

Grace Tidings



A Newsletter of Avalon Grace Church

May 2026

A BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE ON MOTHER'S DAY

As we celebrate Mother's Day, we reflect on the profound effect that mothers have on our lives, both in our immediate families, in our church family, and the broader spiritual community and we honor her. The Bible, rich with stories and teachings about motherhood, offers us endless wisdom on the virtues of motherhood and the important role moms play in nurturing faith and fostering wisdom in their children.

As we think about our moms this Mother's Day, let's not forget that this day is not always a welcomed day especially for people who have lost their mothers most recently or for woman who struggles with infertility, experienced the death of a child or for the step-mom who rarely gets acknowledged despite her love in nurturing a blended family. For some, Mother's Day as well as Father's Day can understandably be difficult if not heartbreaking.

Throughout the Scriptures, mothers are depicted as symbols of love, strength, and unwavering guidance. One of the most striking examples is found in Proverbs 31, which portrays a woman of noble character, a woman worth far more than rubies. Her children

rise and call her blessed; her husband also praises her. The writer declares: "Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised" (Proverbs 31:30.)

These passages are a powerful testament to the esteem and respect that godly mothers command in their families. The deep reverence for the mother of Proverbs 31 stems from her unyielding commitment to biblical principles. This dedication shaped her character and profoundly influenced her family's spiritual and moral compass. Her example sets a standard of virtue and integrity that continues to guide and enrich the lives of her loved ones.

A mother's influence on her children's spiritual upbringing cannot be underestimated. In 2 Timothy 1:5, Paul recalls Timothy's sincere faith, which first lived in his grandmother Lois and his mother Eunice. This passage highlights how faith is passed from generation to

Continued on Page 2)



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Pastor Phillip McClellan, Jr.
Pastor Emeritus Arthur Sims
Kathleen Smith, Editor

All Are Welcome!

Sunday Worship 10:30 AM
(Sunday Messages available on website:
www.avaolongracechurch.com)
Children's Sunday School 10:45 AM

**"And to make all men see
what is the fellowship of the mystery,
which from the beginning of the world
hath been hid in God, who created
all things by Jesus Christ: . . ."**
- Ephesians 3:9

A BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE ON MOTHER'S DAY

generation, often through the teachings and examples set by mothers.

The story of Hannah, who dedicated her son Samuel to the Lord, serves as a testament to the profound spiritual impact a mother's vow can make, not only on her child's life but also on the fate of an entire nation. Hannah's story is a beautiful narrative of sacrifice, prayer, and dedication. Her story reveals the deep yearnings of a woman who longs to nurture a family of her own. Confronted with the pain of barrenness, Hannah turns to God with her profound sorrow. In her earnest plea, she not only seeks to bear a child but also commits to an extraordinary vow: if blessed with a son, she promises to dedicate him to the Lord's service for all his days (1 Samuel 1:11). God responds to Hannah with compassion, granting her heartfelt request. True to her word, once Samuel is weaned, Hannah fulfills her vow, raising him with the knowledge of God until time to serve in the temple (1 Samuel 1:22). Samuel grows to become one of the great Old Testament spiritual leaders. Undoubtedly, his life is a testament to the power of faith and the impact of a godly upbringing.

The commandment to "honor your father and your mother" (Exodus 20:12) is a cornerstone of biblical teaching, underlining the importance of respecting our parents.

Practical Ways to Celebrate Mother's Day

Spend Quality Time Together:

Plan a visit, share a meal, go out to mom's favorite restaurant, or enjoy an extended Facetime phone call with family.

Gifts from the Heart: While practical gifts are always appreciated, consider giving something that can enrich mom's life as a special treat. Options like a new devotional, a gift certificate for a soothing, relaxing pedicure, are all choices that she will appreciate so much.

Service: Show love through acts of service. Whether it's helping around the house, handling chores mom usually attends to, or simply being there to offer a listening ear, these acts of kindness demonstrate your appreciation in practical ways.

Prayer: Dedicate time to pray with and for your mother. Prayers for her health, faith, and happiness can be her most precious gifts.

As we celebrate Mother's Day, let us cherish and honor our mothers, grandmothers, step-moms, foster moms, and aunts . . . all the women who have been like mothers to us and impacted our lives for good; even those who are no longer with us physically, recognizing their irreplaceable role in our lives and communities. Happy Mother's Day!

For His glory, Pastor Phil

TO MY MOTHER

By D.P.

When Jesus decided to send me
From Heaven's skies of blue
He searched the wide world over
For a woman, kind and true—

Someone to love me always
Someone to keep me spotlessly new
One who would really want me—
A loving woman just like you!

