



EASTRIDGE Communicator

Monthly Newsletter of Eastridge Baptist Church

A Passion for God's Word

from the desk of Pastor John

If you were going to write a poem about your love for the Bible, what would you hope to say? What style of poetry would you chose? Would you choose a simple rhyming meter, such as:

The Bible is good!
The Bible is true!
I love the Bible!
How about you?

Perhaps you would choose haiku.

The Bible pierces
Transforming my needful soul
God's Word is my hope

Or maybe free verse is more your style.

The Bible is my weapon, I use it to defeat the fierce enemy.

The Bible is my lamp, I use it to find my way in a dark world.

The Bible is my food, it nourishes my famished soul.

Word!

If you were a psalmist, you might write a poem made up of 22 strophes (sections). Each strophe would contain eight verses and

each verse in that strophe would begin with the same Hebrew letter until you had worked your way through all 22 letters in the Hebrew alphabet, yielding a total of 176 verses: and every strophe would declare your love for God's Word. Such is the case with Psalm 119. The longest chapter in the Bible is a love poem dedicated to the Scripture! In it, the poet says



things like, "Your word I have treasured in my heart, That I may not sin against You." (v. 11), "Open my eyes, that I may behold Wonderful things from Your law." (v. 18), "I shall delight in Your commandments, Which I love." (v. 47), "If Your law had not

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been my delight, Then I would have perished in my affliction." (v. 92).

And, "Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path."

(v. 105).

In the Mem strophe (corresponding to our letter "M"), which are verses 97-104, the poet begins the section by saying, (v. 97), "**O how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day.**" This is an intense expression of his love for God's law when he says, "**O how I love Your law!**" The psalmist begins the section with an exclamation of wonder, as if the

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Passion for God's Word

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depths of his love for God's Word surprises even him. Using today's vernacular, we might say something like, "I never knew I could love something so much!"

It is important to remember that the psalmist only had the first five books of the Old Testament, the Torah, at his disposal. The rest of the Bible had not been written yet. The Psalmist is referring to Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. Many Christians know Genesis and

perhaps even Exodus; but ask the average Christian to explain Leviticus and Numbers and they would have a pretty difficult time. The author of this psalm is

"There seems to be a never-ending list of demands screaming for our attention, most of which are non-essentials designed to draw our focus away from that which is truly important. In the hustle and bustle of this life, what do you truly delight in?"

saying that he loves to read about the law, the commandments of God and the sacrificial, dietary, and societal requirements. Why would he love those things? Because that was what God prescribed for His people to know Him, to honor Him, and to show their love for Him. The psalmist loves the law, because the more he knows and practices the law, the more he knows and loves God.

As the Psalmist immerses himself in God's revealed word, the commands of God become more important to him than wealth (v. 14), he finds delight in the law (v. 16, 70, 77, 92, 174), he sees wonderful things in the law (v. 18), the law becomes like songs to him (v. 54), the law becomes more valuable to him than silver and gold (v. 72), and the law becomes sweeter to him than honey (v. 103). For that reason, the author says of the

law, "**It is my meditation all the day.**" He is constantly thinking about God's Word. He regularly contemplates something he has read (see vv. 15, 23, 27, 48, 78, 99, 148), and he even memorizes Scripture so he can always have it with him, ready to mentally dwell on some aspect of God's Word throughout his day.

A love for God's law is one of the characteristics of a righteous man. Listen to **Psalm 1:1-2, "How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, Nor stand in the path of sinners, Nor sit in the seat of scoffers! ² But his**

delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night." Owning a Bible is not enough; it is not even enough just to read the Bible (though that is a good place to start). The righteous person delights in God's Word, and meditates on it, so they can know the heart of God, the love of the Son, and the work of the Holy Spirit! God's Word is our source of wisdom in a foolish world, our spiritual food in a famished world, and our illumination in a darkened world.

There seems to be a never-ending list of demands screaming for our attention, most of which are non-essentials designed to draw our focus away from that which is truly important. In the hustle and bustle of this life, what do you truly delight in? What do you meditate on? What fills your thoughts and your heart? What drives your daily agenda?

If you were going to write a poem about your love for the Bible, what would you say? Share it with us. Write a poem—any style you wish—and send it to info@eastridgebaptist.org. Write "Poem" in the subject line. Include your name, and, if you are under the age of eighteen, include your age as well. We will print some of your poems in next month's newsletter. Let's encourage each other in our love for God's Word!

