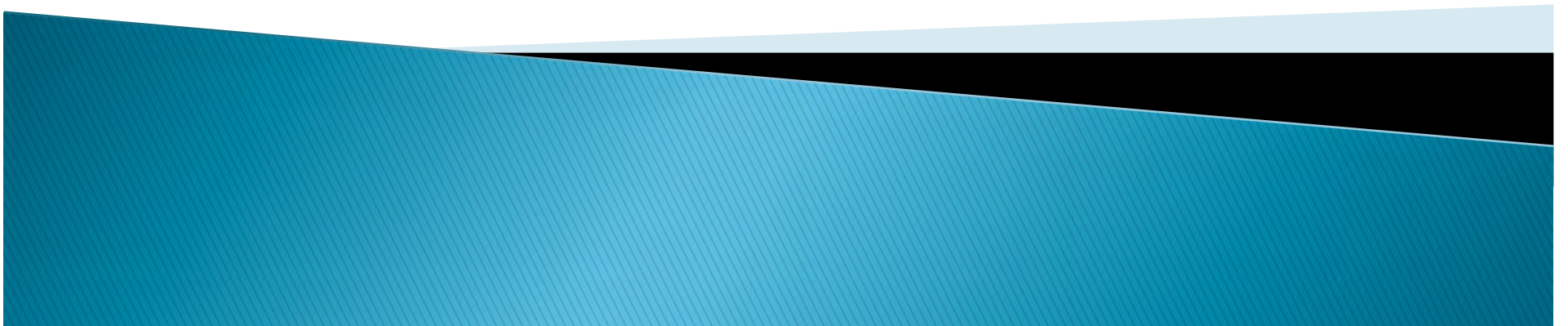


BLESSINGS OF A FAITHFUL MOTHER

Matthew 1:18–25

Woodland Park Church of Christ

14 May 2023



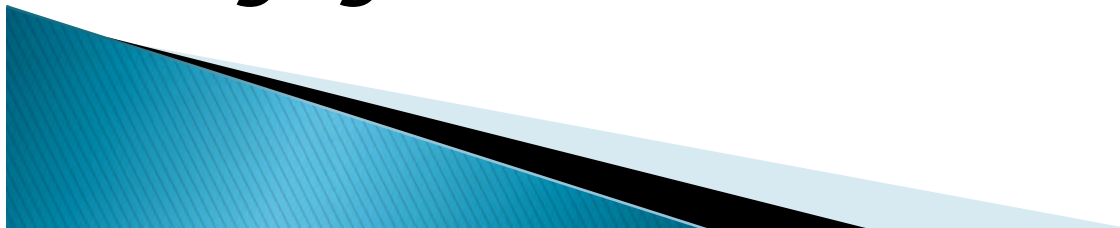
Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Then Joseph her husband, being a just *man*, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. ²⁰ But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. ²¹ And **she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.**” ²² So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: ²³ “Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which is translated, “God with us.” ²⁴ Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, ²⁵ and **did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son.** And he called His name JESUS.

Matthew 1:18-25 [NKJV]

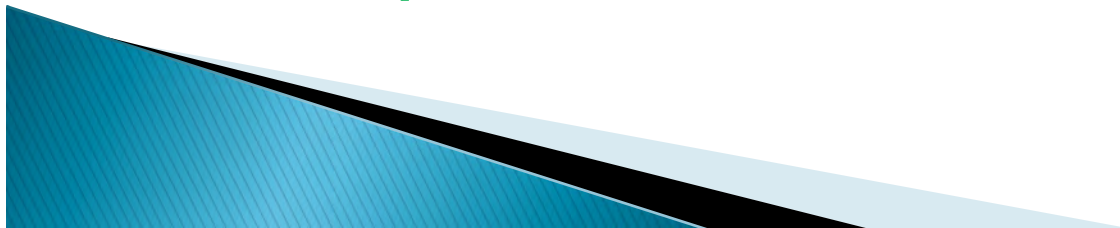
BACKDROP

- ▶ Today has been designated and marked in our Nation to celebrate and honor mothers.
- ▶ While the gesture is noble, mothers should be honored everyday.
- ▶ Honor is not so much about what we buy them or the material gifts we give, but how we live – peace of mind, calm assurance that comes with the godly living, being a source of pride and joy.
- ▶ If you really want to honor MOM, live right!