But then, at last, My Jesus found one,
Who was as good as she could be
She had been waiting, yes, longing
For a baby just like me.

So, He wrapped me in a fluffy cloud
Tied with a ribbon blue
And slid me down the rainbow,
Yes Mother—to earth and you!

**Motherhood is more than a stage -
it's a lifelong calling from God.**

**With it He gives us hearts that love deeply,
hands that serve tirelessly,
and vision to see
His blossoming image
in the precious ones
entrusted to our care.**

- Anonymous



Did You Know?



May 7, 2026 is America's 75th 'National Day of Prayer.'

In compiling the monthly calendar attached to the Avalon Grace Church "Grace Tidings" newsletter each month I refer to my day timer to ensure I have captured special days throughout any particular month. So I checked the month of May. My day timer noted the following special days:

- May 5th National Teacher's Day
- May 6th National Nurse's Day
- May 10th Mother's Day
- May 16th Armed Forces Day (US)
- May 18th Victoria Day (a Canadian holiday)
- May 25th Memorial Day

I was saddened to see that the National Day of Prayer, May 7th was not listed. I reasoned if Christmas and Easter is recorded, why isn't our nation's National Day of Prayer? Apparently, since there is no real \$\$ profit to be gained, the National Day of Prayer gets excluded?

Every Christian special holiday throughout the entire year is based on secular traditions that \$\$ profit a secular world. While most of us enjoy decorating for Christmas and Easter; we do so knowing in our hearts the true meaning of Christmas and Resurrection Sunday. But it is disappointing that "Groundhog Day" and "Canada Day" is noted in calendars but the "National Day of Prayer" is not!

History records that prayer and dependence upon God was vital to our nation's founders. Here's a link that you can check out that chronicles our nation's past Presidents and leaders in Congress encouraging America to pray:

https://www.nationaldayofprayer.org/about/history_of_prayer_in_america

The National Day of Prayer exists to mobilize unified public prayer for America; that's a good thing. As our apostle Paul encouraged us in 1 Timothy 2: 1-4:

"I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; for kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty; for this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth."

Sincerely in Christ, Kathleen Smith

Husband to Wife



From The Berean Searchlight, May 2026

Steven James writes, "I'll never understand my wife. The day she moved in with me after we were married, she started opening and closing my kitchen cabinets, gasping, 'You don't have any shelf paper!!' We're going to have to get some shelf paper in here before I move my dishes in here.' 'But why?' I asked innocently. 'To keep the dishes clean,' she answered matter-of-factly. I didn't understand how dust would magically migrate off the dishes if they had shelf paper under them, but I knew when to be quiet.

"Then came the day when I left the toilet seat up. 'We never left the toilet seat up in my family,' she scolded. 'It's impolite.' 'It wasn't impolite in my family,' I said. But I started putting it down from then on."

"In addition to these lessons, I also learned how I was supposed to squeeze the toothpaste tube, which towel to use after a shower, how to position a roll of toilet paper and where the spoons are supposed to go when I set the table. I had no idea. I was so uneducated. Nope, I'll never understand my wife. She washes dishes before sending them through the dishwasher; and sorts laundry into different piles before throwing them into the washing machine. Can you imagine?

"Then, after we had kids, she acted even stranger. She began carrying around a diaper bag the size of a minivan, talking in one-syllable paragraphs, singing nursery rhymes at all hours of the day, and taking pictures constantly. She carried our baby everywhere—on her back, on her front, in her arms, over her shoulder. She got up at all hours to calm our kids, she cleaned up the spills, changed dirty diapers, hardly without a complaint. One day a friend of mine snickered at the bumper sticker my wife had put on the back of our van: "Being a Mom Is a Work of Heart." And I didn't mind one iota.

"On another day, in a thoughtless moment, I said something that sent her fleeing to our bedroom in tears. I went in to apologize, knowing what I said was hurtful. 'I forgive you,' she said. And you know what? She did. She never brought it up again. Not even when she got angry with me and could have hauled out all the heavy artillery. She forgave and she forgot.

"Nope, I'll never understand my wife. And you know what? Our daughter is acting more and more like her mother every day. And if she turns out to be anything like her mom, someday there's going to be another guy in this world, who is so blessed and thankful for the shelf paper in his cupboard."

"Who can find a virtuous woman? For her price is far above rubies. The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that she shall have no need of spoil." - Proverbs 31: 10-11

A Memorial Day Prayer - Monday, May 25, 2026

Dear Heavenly Father,

With a sober heart we come before You this Memorial Day.

We pause for a moment and call to mind all the men and women who have died in service to our nation since the Colonist's quest for independence.