Audrey Anderson

While Audrey has been public-schooled for most of her life, due to the Covid pandemic she finished off her senior year by home-schooling. While she was attending Kentridge High School she was a National Honor Society student and volunteered for many community service opportunities as part of that program. It was through that service that God grew in her the desire to pursue a life involved in missions. She is currently looking into different missionary programs and plans to get involved in missions next year. Audrey has always had a heart for people and a strong desire to bring them to Christ—she is excited to see how God will use her in this way! Although she does not have all the details planned out, she is trusting God to guide her and is willing to be wherever the Lord leads her.



“Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.”

Psalm 73:25-26



Olivia Benavidez

Olivia is excited to receive her diploma from Promise Academy and to begin her life as a young adult. She looks forward to pursuing her relationship with Jesus, spending time with family and friends, and deciding what's next.

“You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you. 4 Trust in the LORD forever, for the LORD, the LORD himself, is the Rock eternal.”

Isaiah 26:3-4

Danny Kerr

We are pleased to graduate Danny from our homeschool in the class of 2022!

Danny has always enjoyed learning and we are very proud of his academic achievements, culminating in a full tuition scholarship to Liberty University. He will begin classes in August as a sophomore and pursue a degree in worship music.

Danny has enjoyed many extracurricular activities and has especially enjoyed Tae Kwon Do—thank you Kelseys!—where he has achieved his black belt. His other interests include playing drums, guitar, piano, and Bible quizzing.

Danny's nine siblings and parents are very proud of him and look forward to seeing how God will continue to guide his steps as he pursues Christ in the next phase of life.



*“Because he holds fast to me in love, I will deliver him; I will protect him, because he knows my name.”
Psalm 91:14*



Andrew Young



Along with graduating from high school, Andrew has also completed two years of college through Green River College and Liberty University's dual enrollment programs. He plans to finish his B.S. in Business Administration from Liberty University. He has enjoyed playing guitar for the worship team and Youth Praise.

“For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving, abounding in steadfast love to all who call upon you.”

Psalm 86:5

Motives: Why Do I Do the Things I Do?

by Edward T. Welch

A Book Review by Danielle Jensen

In the hall off of the foyer in the church building is a wall full of mini-books on a wide variety of topics—ranging from family issues, to sexual sin, to depression and anxiety, and more. These books are made available by Eastridge’s Biblical Counseling Ministry (for a recommended donation of \$5) for anyone seeking guidance in a specific area of life or anyone seeking to help someone with a particular struggle.

The mission of the Eastridge Biblical Counseling Ministry is to help believers understand how to apply the wisdom and the specific instructions of Scripture to *anything* they are struggling with in life (2 Peter 1:3). The mini-books cover specific topics briefly and in such a way that the reader is given some key information regarding the topic from a biblical worldview, some ways to grow and change through it, and acts as a resource for further study. Each month, the counseling team will review a mini-book in this newsletter to expose people to this great resource.

This month we will look at *Motives* by Dr. Edward Welch. If you have ever asked yourself, “Why did I do that?” this book is going to help. Welch helps us understand that our sinful actions are not actually the problem. They are merely the symptom of a deeper problem. Whether we are struggling with an addiction or a fear of people, the reason we do what we do is because of what is

in our heart (Matthew 15:19).

The heart wants things. It wants comfort, control, love, respect, and more. These wants reveal the motives that drive why we do what we do. People and motives are complex. Our actions are often motivated by multiple, sinful, and self-righteous desires. Welch helps us to begin identifying our personal motivations by asking good questions.

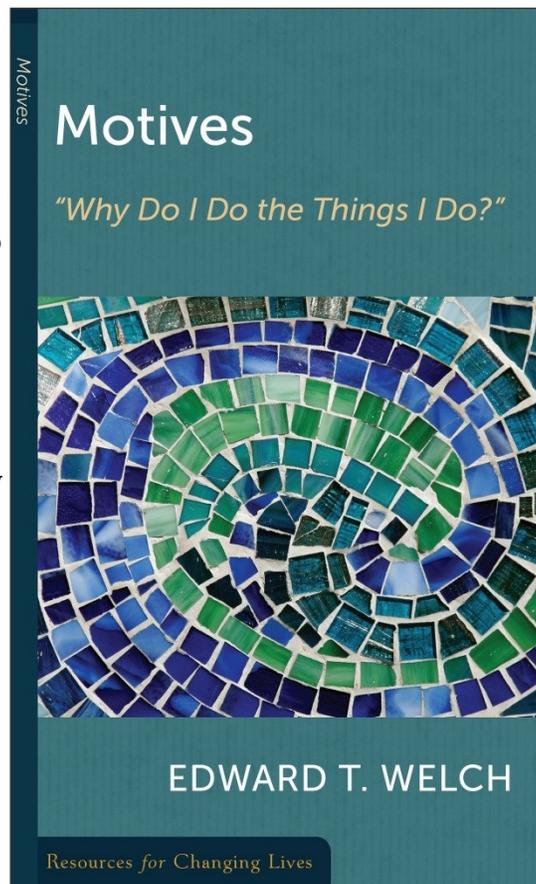
If we honestly answer these questions, we begin to see our sin—in all its unflattering light. Proverbs 4:23 says, “Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life.”

