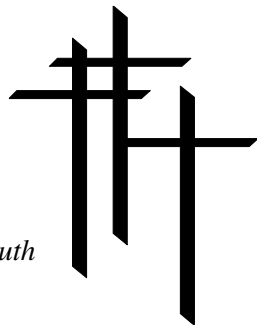


Timely Messenger



*Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth
Speaking the Truth in Love*

Volume 68 No. 2

Spring 2008

A FAITHFUL MOTHER

By Gregg Bing

What makes a good mother? She loves her children and provides for their needs: physically, mentally, and emotionally. She works hard, unselfishly giving of herself for her children's welfare. A good mother protects her children from harm, watching over them and providing a warm, safe atmosphere in which to nurture them. She prepares her children for life, teaching and training them, instilling in them values and morals, and modeling these values in her own life.

This is how most people would describe a good mother, whether they are Christian or not. While a "good mother" can be a wonderful blessing to her family, something more is needed, especially in the Christian home—a "faithful mother."

A faithful mother does all the things a good mother does, but she recognizes two important truths: children are **from** the Lord and children are **for** the Lord.

The 127th Psalm describes how the Lord blesses homes with children.

"Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb is a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, so are the children of one's youth. Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them." (Psalm 127:3-5)

Children are a heritage, a possession acquired from the Lord. Eve recognized this with the birth of her son, Cain, saying, "I have acquired a man from the Lord" (Genesis 4:1). Hannah prayed for a son and when God answered her prayer, she named the child Samuel,

which means “asked of God,” because, as she said, “I have asked for him from the Lord” (1 Samuel 1:20). The birth of Isaac is described in Genesis 21 in this way:

“And the Lord visited Sarah as He had said, and the Lord did for Sarah as He had spoken. For Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time of which God had spoken to him.” (Genesis 21:1)

What an tremendous responsibility mothers (and fathers) have, being entrusted with these gifts from God. While children certainly provide pleasure and satisfaction to their parents, they belong to the Lord. God has a purpose for their lives, from the time they are conceived. Paul recognized this about his own life and ministry.

*“It pleased God, who separated me **from my mother’s womb** and called me through His grace to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles.” (Galatians 1:15-16)*

A faithful mother acknowledges this vital responsibility

she has been given: to help prepare her children to accomplish the purpose God has for their lives. Having this spiritual insight affects the way she raises her children.

Provides

A good mother loves her children and works hard to provide for their needs. A faithful mother does the same, not just out of love for them, but out of love and reverence for the Lord. She is like the virtuous woman described in the book of Proverbs.

“She watches over the ways of her household, and does not eat the bread of idleness. Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: ‘Many daughters have done well, but you excel them all.’ Charm is deceitful and beauty is passing, but a woman who fears the LORD, she shall be praised. Give her of the fruit of her hands, and let her own works praise her in the gates.” (Proverbs 31:27-31)

Protects

A good mother seeks to

protect her children from physical harm, but a faithful mother is also concerned about the spiritual harms her children face. After Isaac was born:

“Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, scoffing. Therefore she said to Abraham, ‘Cast out this bondwoman and her son; for the son of this bondwoman shall not be heir with my son, namely with Isaac.’ And the matter was very displeasing in Abraham’s sight because of his son. But God said to Abraham, ‘Do not let it be displeasing in your sight because of the lad or because of your bondwoman. Whatever Sarah has said to you, listen to her voice; for in Isaac your seed shall be called.’” (Genesis 21:9-12)

This may seem a harsh response from Sarah. Why would she go so far as to demand that Ishmael be cast out? Being a good mother, she was concerned for Isaac’s physical safety. Ishmael was clearly jealous of Isaac and, being older and stronger, might have been tempted to harm him in some way. Sarah was more than a
(Continued on page 4)

TIMELY MESSENGER

Published quarterly by:

GRACE BIBLE CHURCH

1450 Oak Hill Road
Fort Worth, TX 76112-3017
(817) 451-0937

Website:

www.gracebiblechurch-fw.com

Email: gbcfw@sbcglobal.net

Gregg Bing — Editor

Sent **free** to anyone upon request. If you live in the Fort Worth area, we invite you to worship with us.