Dear God, please look with mercy on our brave and selfless brothers and sisters, who did not shirk from their task but gave themselves completely to the cause of defending and protecting us all. We most humbly thank You for all who have given their lives for the sake of liberty, and grant them eternal rest in YOU.

We remember also our brave men and women now serving in our Armed Forces, both at home and abroad in foreign lands. Dear Lord, send out your angels to protect them all. Help them discharge their duties honorably and well. Please bring them safely home to their families and loved ones. Please bring Your peace and mercy to our troubled world.

We ask this, Father, in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, Your Son. Amen.



Quotes for the Wise & Young at Heart:

"A mother is the truest friend we have, when trials, heavy and sudden, fall upon us; when adversity takes the place of prosperity; when friends who rejoice with us in our sunshine, desert us when troubles thicken around us, still will she cling to us, and endeavor by her kind precepts and counsels to dissipate the clouds of darkness, and cause peace to return to our hearts." – Washington Irving

"I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also." – 2 Timothy 1:5

"As apostles of Christ we could have been a burden to you, but we were gentle among you, like a mother caring for her little children." – 1 Thessalonians 2:7

"We are told to let our light shine, and if it does, we won't need to tell anybody it does. Lighthouses don't fire cannons to call attention to their shining—They Just Shine." - Dwight L. Moody

"She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness. She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness." - Proverbs 31: 26-27

"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." - Proverbs 22:6

"She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness." - Proverbs 31:27

KEEPERS OF THE HOME

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.

— TITUS 2:4-5 KJV

Woman to Woman

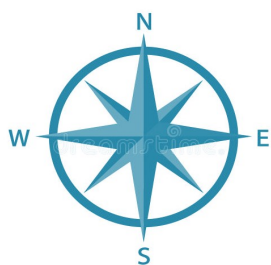
By Penni Wiskirchen, The Berean Searchlight, April, 2021

Many messages for women today focus on independence and individuality. The thought that you can be married and feel fulfilled within that relationship may be looked on as old fashioned or undesirable. We have a woman of influence in our Bible that not only embraced her role as a wife but also as a life partner in ministry.

We don't read of her name alone, as it always accompanies that of her husband, Aquilla. Mentioned together, they were a team and a tremendous support to the Apostle Paul. There are so many things to love about this woman—she was a real go-getter! Active and energetic, Priscilla was right beside her husband in all their ministry adventures.

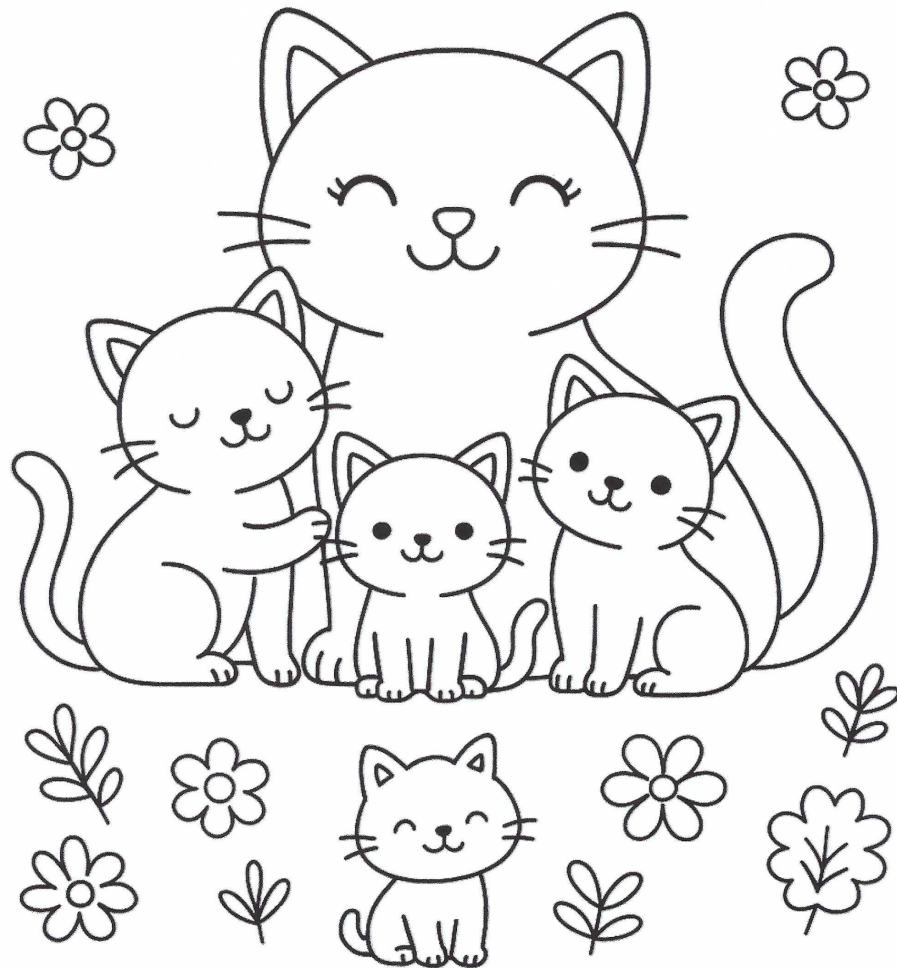
When Paul arrived in Corinth, he jumped right into their tent making business which provided them the opportunity to be taught by the Apostle himself **“And found a certain Jew named Aquila, born in Pontus, lately come from Italy, with his wife Priscilla; (because that Claudius had commanded all Jews to depart from Rome:) and came unto them. And because he was of the same craft, he abode with them, and wrought: for by their occupation they were tentmakers.” (Acts 18: 2-3)**. Leaving Corinth over a year later, the couple accompanied him to Ephesus and served there. Let's consider takeaways from Priscilla's life and marriage.