Motives can help a believer desiring to grow in their ability to understand the sinful nature of their heart (Jeremiah 17:9) and shed some light on why they keep struggling with some particular sin or habit. This book can also help all Christians develop the basic spiritual discipline of sanctification (Ephesians 4:20-24).

While the wisdom that Welch shares is clear, how to personal-

ly apply it may be difficult to figure out. If, after reading this booklet, you have questions about how to identify and change the motives behind areas of struggle in your life, please feel free to reach out to a counselor or pastor for more advice.

Our counselors are: Cathy Mickelson (camickelson@msn.com) and Danielle Jensen (jensen.danielle11@gmail.com).



“Pray Up Before You Show Up” from the desk of Pastor Samuel

When I was in college, I spent a summer interning for my cousin who was a music pastor at the time. While I learned a great deal from that internship, one of the things that still sticks out to me the most is this phrase he regularly used when talking about preparing for Sunday: “Pray up before you show up.” Another phrase I’ve heard that hits the same point is, “Sunday morning starts Saturday night.” We all ought to agree that the Sunday gathering for worship is important. If that is the case, we need to prepare properly for it.

Jason Helopoulos makes an excellent point in this regard:

We count preaching as significant, so we expect our pastor will prepare his sermon before he enters the pulpit. We consider worship songs important, so we expect our music teams ... will appropriately prepare before sitting down at their instruments. We believe our engagement in corporate worship is essential, so we should also expect to prepare even as we expect the pastor and musicians to prepare for their participation in the Sunday morning service.¹

The best way to prepare for the Sunday morning worship service is to get your heart right before the Lord. Take time on Saturday to pray, to confess sin from the day or week prior, to seek anew the forgiveness we have received in Christ, to rejoice in God’s grace, and to ask for the grace to love and serve God and man as He has commanded. If this sounds daunting, take advantage of the resources that are available to you. The Psalms are a primary help in seeing the purpose of prayer and can be utilized as personal prayers. I would also recommend prayers such as “Act of Approach” or “Lord’s Day Eve” from *The Valley of Vision* (a worthy book to get



if you don’t own it!). There may be other steps you need to take on Saturday nights so you are well prepared for Sunday; you can decide what those steps might be. These actions should all be done with the desire to devote ourselves wholeheartedly to the worship of God on Sunday morning (see Acts 2:42).

Sunday morning worship is an obvious high point in the regular spiritual walk for the believer. It ought to be that way; this is the time that we have set aside to meet as a corporate body of Christ-followers to remember and proclaim His excellencies (Hebrews 10:25). If it is that important, we must prepare well for each new Sunday. This is just one piece of ensuring that the message we proclaim on Sundays is the same message we live during the rest of the week.

¹ Jason Helopoulos, “Preparing for Sunday Worship,” The Gospel Coalition, October 30, 2014, <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/kevindeyoung/preparing-for-sunday-worship/>.

Service Opportunity: Ushers Needed!

Do you like meeting new people? Do you enjoy making people feel welcome when they attend a service at Eastridge? If so, we'd love to use your gifts on the usher team!

We are looking to get this important ministry up and running again (after a Covid hiatus) and are in need of volunteers to usher at first or second service. Ushers are responsible for greeting congregants as they enter the worship center, handing out bulletins and welcome brochures, and helping people find seats when the sanctuary begins to fill. Training will be provided.

We are also looking for a **head usher**. In addition to regular usher duties, the head usher creates an

usher schedule and ensures new ushers are trained. If you would like to volunteer for either of these ministry positions, please contact the church office at info@eastridgebaptist.org or Pastor Samuel Blakey at samuelb@eastridgebaptist.org.