Sunday Services:

10:00 AM	Sunday School
11:00 AM	Morning Worship
6:00 PM	Evening Worship

Mid-Week Services:

Tues.	10:00 AM	Ladies Class
Wed.	7:00 PM	Bible Study

ADDRESS CHANGED?

If so, please notify Grace Bible Church. Be sure to include your name, your old address, and your new address. This will help us keep our mailing list current and reduce the cost of postage.

*Thanks for your help
in this matter!*

(Continued from page 3)

good mother; she was a faithful mother. She knew Ishmael might have a negative influence on Isaac spiritually. She believed God had a purpose for Isaac's life, having heard God's promise to Abraham: "In Isaac your seed shall be called." Sarah wanted Ishmael cast out to protect Isaac spiritually and to ensure God's purpose for his life was preserved.

Prays

A good mother may pray for her children, even a mother who has never trusted Christ as Savior, but her prayers are primarily concerned with their physical safety and needs. A faithful mother will ask God to work out His will in her children's lives. A good example of this is seen in the life of Samuel's mother, Hannah. She prayed that God would give her a son, but she promised she would give the child back to the Lord to serve Him. After Samuel was born, Hannah cared for him until he was weaned, then took him to serve the Lord in the tabernacle with Eli, the priest. There she prayed:

"For this child I prayed, and the LORD has granted me

my petition which I asked of Him. Therefore I also have lent him to the LORD; as long as he lives he shall be lent to the LORD." (1 Samuel 1:27-28)

Rather than being disappointed that she was to be separated from her son, Hannah rejoiced that Samuel was serving the Lord, and she gave thanks and praise to the God of her salvation.

"And Hannah prayed and said: 'My heart rejoices in the LORD; my horn is exalted in the LORD. I smile at my enemies, because I rejoice in Your salvation. No one is holy like the LORD, for there is none besides You, nor is there any rock like our God.'" (1 Samuel 2:1-2)

Pattern

A good mother seeks to be a role model to her children, living in a way that she hopes they will one day follow. The example of a faithful mother can have an even greater impact on her children. The pattern she provides for her children is based on pleasing the Lord rather than pleasing men.

Peter reminded wives (and mothers) that the greatest impact they have on their families is not through their words, but through their conduct—behavior that arises from a gentle and quiet heart for God.

“Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives, when they observe your chaste conduct accompanied by fear. Do not let your adornment be merely outward—arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel—rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God. (1 Peter 3:1-4)

One of the most important things a mother can impart to her children is faith. Children need to see this faith in action in the lives of their parents. While Timothy’s father had very little influence on his son, Timothy was fortunate to have both a faithful mother and grandmother whose lives were characterized by a genuine faith. This faith was passed on to

Timothy through their godly behavior. Paul reminded Timothy of this blessing.

“When I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also.” (2 Timothy 1:5)

Prepares

A good mother prepares her children for life, helping them grow and develop physically, intellectually, socially, and emotionally. A faithful mother equips her children not just for life, but for a life of service for the Lord.

Timothy’s mother and grandmother not only shared their faith in the Lord with him, they also prepared him to serve the Lord by teaching him the truths of God’s Word from the time he was just a young child (even as an infant). Paul encouraged Timothy to continue in the things he had been taught from the Scriptures.

“But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that

from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.” (2 Timothy 3:14-17)

Ponders

Faithful mothers may not understand all of God’s purpose for their children, but they keep this purpose in mind while raising them. Mary did not comprehend all that Jesus had come to do, but as His life unfolded before her, she “kept all these things and pondered them in her heart” (Luke 2:19, 51).

A good mother keeps her children in her heart. A faithful mother does more—she keeps and ponders God’s purpose for her children in her heart.

“No one is poor who had a godly mother.”

(Abraham Lincoln)

CHOICES

Choose to love
rather than hate,

Choose to smile
rather than frown,

Choose to build
rather than destroy,

Choose to persevere
rather than quit,

Choose to praise
rather than gossip,

Choose to heal
rather than wound,

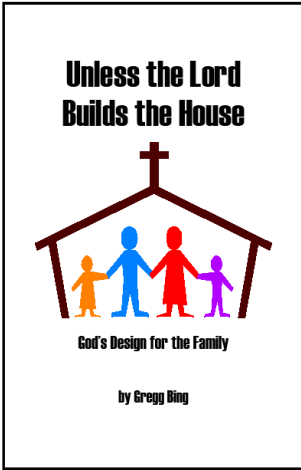
Choose to give
rather than grasp,

Choose to go
rather than delay,

Choose to forgive
rather than curse,

Choose to pray
rather than despair.

