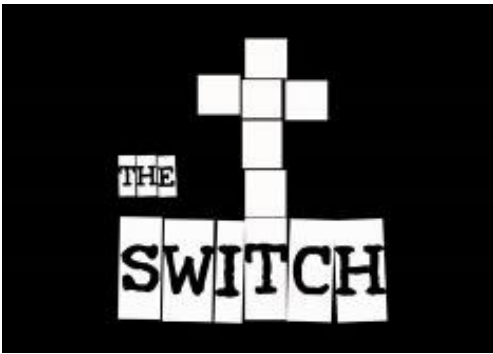
Continues
through
May

The story of Esther appears to be a series of coincidences that deliver the Jews from certain death. However, God selected Esther for a particular purpose at a particular time in the history of His chosen people.

This six week study will help you discover the power of God's providence in the midst of your personal pain, fear, gain, loss, and love. You'll see that God has a purpose for your life, and He uses every action and event that occurs in it to make that purpose a reality.



Youth, Children & Other Happenings



Weekly Youth Gatherings

- **Wednesday Night Switch Services**
Music and a devotion
from 6:30-7:30pm.

Stay tuned for upcoming
KDO Activities

**Invite your friends and
come join us!**

Update from Brother Rich

Hi Zion Hill Family!

April was full of showers, and I hope it brings May flowers! We endured the storms and are pushing towards the blue skies! With blue skies comes outside adventures! We had an astounding 54 kids at our Easter Egg hunt! Close to 150 total counting parents and grandparents, thanks to all who helped with that! Just because Easter is over doesn't mean Jesus isn't Risen. Let's treat every Sunday like a Easter because He is Risen and He still reigns supreme! We also got a new playground for our kiddos! Thank you to Matt Hunt, Andy Kew, and Ricky Bridges for working on that! We also celebrated Bro. Terry's 25th anniversary of being at our church! Let's continue to show him gratitude for serving here.

We have Mother's Day on May 8th! We also Senior Sunday recognition on May 15th where we will recognize our three seniors, Ally Goforth, Korey Grimes, and Rebekah Robinson! Make sure you give them a word of advice as they exit high school and enter adult life. We are also kicking off our summer youth series which will be more spreading the gospel and game time, please be in prayer for our students!

VBS is coming up very soon! I ask each of you to join me in prayer for this as we want to reach as many as possible! The week following VBS, June 13-17th is Childrens camp at Williams Baptist College, be praying for our students attending camp. The week following Centrikid camp is youth camp, June 20-24. We are going to Super Summer Texas at Dallas Baptist. Please pray for our students and parents for these camps, that God will prime their hearts to spread the gospel.

I look forward to see what God does in the coming month!

CREATIONWISE

~Your brother in Christ, Rich



JUNE 5-9 VBS WEEK

Are you ready for the trip of a lifetime as we zoom off to Australia? You'll marvel at the unforgettable wildlife, culture, and beauty of the land down under while exploring the wonder and value of life, from the lives of preborn babies to eternal life in the kingdom of God. Life is valuable! From the tiniest to the oldest, each person is made in the image of God-wonderfully designed to know Him and live for Him!

VBS Decoration Day will be June 4 at 9 am

Zion Hill Baptist Church Service Times

Sunday

- 9:45 am Sunday School
- 11:00 am Morning Worship
- 11:30 am Children's Worship (in the Fellowship Hall)
- 6:00 pm Growth Group (Sanctuary)
- 6:00 pm Youth Bible Study (Basement)

Tuesday

- 10:00 am Tuesday Bible Study

Wednesday

- 6:30 pm Mid-Week Services
Bible Study & Prayer Meeting
(3rd Wednesday is Business Meeting)

May

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| 1 | 8:00 am Deacon's Meeting |
| 1 | Sunday Services |
| 1 | 2:00 pm Grief Share Support Group |
| 1 | 6:00 pm Sunday Evening Bible Study |
| 4 | Midweek Services |
| 5 | 9:00 am Stitching with Love Ministry |
| 8 | Sunday Services—Mother's Day—No Evening Services |
| 11 | Midweek Services |
| 11 | 7:00 pm Nominating Committee Meeting |
| 12 | 11:00 am Five Wishes Guest Speaker & Luncheon |
| 14 | 8:00 am Men's Prayer Breakfast |
| 15 | Sunday Services / Graduating Seniors Recognition |
| 15 | 12:00 pm Finance Committee Meeting |
| 15 | 2:00 pm Grief Share Support Group |
| 15 | 5:00 pm Caregiver Meeting |
| 15 | 7:00 pm Graduating Seniors Fellowship |
| 18 | 9:30 am Extension Homemakers Club Meeting |
| 19 | Midweek Services—Business Meeting |
| 22 | Sunday Services |
| 22 | 2:00 pm Grief Share Support Group |
| 22 | 5:00 pm Church Council / Community Picnic Planning Meeting |
| 25 | 6:30 pm Midweek Services |
| 29 | Sunday Services |
| 29 | 6:30 pm Celebrate & Praise Service |
| 30 | Memorial Day—Office Will Be Closed |

May Activities



Zion Hill Baptist Church

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Please use the following contact info when the church office is closed on weekends and holidays.

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Richard Barkhimer, CYE Director
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Recent videos of Zion Hill's Sunday services can be viewed at www.zionhillcabot.com/sermons

MAN UP 2022



When: Saturday, May 14, 2022

Time: 2:00pm-7:00pm (Registration begins at 1:30pm)

Where: Spring Lake Camp and Retreat Center | 145 Strauss Street | Lonsdale, AR 72087 (off of Hwy 70 between Benton and Hot Springs)

Cost: \$10 per person Visit <https://www.absc.org/events/man-up-2022/> to register. (You can pay online during registration or at the event.)

What to Bring: Fishing gear, Lawn chairs, all other supplies will be provided. All participants are also encouraged to invite a lost friend (or two).

Questions? -- Call Travis McCormick at 1.800.838.2272 x5249 or email him at tmccormick@absc.org

Children's Choir will be bringing the special music on Mother's Day.

They have a final practice set for May 1 at 6:00 pm



If you're not currently receiving email prayer requests and information updates and you would like to be added to the list, please let Karla know. You can email me at zionhillbc@gmail.com to be added to the list.