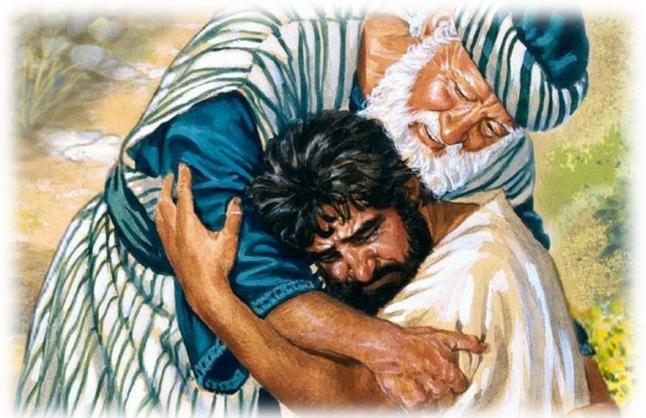


Fathers in the Bible

Match Biblical Dads and their Offspring

How well do you know these biblical fathers? Draw a line to connect the father with their offspring.

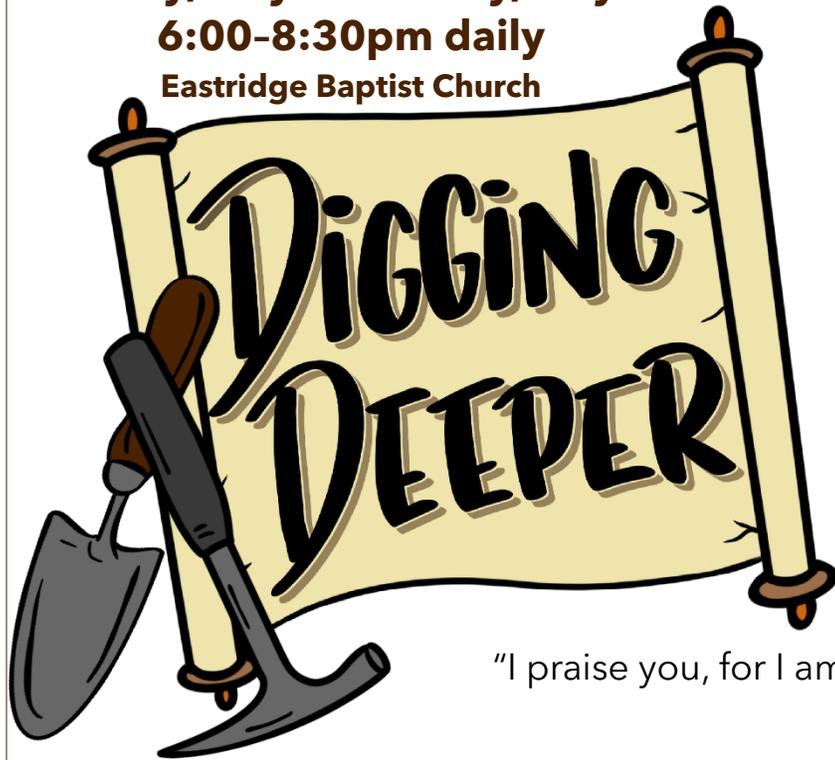
- | <u>Father</u> | <u>Child(ren)</u> |
|---------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Zebedee | a. Abraham |
| 2. Job | b. King Saul |
| 3. Terah | c. King David |
| 4. Amram | d. John the Baptist |
| 5. Lamech | e. Apostles James and John |
| 6. Solomon | f. Noah |
| 7. Kish | g. Joseph and his brothers |
| 8. Jacob | h. Rehoboam |
| 9. Zacharias | i. Jemimah |
| 10. Jesse | j. Aaron and Moses |



Monday, July 11–Friday, July 15

6:00–8:30pm daily

Eastridge Baptist Church



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2022

**Digging Deeper:
Discovering the
Value of Life**

**A free VBS for children
4 years through 6th grade**

*"I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made."
(Psalm 139:14a)*

Watch for volunteer sign-ups and VBS registration in the weeks to come!
Questions: Contact Pastor Paul at paulc@eastridgebaptist.org

Kids' Summer BIBLE STUDY

**Begins
June 22nd**



For kids in grades 3 through 6



**Meets weekly at the church on Wednesdays at 6:30 to
8:00pm June 22 through August 3**



Studying the book of John



Led by Randy Mayes

For more information, contact Randy Mayes at ranmayes@outlook.com

Blessed by Our Volunteers by Cheryl Boston

We are so grateful for all the people who showed up for the Church Workdays in April and May to help clean up and beautify the church grounds. You were a great help and we accomplished more than we expected!

We really enjoyed meeting so many new people and it was fun to see families working together as the next generation is being taught to serve. Everyone worked so hard and we were able to accomplish so much in the three work days. We are grateful for

the family of God at Eastridge and give God the glory for all that was done.

Thank you!

