

August 2016

The Messenger



A publication of Malvern Hill Baptist Church

From the Pastor's Desk

Preaching is a big deal in the Bible. Correctly and faithfully preaching the word of God is one of the key characteristics of a healthy biblical church. Unfortunately, many people have never learned how to listen to a sermon. As a result, you may sit under preaching, but get little out of it. Here are a few steps to help you improve your sermon-listening.

- Pray. When do you begin to prepare for a sermon or a worship service? In my house we pray on Saturday nights, "God, prepare us for worship..."
- Get to know the preacher. Obviously, if you are listening to a sermon from your pastor, knowing him is easier, but if you are listening to a podcast or attending a conference, do some research and get to know the person who is preaching.
- Understand the text. Good preachers can sometimes preach wonderful sermons from one or two verses of scripture, but that does not mean that you shouldn't read the context. If you want to listen to a sermon well, take your own Bible with you and read the context around the verse as well as the verse.
- Take notes. Yes, take notes. Make sure that you have a pen and paper handy to at least jot down some highlights or main ideas. Use the margins of your Bible for notes or creating cross-references.
- Bathe in the word. I know, that probably sounds a little odd, but we often need to be reminded that an active sermon listener actively ponders and bathes in the Word.

By Craig Thompson

- Apply the sermon. What is the purpose of a sermon? To glorify God and edify his people who in-turn bring him more glory by submitting to him and serving in obedience. If you do not apply the sermon, then in some ways it has been wasted on you.
- Tell someone. A sermon is only powerful to those who hear it—unless those who hear it take the message of the sermon and tell it to someone else. Do you want to bless your pastor? Steal his sermons and preach them to the people at work or around the lunch table.

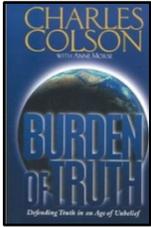
These steps will help you get more out of a sermon and better apply God's Word in your life.

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From the Church Library

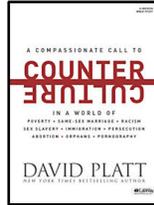
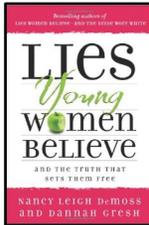
*Ask anyone today, "What is truth?" and you're sure to start an interesting conversation. Try it on a university campus and you're likely to receive laughter, scorn, and derision. The concept of truth has clearly fallen on hard times, and the consequences of rejecting it are ravaging human society.



Here's a simple definition drawn from what the Bible teaches: Truth is that which is consistent with the mind, will, character, glory, and being of God. Even more to the point: Truth is the self-expression of God. That is the biblical meaning of truth.

Scripture also says God reveals basic truth about Himself in nature. The heavens declare His glory (Psalm 19:1). His other invisible attributes (such as His wisdom, power, and beauty) are on constant display in what He has created (Romans 1:20). Knowledge of Him is inborn in the human heart (Romans 1:19), and a sense of the moral character and loftiness of His law is implicit in every human conscience (Romans 2:15)...

The only infallible interpreter of what we see in nature or know innately in our own consciences is the explicit



revelation of Scripture. Since Scripture is also the one place where we are given the way of salvation, entrance into the kingdom of God, and an infallible account of Christ, the Bible is the touchstone to which all truth claims should be brought and by which all other truth must finally be measured.

An obvious corollary of what I am saying is that truth means nothing apart from God. Truth cannot be adequately explained, recognized, understood, or defined without God as the source. Since He alone is eternal and self-existent and He alone is the Creator of all else, He is the fountain of all truth.

*For the full article, go to gty.org articles, *What is Truth?*

Scripture is always the place where we will find truth regarding the situations we face in our lives and our culture, but we are also blessed to live in an age where we have access to godly teachers, pastors, and leaders who share God's Truth. The church library is a wonderful resource for books on a variety of topics. Stop by after services or during the week and search our resources for help as you seek to apply God's truth in your life.



LIVING PROOF
WITH *simulcast*
BETH MOORE
9.17.2016

Join women of all ages for this global, one-day simulcast event that will encourage you to dive deeper into the Word of God.