NEW BOOK PUBLISHED!



We have just published a new book on the home and family:

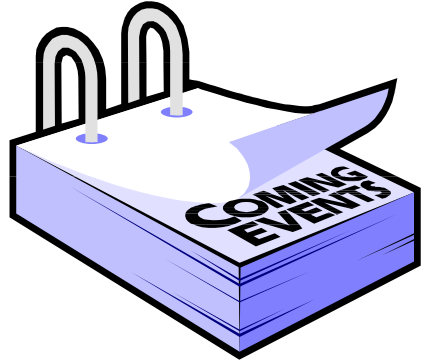
Unless the Lord Builds the House

by Gregg Bing

This book looks at God's principles for building godly homes and families as given in Paul's letter to the Colossians. It focuses on the key responsibilities for each member of the family: husbands, wives, children, and parents.

This book was originally published as a series of articles in the *Timely Messenger*.

If you would like a copy of this book, write to us at Grace Bible Church, or email us.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

June 9-13, 2008

Grace Bible Church will hold its Vacation Bible School on June 9-13 this year from 9:30 to Noon each day. There will be classes for ages 3 to 14. We will be learning about the Lord Jesus Christ: "The Great I AM."

FAMILY BIBLE CAMP

June 30 - July 4, 2008

Our Family Bible Camp will be held at Camp Arrowhead near Glenrose, Texas June 30 through July 4. The theme is "The Wondrous Cross." You can write us for Registration Forms and Camp Arrowhead Release Forms, or they may be printed out from our website:

www.gracebiblechurch-fw.com

BE NOT IGNORANT

by Charles Wages

The apostle Paul uses the expression “I would not have you ignorant” six times in addressing four cities—Rome, Corinth, Colosse, and Thessalonica.

The word *ignorant* simply means “without knowledge” and doesn’t necessarily mean that a person is unlearned or retarded in normal knowledge. It does mean, though, that we all stand in need of instruction from God’s word, and it is not God’s will for us to be without knowledge.

In 2 Corinthians 1:8, Paul states, “For we would not, brethren, have you ignorant of our trouble which came to us in Asia, that we were pressed out of measure above strength inasmuch that we despaired even of life.” In reading and studying 2 Corinthians 1:8-10, we find that death and resurrection stand out clearly. We are told that we have “the sentence of death in ourselves” that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God who raiseth the dead.

This “sentence of death” was the direct result of sin. Ro-

mans 5:12 states: “Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.” Certainly, we should know that this sentence of judgment is beyond our control, therefore we should “not trust in ourselves” to save our own selves or to keep ourselves saved.

God would have everyone know that He has delivered His creation from the “sentence of death” through His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. He lets us know that there is a continuous deliverance from this death. In 2 Corinthians 1:10, we are instructed that deliverance is threefold: past, present, and future. It is stated that “God delivered us from so great a death, and doth deliver: in whom we trust that he will yet deliver.”

It would be wonderful if everyone was fully aware of the fact that they are sinners by nature and that they are “dead” in trespasses and sins, but that through Christ’s death on the cross of Calvary they could be delivered from this death into a

newness of life.

We must continue to give forth God's Word that men will "not be ignorant" of their lost condition and then inform them how they may be saved.