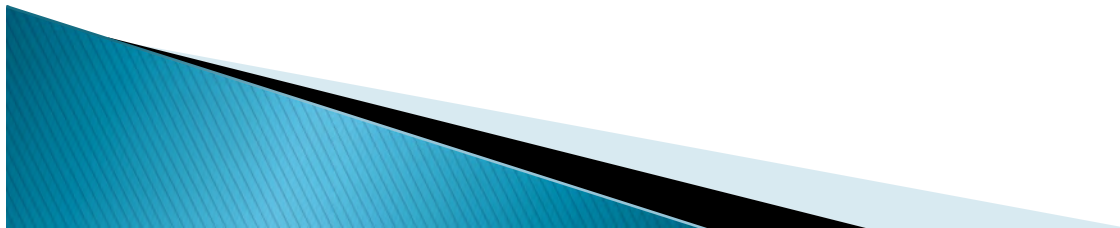
A wise child brings joy to a father; a foolish child brings grief to a mother. Proverbs 10:1 [NLT]



- ▶ The impact and importance of a prudent, god-fearing mother cannot be overstated or overemphasized.
- ▶ I, like many of you in the audience, have benefited (and continue to thrive) from the teachings, presence, and the impact of a godly mother.
- ▶ In fact, many of us would not be where we are if God had not blessed us with a mother determined to infuse principles, values, and standards consistent with His word.
- ▶ I believe we are witnessing—and society as a whole is suffering the consequences of—a dearth (severe lack) of morally-principled mothers.
- ▶ **Example → Child maced a teacher twice in Antioch, TN; many reactions on social media were deplorable.**



- ▶ All mothers who sacrifice and make sure their children have what they need, beginning with a healthy relationship with the Lord, are to be applauded and lauded!
- ▶ Everyone comes to certain intersections in life that could mean the difference between life and death, success and failure, and honor and dishonor.
- ▶ What we have in us (or that which is lacking) generally weighs heavy in the decisions one makes and the paths one takes. The lessons drilled in us from childhood.
- ▶ I left my parents' house when I was 18 and never returned for an indefinite stay. Yet, for the 40 years since then, I have been able to remain in the Lord, overcome difficulty, make critical decisions, etc. due in large part to what I learned at the ol' home house.



- ▶ Godly mothers are true blessings.
- ▶ Good, Christian mothers don't rely on secular or popular opinion or social media acceptance.
- ▶ They turn to God's word for guidance and wisdom in rearing and teaching their children.
- ▶ They are more concerned about being their child's parent than their colleague, contemporary, or friend.

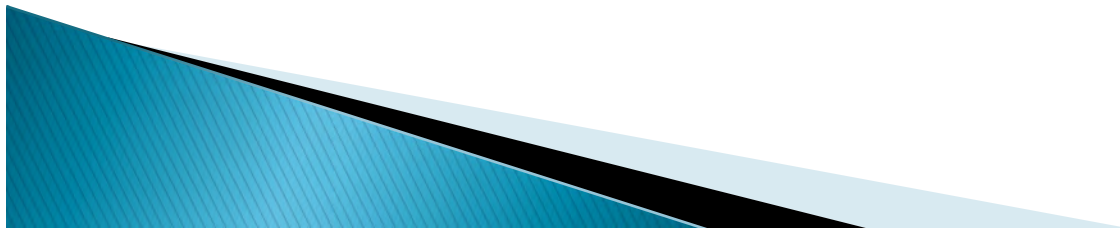
**Train up a child in the way he should go
[teaching him to seek God's wisdom and will
for his abilities and talents],
Even when he is old he will not depart from it.**

Proverbs 22:6



I. FAITHFUL MOTHERS RESOLVE TO RETURN THEIR CHILDREN TO GOD

- ▶ They endeavor to make sure the lives of their children are consecrated and whole before God.
- ▶ Children are in service and committed to God.
- ▶ They impress upon them the importance of remembering God and to honor and respect Him, irrespective of how much they know secularly or how much they may grow materially!
- ▶ They know that there will be times in life that the only true help you have will come from God, so you need to stay in good stead.