Saturday, September 17
10:30 AM - 5:15 PM
\$20
(includes lunch and materials)

Tickets are available at malvernhill.org
or in the church office.



MEN'S BIBLE
STUDY

FRIDAY, AUGUST 26
AT 6:00AM

JOIN US ON THE LAST FRIDAY
MORNING OF EACH MONTH AT THE
CAMDEN CHICK~FIL~A AS WE STUDY
WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A SPIRITUAL
LEADER. MEN OF ALL AGES ARE
WELCOME!

Mission Emphasis: Prisoner Packets

By: Grace Holden

Our state goal was met last year by sending 25,238 prisoner packets, reaching every state inmate over the Christmas season. This goal was met through the work of local churches just like our church. Our goal at Malvern Hill was 110 and we received 114 packets. This year our goal will be 120 packets.

There was an article in *The Baptist Courier* this past February that explained how volunteers and inmates worked side by side to check, assemble, and bag the packets in December at a local church in Malvern Hill. The 2015 collection marks the 39th year for the prisoner packet ministry, which relies on churches and associations to donate completed packets. Each plastic zippered bag contains a toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, mints, a pad of paper, pen and pre-stamped envelopes, along with Gospel tracts and literature.

Susan Harris, a member of First Baptist Church of Holly Hill, delivered 474 packets from her association. She is involved in an ongoing local prison ministry and said the seasonal packets have a big impact on those receiving them.

"I have a close friend with a son in prison, and she shared with me how much it meant to her son that someone else was thinking of him. It's a small effort

and a wonderful opportunity to do something local," Harris said.

For one inmate this was his fourth year helping at the collection site. To him, the packets represent the love of Christ carried inside the prison system. "These packets shows that someone cares about us and that where we are doesn't dictate who we are," he said.

This is just a sample of what, where, and how these packets are used. We at Malvern Hill will have a chance to give someone a Christmas present this year. Will you join me in taking a bag from our Welcome Center and filling it with the items that are listed? If you don't want to shop or don't have time, you can put \$8.00 in an envelope marked "Prisoner Packets" and place it in the offering plate and someone will shop for you.

These gifts will be due by August 28, 2016. Thank you in advance from the W.M.U.



Music Ministry & Prime Timers' Ministry

By Buster Morris

Malvern Hill Worship Ministry

Last month I shared about the importance of the Holy Spirit in our worship and preparing our hearts and minds for corporate worship each week. Then on Sunday morning July 17th I shared out of Romans 12:1-2. We talked about how each day should be a time of spiritual worship for the believer. This happens as we yield ourselves completely to our Lord through the power of the Holy Spirit. As we shared that Sunday morning, Jesus doesn't accept partial commitments; He desires and deserves our all. Can you imagine if God's people were truly prepared spiritually on Sunday mornings, how incredible those services would be? Please pray for our music team that we would be spiritually prepared each week, as we pray for each of you.

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Romans 12:1 (ESV)

Malvern Hill "Prime Times" Ministry

I hope that your summer has gone well, If you like hot summers, you should be well pleased. I hope that you

will really take seriously our Sunday evening when we pray for our children. They need much prayer as they face some very challenging times in our schools. I appreciate those parents that are able to home school, but with 5 grandchildren, a son, and two daughter-in-laws in public schools I know they are in need of our prayer support. There is also a dire need of a Christian influence in our schools.

I also want to remind some of our seniors of the need for your commitment to help with our Nursing Home Ministry. This is a wonderful ministry to the many that are lonely and forgotten. Please pray about how God might use you in this ministry.

In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" Acts 20:35 (ESV)

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, August 9, 8:00 AM: Breakfast at Church
Thursday, August 11, 2:30 PM: KareshWing Ministry
Thursday, August 18, 6:00 PM: Prime Timer Supper
Thursday, August 25, 2:30 PM: Springdale Ministry

As our children return to school this month, please remember to pray for them, their teachers, and school support staff. The following is a list of suggestions that you may wish to use.