- ◆ They ministered together. Once they learned the Pauline truth, they were capable of teaching it to others. As leaders in the Ephesian church, the couple lovingly instructed the learned Apollos in truth. Both knew their stuff and were able to teach **“And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue: whom when Aquila and Priscilla had heard, they took him unto them, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly.” (Acts 18:26)**.
- ◆ They sacrificed together. Paul calls them out for risking their necks and lives for him, probably having to do with the Ephesus riots and ruckus. Bravely, they both stood by him **“Greet Priscilla and Aquila my helpers in Christ Jesus: Who have for my life laid down their own necks: unto whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles. Likewise greet the church that is in their house. Salute my well-beloved Epænetus, who is the firstfruits of Achaia unto Christ.” (Romans 16: 3-5)**
- ◆ They hosted together. We read of them hosting Paul, as well as church in their home. They opened up their doors to the saints and provided a place for them to learn, grow, and enjoy fellowship **“The churches of Asia salute you. Aquila and Priscilla salute you much in the Lord, with the church that is in their house. (1 Corinthians 16:19)**. Priscilla was a woman of influence. Her desire to serve with her husband and honor God in their marriage is an example for women of grace today. ♥

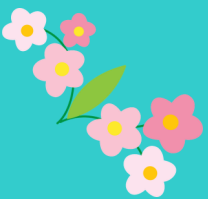
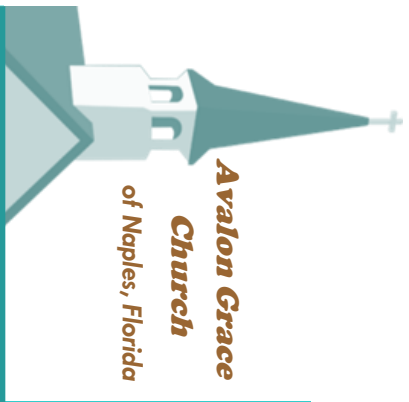


“ As you think of the gospel's extending in all directions, have you ever considered the fact that the gospel is the Good **News** and that the word '**NEWS**' contains the letter of all four directions (North, East, West and South)? We must not restrict the gospel to any area but must take it in every direction to a world that desperately needs to hear about Jesus Christ” - Theodore EPP

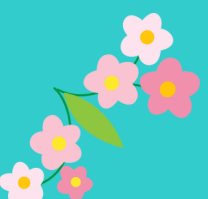
YOU ARE A
PURR-FECT
MOM



“Her children arise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her.” - Proverbs 31:28 KJV



May 2026



SUN

MON

TUE

WED

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9:45 AM Breakfast
10:30 AM Sunday Worship
10:45 AM Children's Sunday



1st Emma Stevens

5th Jennifer Barrett

12th Jim Anderson

18th Edie O'Neill

25th Paul Forsberg

COMING IN JUNE

7th 9:45 AM Sunday Breakfast

14th Flag Day

21st Father's Day

1 0 MOTHER'S DAY



10:30 AM Worship
10:45 AM Children's Sunday School

1 7 1 8 1 9 2 0 2 1 2 2 2 3

10:30 AM Sunday Worship
The LORD'S Supper - Observed 10:45 AM
Children's Sunday



2 4 10:30 AM Sunday Worship
10:45 AM Children's Sunday School

MEMORIAL DAY

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