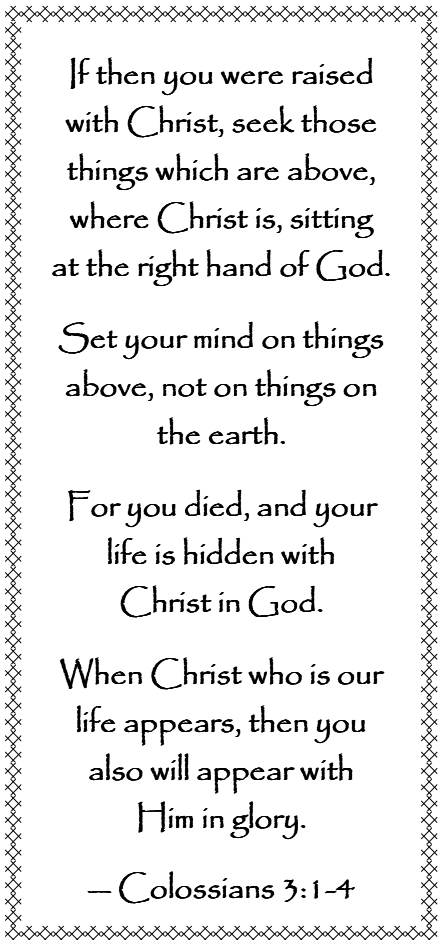
In 1 Thessalonians 4:13, the apostle introduces the great truth about the Lord's coming for His Church, by saying, "But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren."

Again the fact of death and resurrection stands out clearly. This great theme is given that we should "sorrow not as others who have no hope" and that we should "comfort one another with these words."

The majority of people in the world, even the religious world, are ignorant of our Lord's appearing to gather His own unto Himself. No wonder there is so much sorrow—no wonder there is so little comfort. If people would only know and believe that "the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first; then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together to meet the Lord in the air; and so shall we ever be with the Lord."

The widespread ignorance of believing people concerning

the "blessed hope" of the Church is causing despair and a sense of "giving up." Many of God's saints are "without knowledge" when it comes to His plans for His Church and for their individual lives. I am sure we are all ignorant of many things, but God is willing to reveal the wonders of His Word to us as we are willing to yield to Him and learn.



If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.

Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.

For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

— Colossians 3:1-4

HEART AT REST

By Dennis Blankenship

Through the eyes of faith I see
A God who loves and cares for me,
Though sometimes tempted to doubt and fear,
I weather the storm, for His Word is near.

It teaches me that He is love,
And I'm seated with Him in heaven above:
He definitely loves and cares for me,
For He proved it one day on Calvary.

Though testing sometimes draws us apart
And rips at the seams of my faint heart,
I will not budge, for I trust in Him,
Though my pulse grows faint and my eyes grow dim.

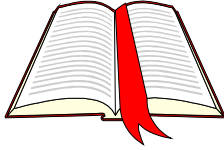
What happens to me in the world down here
Won't dim my hope of another year,
For I know God has a plan for me,
And in His Son I've been set free.

What happens here shouldn't make me doubt
The goodness of God and what life's all about,
Each step He plans is not a whim,
It's for my good that I be like Him.

*“Therefore being justified by faith,
we have peace with God
through our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

—Romans 5:1

BIBLE STUDY BOOKS



The following Bible study materials are available free of charge for your personal use or for use in teaching a Bible class.

by Charles Wages

- Written for Our Learning
- Stepping Stones to Truth
- Past Pentecost to Paul
- Points to Ponder
- The Ages
- Saved by Grace
- Ministry of the Church
- The Perfect Will of God
- Once in a Lifetime
- Fellowship in Christ
- Hidden in God
- Thoughts on Vision
- Spiritual Fitness
- What Saith the Scripture
(Set of 6 Diff. Tracts)

by Mrs. Charles Wages

- Seasons
- Spiritual Thoughts for Young Minds
- A Man Named Paul
- Studies for Women

by R.B. Shiflet

- Informal Study: Philippians
- Informal Study: Ephesians
- Personal Meditations on Paul's Post-Acts Ministry
- Giving Under Grace
- Ultradispensationalism
- The Lord's Supper

by Ike T. Sidebottom

- The Book of Acts
- Through the Bible Dispensationally
- Prophetic Gleanings
- Saved, Settled and Sure
- Fellowship of the Mystery

by Gregg Bing

- Keys to the Word : Understanding the Bible
- Unless the Lord Builds the House
- That I May Know Him
- Making Good Choices
- For God So Loved the World
- It is Finished!
- Conformed to the Image of His Son
- The End of the World
- Assurance : Can We Know that We are Saved?

by John D. LaVier

- Yokefellows : Paul and His Companions
- Sure Words of Prophecy
- The Lord has Spoken
- Why is Heaven Silent?

S *tudy to shew
thyself approved
unto God, a workman
that needeth not to
be ashamed, rightly
dividing the Word
of truth.*

— 2 Timothy 2:15