- Pray that our children will be used by God to bring other children to Him. Pray that our children will be bold in their witness.
- Pray that our children will not allow other children to negatively influence them thus damaging their witness.
- Pray for the children who are struggling. Pray for their families, and pray for the teachers and staff who are trying to help them.
- Pray for safety for students and staff.
- Pray that God's word will find a way into the school.
- Pray that we as a church will continue to find ways to help the schools.
- Pray that God will send men and women to work in the schools who will point the way to Christ.
- Pray for children going back to school who have special needs. Pray for strength for their families, and understanding for teachers and other staff.
- Pray for wisdom for school principals and teachers as they deal with any problems that arise through the school year.
- Pray that the spiritual and physical needs of the students will be met.

Group, a Christian publishing company, recently came out with the results of some research they've just completed. One thing they say they've discovered is that in the last ten years in this country, the number of churches doing Sunday school has declined by 18%. To make sure they had this right, they went back to look if the churches were doing something like Sunday school but calling it something else. The answer, they say, stayed the same. When we hear research results such as these, there is no doubt as to why so many Christian churches are stagnating, plateauing, and declining.

School Supplies

We will take up school supplies donations through Sunday, August 7. There are boxes outside the church office and in the children's building side entrance. The children are asked to bring one school supply on Wednesday, August 10. We will take some time that evening to pray for our schools.

Upcoming Events

Sunday, August 7: School Supply Donation Deadline

Wednesday, August 10: Children's Prayer Time for Schools

Sunday, August 28: Children's Day and Dinner

Wednesday, August 31: 6th Graders Move to Youth

Sunday, September 4: Life Group Breakfast

Wednesday, September 7: New Church Year Celebration

Monday, October 31: Fall Festival

Sunday, August 28
10:30 AM

Children's
Sunday

Join us as our children's
ministry leads in worship,
followed by lunch for children
and their families.

Generation180 Ministry (Student Ministry)

By Luke Tolbert

In a few weeks we will welcome in a new school year. However, we do have a number of things coming up to close out the summer so please make note of the upcoming events:

- **Poolside Bible Study** (Thursday, August 4) – Join us at David and Beata Hance’s for our last poolside Bible study of the summer from 6:30-8:30PM
- **Ski Trip Deposits Due** (Sunday, August 7) – Ski Trip deposits of \$50 per person will be due by August 7. Scholarship applications are available. Please see me or our website for more information.
- **Student Leadership Applications Due** (Sunday, August 14)- If you are a returning student in our student ministry and would like to serve on our Student Ministry Leadership Team, pick up an application from me. Applications are due by August 14.
- **KBA Lake Bash** (Sunday, August 14) – The Kershaw Baptist Association will sponsor a youth lake day bash for the Baptist churches in Kershaw County. We will leave directly after

church so bring your swim suits. We will take the church bus and will return by 4:30PM. Lunch will be provided.

- **Lake Day** (Saturday, August 20) – Our annual Lake Day will be on August 20 from 11AM-4PM. Johnny and Meredith Morris will be hosting all of our students, rising 6th graders, and their families are invited. Please bring a dessert or side item. Sign ups are on the student ministry bulletin board.



Discipleship and LifeGroup Ministry

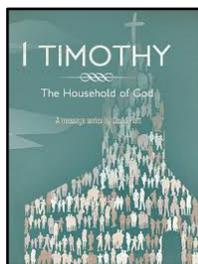
By Luke Tolbert

The end of the summer is in sight and I am excited to announce that we have a brand new slate of Equipping Studies planned for the fall. We actually are hard at work planning out all of the Equipping Studies for 2016-2017 and I am excited about what we are going to be able to offer on Sunday nights. Our fall semester of equipping studies will kick off on Sunday, September 18. Be on the looking for e-mails and bulletin inserts with class listings in the next couple of weeks!

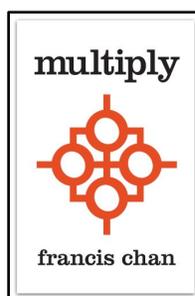
In the meantime, here are some resources available through our RightNow Media* partnership:

1 Timothy: The Household of God

– Recorded while he was the pastor at The Church at Brook Hills, David Platt takes his church through a study of First Timothy and God’s design for the local body of believers as the church. This 10-week series has corresponding family worship and small group study guides to help further your study following after the teaching videos.



