

# Announcements!

**Weekly Bible Study** We invite each of you to attend the mid-week Bible Study, held upstairs each Tuesday evening beginning at 6 pm. We encourage you to attend these vital and exciting studies!

**Children's Church** Children's Church is available upstairs on the 2nd-5th Sundays starting at 11:00 am. Ages 2-10 are welcome to attend. Please sign your children in and out. A snack is served. Please pick up your children promptly after services. ALL DONATIONS ARE WELCOMED. If you are interested in serving in Children's Church, please see Sarita Agee.

## Words of Wisdom: If I Had...

Note: Erma Bombeck needed an organ transplant, and even though she could have been moved to the head of the waiting list, due to her prominence and wealth (like Mickey Mantle), she refused to do such, and subsequently, died from organ failure.

IF I HAD MY LIFE TO LIVE OVER - by Erma Bombeck

I would have talked less and listened more. I would have invited friends over to dinner even if the carpet was stained, or the sofa faded. I would have eaten the popcorn in the 'good' living room and worried much less about the dirt when someone wanted to light a fire in the fireplace.

I would have taken the time to listen to my grandfather ramble about his youth. I would never have insisted the car windows be rolled up on a summer day because my hair had just been teased and sprayed. I would have burned the pink candle sculpted like a rose before it melted in storage.

I would have sat on the lawn with my children and not worried about grass stains. I would have cried and laughed less while watching television-and more while watching life.

I would have shared more of the responsibility carried by my husband. I would have gone to bed when I was sick instead of pretending the earth would go into a holding pattern if I weren't there for the day. I would never have bought anything just because it was practical, wouldn't show soil, or was guaranteed to last a lifetime.

Instead of wishing away nine months of pregnancy, I'd have cherished every moment and realized that the wonderment growing inside me was the only chance in life to assist God in a miracle.

When my kids kissed me impetuously, I would never have said, "Later. Now go get washed up for dinner."

There would have been more "I love you's"... more "I'm sorry's"... but mostly, given another shot at life, I would seize every minute...look at it and really see it ... live it...and never give it back.

Stop sweating the small stuff. Don't worry about who doesn't like you, who has more, or who's doing what. Instead, let's cherish the relationships we have with those who do love us.

Let's think about what God HAS blessed us with. And what we are doing each day to promote ourselves mentally, physically, emotionally, as well as spiritually. Life is too short to let it pass you by.

We only have one shot at this and then it's gone. I hope you all have a blessed day.



Welcome to the

# Everlasting Covenant Church



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Follow Us:  "The Everlasting Covenant Church", Birmingham, AL  
 "THE\_ECC2015"

## Eric R. Agee, Jr., Pastor

August 5, 2018

### Vision Statement:



Enhancing Our Knowledge of Jesus Christ,  
Empowering All Believers for Ministry, and  
Encouraging Continuous Dedication to the Lord.

# Order of Services

Fellowship | Refreshments – 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School – 10:00 a.m.

**Morning Worship Services – 11:00 a.m.**

Announcements & Recognition of Visitors

Call to Worship: Scripture Reading & Prayer

Tithes and Offerings; Prayer of Thanksgiving

Praise and Worship Selections

Sermon

Invitation to Christ

**The Lord's Supper**

## Blessings...

Taken from <https://www.gotquestions.org/blessing-Bible.html>

Question: "What is a blessing according to the Bible? What does the Bible mean by bless?"

Answer: A blessing, according to Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, is "the act or words of one that blesses," or "a thing conducive to happiness or welfare." In the Bible, there are several words that are usually translated as "blessing" or "bless." The Hebrew word most often translated "bless" is barak, which can mean to praise, congratulate, or salute, and is even used to mean a curse. Genesis 1:22 is the first occurrence, when God blessed the sea creatures and birds, telling them to be fruitful and multiply in the earth. Likewise, in verse 28, God gave the similar blessing to Adam and Eve, adding that they were to exercise dominion over creation. When God called Abram to go to the Promised Land (Genesis 12:1-3), He promised to bless him, make his name great, and through him, to bless all the families of the earth. The blessings here are plainly associated with happiness and welfare, both for Abram and others. In Genesis 22:16-18, God again blesses Abram, and adds that blessing is due to his obedience to God's commands.

God is not the only one who pronounces blessings. When Rebekah left her family to become Isaac's wife (Genesis 24:60), her family blessed her by saying "may you increase to thousands upon thousands; may your offspring possess the gates of their enemies." When Isaac was ready to die, he pronounced this blessing on his son, Jacob: "May God give you of heaven's dew and of earth's richness— an abundance of grain and new wine. May nations serve you and peoples bow down to you. Be lord over your brothers, and may the sons of your mother bow down to you. May those who curse you be cursed and those who bless you be blessed" (Genesis 27:28-29).

Another Hebrew word for blessing is esher, which is also translated as happiness. Job 5:17 declares "Blessed is the man whom God corrects; so do not despise the discipline of the Almighty." This blessing is connected to the knowledge that God is at work to direct us in the right path. God's chastisement is actually a display of His love for us, like a parent who disciplines a child who plays in the middle of the street. Psalm 1:1-3 carries that theme further when it states, "Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers." The book of Psalms is full of references to this kind of happy blessing for those who love and fear the Lord God.

# Sermon Notes

Scripture: \_\_\_\_\_

Subject: \_\_\_\_\_

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

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