

# ANNOUNCEMENTS!

Wednesday Evening Class We invite each of you to attend the mid-week Bible Study upstairs on Wednesday evening beginning at 6 p.m. We encourage you to attend these vital and exciting studies!

Church Clean-Up We will regularly have monthly church cleanings on the last Saturday of each month, beginning at 10 a.m. The next cleaning day will be held on August 27, so make plans to attend and help.

## Words of Wisdom: THE FOUR WIVES...

Once upon a time there was a rich King who had four wives. He loved the 4th wife the most and adorned her with rich robes and treated her to the finest of delicacies. He gave her nothing but the best. He also loved the 3rd wife very much and was always showing her off to neighboring kingdoms. However, he feared that one day she would leave him for another. He also loved his 2nd wife. She was his confident and was always kind, considerate and patient with him. Whenever the King faced a problem, he could confide in her, and she would help him get through the difficult times. The King's 1st wife was a very loyal partner and had made great contributions in maintaining his wealth and kingdom. However, he did not love the first wife. Although she loved him deeply, he hardly took notice of her!

One day, the King fell ill and he knew his time was short. He thought of his luxurious life and wondered, "I now have four wives with me, but when I die, I'll be all alone." Thus, he asked the 4th wife, "I have loved you the most, endowed you with the finest clothing and showered great care over you. Now that I'm dying, will you follow me and keep me company?"

"No way!", replied the 4th wife, and she walked away without another word. Her answer cut like a sharp knife right into his heart.

The sad King then asked the 3rd wife, "I have loved you all my life. Now that I'm dying, will you follow me and keep me company?"

"No!", replied the 3rd wife. "Life is too good! When you die, I'm going to remarry!" His heart sank and turned cold.

He then asked the 2nd wife, "I have always turned to you for help and you've always been there for me. When I die, will you follow me and keep me company?"

"I'm sorry, I can't help you out this time!", replied the 2nd wife. "At the very most, I can only walk with you to your grave." Her answer struck him like a bolt of lightning, and the King was devastated.

Then a voice called out: "I'll go with you. I'll follow you no matter where you go." The King looked up, and there was his first wife. She was very skinny as she suffered from malnutrition and neglect.

Greatly grieved, the King said, "I should have taken much better care of you when I had the chance!"



In truth, we all have the 4 wives in our lives: Our 4th wife is our body. No matter how much time and effort we lavish in making it look good, it will leave us when we die. Our 3rd wife is our possessions, status and wealth. When we die, it will all go to others. Our 2nd wife is our family and friends. No matter how much they have been there for us, the furthest they can stay by us is up to the grave. And our 1st wife is our Soul. Often neglected in pursuit of wealth, power and pleasures of the world. However, our Soul is the only thing that will follow us wherever we go.

Cultivate, strengthen and cherish it now, for it is the only part of us that will follow us to the throne of God and continue with us throughout Eternity.

Welcome to the



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

**Eric R. Agee, Jr., Pastor**  
August 21, 2016

### 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 – 10:45 A.M.

- Devotion ..... Deacons & Congregation
- Responsive Reading ..... Pastor & Congregation
- Youth Inspiration
- Selection ..... Choir & Congregation
- Announcements & Recognition of Visitors
- Tithes and Offerings ..... Deacons
- (Visitors are NOT required to contribute - members are encouraged to do so)*
- Prayer of Thanksgiving ..... Pastor
- Selections ..... Choir & Congregation
- Sermon
- Invitation to Christ

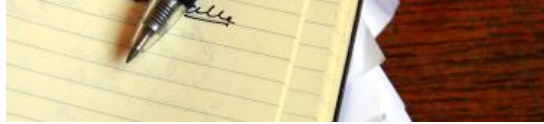


### BENEDICTION

## RESPONSIVE READING: HEBREWS 12:1-13 (NLT)

- 1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us.
- 2 We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne.
- 3 Think of all the hostility he endured from sinful people; then you won't become weary and give up.
- 4 After all, you have not yet given your lives in your struggle against sin.
- 5 And have you forgotten the encouraging words God spoke to you as his children? He said, "My child, don't make light of the lord's discipline, and don't give up when he corrects you.
- 6 For the lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes each one he accepts as his child."
- 7 As you endure this divine discipline, remember that God is treating you as his own children. Who ever heard of a child who is never disciplined by its father?
- 8 If God doesn't discipline you as he does all of his children, it means that you are illegitimate and are not really his children at all.
- 9 Since we respected our earthly fathers who disciplined us, shouldn't we submit even more to the discipline of the Father of our spirits, and live forever?
- 10 For our earthly fathers disciplined us for a few years, doing the best they knew how. But God's discipline is always good for us, so that we might share in his holiness.
- 11 No discipline is enjoyable while it is happening—it's painful! But afterward there will be a peaceful harvest of right living for those who are trained in this way.
- 12 So take a new grip with your tired hands and strengthen your weak knees.
- 13 Mark out a straight path for your feet so that those who are weak and lame will not fall but become strong.

### SERMON NOTES



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

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

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

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