Multiply – One of the resources that RightNow Media offers are courses that walk you through various



topics. In this course, **Multiply**, viewers are taught how we can be disciples who make disciples. The five parts walk you through what it means to be a disciple maker, to live as the church, to study the Bible, to understand the Old Testament, and to understand the New Testament.

This is a great resource for mature and new believers alike!

Owlegories – I am really excited about this new children’s video series called **Owlegories**. We received a preview copy several months ago, and my children have loved it. Each episode is well written and enjoyable for kids of all ages. After each episode, a pastor or teacher talks to the children about what truths they learned from the previous story.



*As a member of Malvern Hill, you have free access to these studies. Check your e-mail for an invitation from RightNow Media. If you do not have an invitation, please contact me.



Youth Lake Day 2016

Saturday, August 20
11:00AM - 4:00PM



The entire family is invited. Sign up on the Student Ministry Bulletin Board. Please bring a 2-liter and dessert to share.

If you need directions, see Luke Tolbert

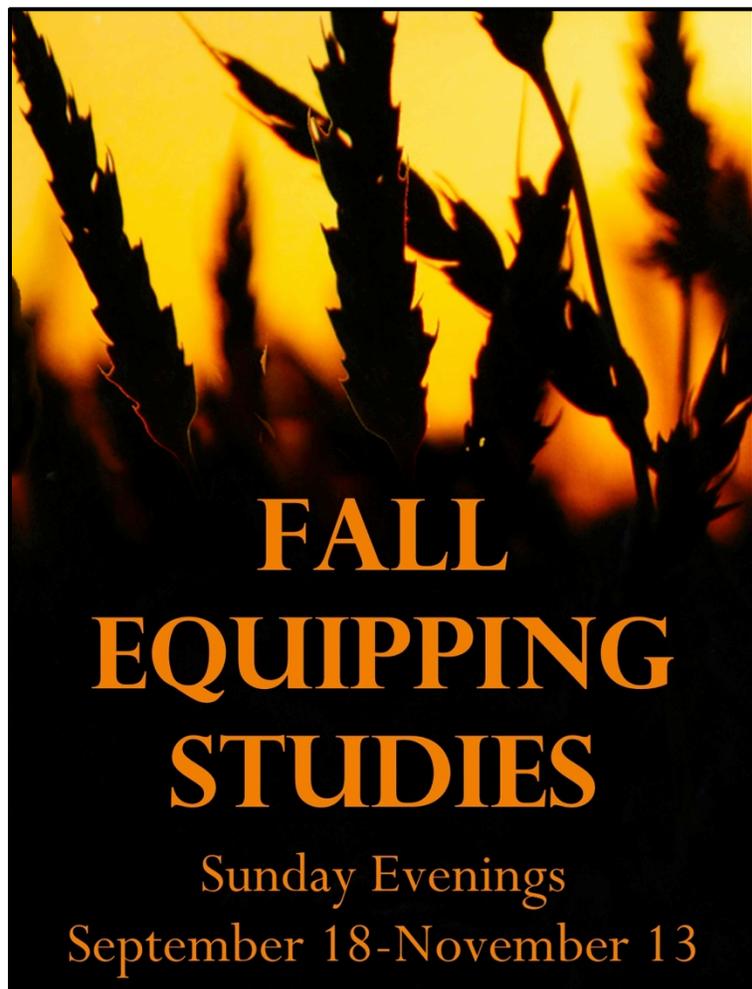
NEXT STEPS

Sunday, August 21

after the morning worship service



If you would like to know more about becoming an active member of Malvern Hill, contact the church office to register for the Next Steps Lunch.



FALL EQUIPPING STUDIES

Sunday Evenings
September 18-November 13

Malvern Hill Baptist Church

1514 Malvern Hill Drive

Camden, SC 29020

(803) 432-7035

www.malvernhill.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



SCOTLAND MISSION TRIP

AUGUST 4-13, 2016

THERE WILL BE A TIME OF PRAYER FOR THE SCOTLAND MISSION TRIP TEAM ON SUNDAY, JULY 31 DURING THE MORNING SERVICE.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE MISSION TEAM, SEE BRIAN GARBADE.