Kathy Herbert and Cheryl Boston



Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

Chris Reed 6/3
Ryan Goheen 6/3
HyeJin Graham 6/3
Caleb Hurst 6/7
Mark McMinn 6/7
Sal Guevara 6/7
Cathy Mickelson 6/8
Juliet Graham 6/9
Curt Foster 6/11
Andrey Tiginyanu 6/12
Celty Hunt-Anderson
6/13
Diana Lilly 6/15
Joyce Rowland 6/15
Mavis Gaines 6/16
Jim Sherman 6/17

Sofia Guevara 6/17
Gabriel Mickelson 6/17
Phil Dudley 6/19
Alex Lopez 6/19
Janelle McArdel 6/19
Nancy Hawkins 6/19
Deborah Steen 6/20
Dean Renick 6/20
Danny Kerr 6/22
Josh Kerr 6/23
Ryan Pogue 6/24
Elise Gingerich 6/24
Alaire Irish 6/25
Will Freeman 6/25
Daniel Turner 6/27
Chris Jensen 6/29
Tracey Hunt 6/30

Jennifer Swenson 6/30
Faith Young 6/30

Anniversaries

Marv and Kris Adams 6/3
Ron and Peaches
Sandelius 6/4
Jorge and Vanessa
Ramos 6/4
Daniel and Christina
Mickelson 6/8
Lance and Jennifer
Swenson 6/12
Phil and Nicole Dudley
6/13
James and Anastasia
Kariuki (6/15)

Randy and Linda Mayes
6/17
Jeff and Cheryl Benjamin
6/18
Peter and Melanie Schrock
6/21
Larry and Marian
Hutchins 6/22
Kevin and Emma McArdel
6/23
Ilya and Mila Kukhar 6/24
Mike and Jeannie
Osterman 6/26
Don and Tracey Hunt 6/26



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 10:00am Ladies' Bible Study 6:30pm Youth Group 6:30pm Ladies' Bible Study	2 7:00pm Young Adult Bible Study	3	4 8:00am Men's Disc Golf @ Lake Wilderness Park
5 6:00pm Prayer Meeting	6	7 5:00pm-8:30pm Taekwondo	8 10:00am Ladies' Bible Study 6:30pm Youth Group 6:30pm Ladies' Bible Study	9 7:00pm Young Adult Bible Study	10	11
12	13	14 10:00am Missions Prayer Ministry (@ Alaire Irish's) 5:00pm-8:30pm Taekwondo	15 6:30pm Youth Group	16 7:00pm Young Adult Bible Study	17	18
19 Father's Day Promotion and Graduation Sunday	20	21 5:00pm-8:30pm Taekwondo	22 10:00am Ladies' Bible Study 6:30pm Youth Group 6:30pm Ladies' Bible Study 6:30-8:00pm Kid's Summer Bible Study	23 7:00pm Young Adult Bible Study	24	25
26 Communion	27	28 5:00pm-8:30pm Taekwondo	29 6:30pm Youth Group 6:30-8:00pm Kid's Summer Bible Study	30 7:00pm Young Adult Bible Study		

July 2022

Sunday, July 3	Monthly Prayer Meeting	6:00pm (Auditorium)
Thursday, July 7– Sunday, July 17	Fiji Short-term Mission	
Monday, July 11– Friday, July 15	Vacation Bible School	6:00–8:30pm Daily
Tuesday, July 12	Missions Prayer Ministry	10:30am @ Alaire Irish’s
Monday, July 18– Friday, July 22	Youth Summer Camp	Cascades Camp (Yelm, WA)
Sunday, July 31	Celebration Sunday @ EBC	Time TBD

August 2022

Sunday, August 7	Monthly Prayer Meeting	6:00pm (Auditorium)
Tuesday, August 9	Missions Prayer Ministry	10:30am @ Alaire Irish’s
Friday, August 12	Ladies’ Fireside Fellowship	7:00–9:00pm (Goheen’s)

September 2022

Sunday, September 4	Monthly Prayer Meeting	6:00pm (Auditorium)
Tuesday, September 13	Missions Prayer Ministry	10:30am @ Alaire Irish’s
Saturday, September 24	Ladies’ Titus 2 “Adorned” Study	10:00am–12:00pm (Aud.)

LOOKING AHEAD





A Father's Day Prayer

Lord, I depend on Your direction, Your Wisdom, and Your discernment to protect each family member. Forgive me when I fail to encourage, love, and shepherd them. Thank You for giving me the grace to fail, and the courage to try again. Draw our family close to You... and to each other.

Amen

Happy Father's Day to all our dads!



EASTRIDGE
BAPTIST CHURCH