So Hannah arose after they had finished eating and drinking in Shiloh. Now Eli the priest was sitting on the seat by the doorpost of the tabernacle of the LORD. ¹⁰ And she *was* in bitterness of soul, and prayed to the LORD and wept in anguish. ¹¹ Then she made a vow and said, “O LORD of hosts, if You will indeed look on the affliction of Your maidservant and remember me, and not forget Your maidservant, but will give Your maidservant a male child, then I will give him to the LORD all the days of his life, and no razor shall come upon his head.”... ²⁰ So it came to pass in the process of time that Hannah conceived and bore a son, and called his name Samuel, ...²⁷ For this child I prayed, and the LORD has granted me my petition which I asked of Him. ²⁸ Therefore I also have lent him to the LORD; as long as he lives he shall be lent to the LORD.”

I Sam. 1:9–11, 20, 27–28



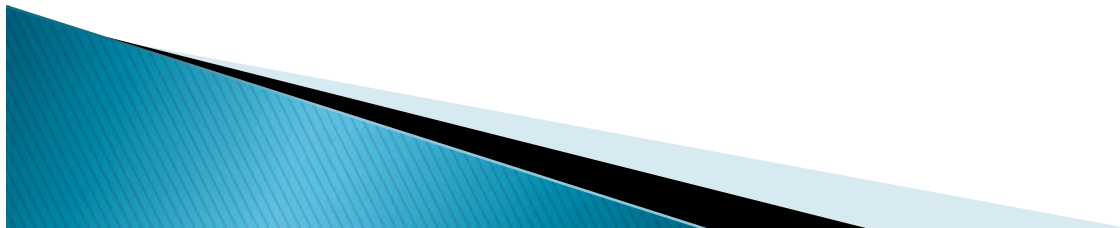
II. GODLY MOTHERS OFTEN SACRIFICE FOR THEIR CHILDREN

- ▶ They frequently forego what they want or need for their children's best interest.

²³ . . . “Both of you say this live baby is yours.

²⁴ Someone bring me a sword.” A sword was brought, and Solomon ordered, ²⁵ “Cut the baby in half! That way each of you can have part of him.” ²⁶ “Please don't kill my son,” the baby's mother screamed.

“Your Majesty, I love him very much, but give him to her. Just don't kill him.” **I Kings 3:23-26**



She is like the merchant ships,
She brings her food from afar.

¹⁵ She also rises while it is yet night,
And provides food for her household, . . .

²¹ She is not afraid of snow for her household,
for all her household *is* clothed with scarlet.

²⁷ She watches over the ways of her household,
And does not eat the bread of idleness.

²⁸ Her children rise up and call her blessed;

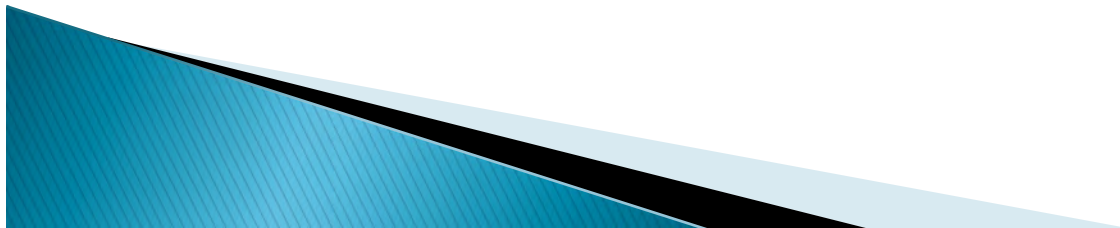
Proverbs 31:14–15, 21, 27, 28



III. GODLY MOTHERS WIELD POSITIVE INFLUENCE

I thank God, whom I serve with a pure conscience, as *my* forefathers *did*, as without ceasing

I remember you in my prayers night and day, ⁴ greatly desiring to see you, being mindful of your tears, that I may be filled with joy, ⁵ **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. II Timothy 1:3-5**



- ▶ Due in part to his mother's influence, Timothy was able to become a principal associate of the Apostle Paul (along with Silas) on his second and third missionary journeys, replacing John Mark. Aiding the evangelism of the Gentile world.
- ▶ After Paul and Barnabas' split, Paul recruited and teamed with Timothy. **See Acts 15:36 –16:5.**
- ▶ Paul referred to Timothy as his son in the gospel. **See I Tim. 1:2, II Tim. 1:2, 2:1, I Cor. 4:17**
- ▶ Paul penned two epistles to Timothy that bear his name, advising him on church leadership and organization, caring for widows, being ever vigilant in his quest to preach the gospel and save souls, counseling Timothy on the trappings and teachings of false doctrine.



IV. GODLY MOTHERS APPROVE AND CHAMPION DISCIPLINE

- ▶ Discipline is a prime factor in developing Christian character and completing the maturation process.
- ▶ Its purpose is not to hurt, maim, or destroy; rather, to correct untoward behavior and adjust bad attitudes.

The rod and rebuke give wisdom, But a child left *to himself* brings shame to his mother. **Proverbs 29:15**

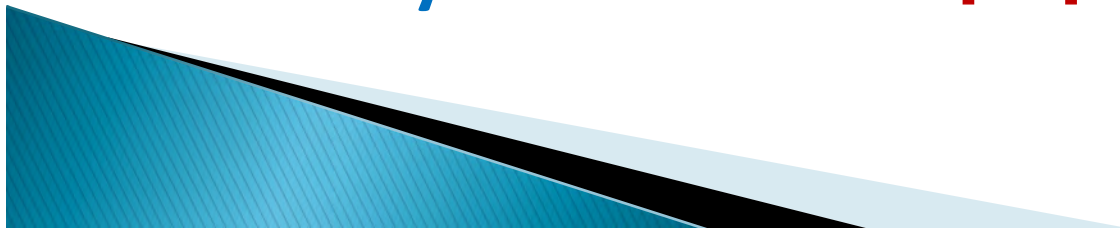
Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline will drive it far away. **Proverbs 22:15**



It may be tough for any mother to see the momentary agony, grimacing, and pain in the eyes and on the face of their “precious” children when they go through the throes of discipline.

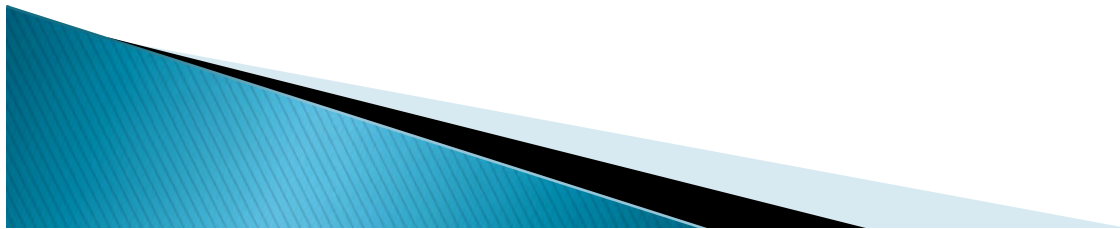
However, the long term impact of properly-administered discipline yields a life of benefits and blessings.

No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it **produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.** **Hebrews 12:11 [NIV]**



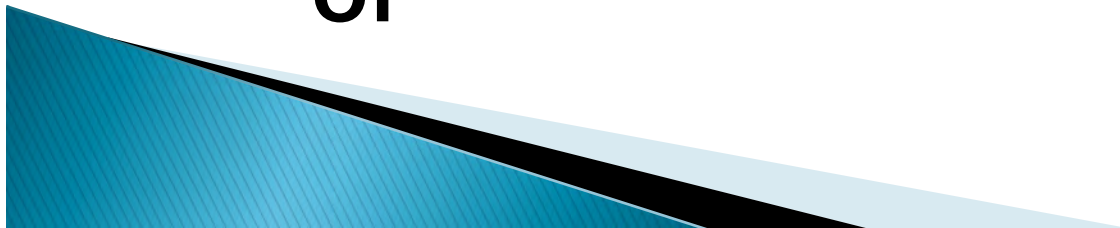
"No man is poor who has a Godly mother."
– Abraham Lincoln

*THANK GOD FOR FAITHFUL, CHRISTIAN
MOTHERS – THEIR WORTH IS FAR ABOVE
RUBIES!*



Lord's Invitation Extended to All

- ▶ **Be added to the Lord's body**
Hear the gospel (Acts 15:7);
Believe the gospel (Acts 8:37, 15:7);
Repent of sins (Acts 2:38);
Confess Christ (Acts 8:37);
Be baptized for the remission of sin (Acts 2:38);
or



Lord's Invitation (cont'd)

- ▶ Be reconciled unto the Lord (1 John 1:8–9); or
- ▶ Desire prayer (James 5:16).

