

Sermon 5-5 and 9, 2010 Mother's Day My Name is in the Lamb's Book of Life Revelation 21:27

Dear Believers whose Names are in the Book of Life:

Last Sunday afternoon as I was driving to Oconomowoc I turned on the radio. The Brewers were losing the game bad so I turned off the game and tuned in to another radio station. The station I happened upon was National Public Radio. I normally don't listen to NPR programming but what I heard on the radio caught my attention so I decided to continue listening.

A man was speaking at his mother's memorial service. He spoke in detail about his mother's faith. He said his mother believed in...

- Jesus as her Savior
- The virgin birth
- The empty tomb
- The resurrection to eternal life
- Heaven as the home for all believers
- The sacraments of the church

He spoke about his mother's influence on his own life and faith. He admitted that he had his doubts and struggles when it came to his faith, but the faith of his mother always drew him back to the church. What kept me listening to this program was the man's honest, heart-wrenching journey that he had with the doubts and questions of faith in God and the Bible. But what always brought him back to consider the God, the Bible and the church was the faith of his mother. He could not forget her faith. He could not forget the influence that the faith of his mother had upon him.

In Revelation 21 the Apostle John speaks to us about his vision of heaven. John tells us that heaven is...

- A place of beauty like a bride on her wedding day
- A place where God dwells with us

- A place where there is no more crying, pain, sin or death
- A place where everything is new
- A place where the glory of God shines forth
- A place where the church – believers – share in God’s glory
- A place that is large and spacious for all believers
- A place where the Lord is the temple and the light
- A place where our names are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life

Heaven is a place where our names are written in the Book of Life. How do we have our names written in the Lamb’s Book of Life? Of course, it is the work of the Lord who brings us to faith through His Word. I Peter 1:23

But the Bible also tells us how the Lord uses mothers to influence their children in the faith. The Lord uses mothers to bring their children to the Lord and to guide them in their spiritual lives so that their children will have their names written in the Book of Life.

The Apostle Paul wrote to young Timothy, his assistant, these words in the Bible: “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.” II Timothy 1:5

Timothy was guided in his faith by his grandmother and his mother.

A mother’s faith. We honor our mothers. Whether they are alive on earth still with us or whether they are living in heaven where we will someday be reunited with them. We remember their faith. Their faith which influenced us.

Abraham Lincoln said: “I remember my mother’s prayers and they have followed me. They have clung to me all my life. All that I am and hope to be I owe to my angel mother.”

The hand that rocks the cradle is the hand that rules the world! A mother’s hand is mightier than a king’s scepter.

- Mrs. Luther rocked a reformation in the cradle

- President Ulysses S. Grant said: “I owe all I am to my mother’s piety.”
- “Give me a generation of Christian mothers and I will undertake to change the whole face of society in twelve months.”

Children absorb the example and attitude of their mothers. Their mother’s influence cannot be measured. Remember again what Paul said to Timothy: “I remember the faith that is in you, that first found a home in the heart of your grandmother and that was witnessed in your mother, I am persuaded that this faith is in you also.”

The love of a Christian mother typifies the love of God for His children. God’s love is non-preferential as Ephesians 3 tells us. A mother who had twelve children was asked which one she loved the most. She said: “The one who is sick, until he gets well; and the one who is away until she gets back home.”

The concern of a Christian mother typifies God’s concern for His children. The Bible says “Cast all your anxiety on God because He cares for you.” I Peter 3:7 It has been said: “A father becomes concerned when his child breaks a bone...a mother when her child skins a knee!”

The sacrificial compassion of a Christian mother typifies God’s sacrificial heart. The Bible says: “For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.” II Corinthians 8:9 We all know times when our mothers sacrificed something so that we would be provided for.

The patience of a Christian mother typifies God’s patience with his children. The Bible says: “Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus.” Romans 15:5 How many times do we remember that our mothers were patient with us!

God made mothers so we could see His love in action everyday. Mothers are a link to God, a child’s first impression of God’s love. Mothers are teachers, nurses, doctors, psychologists, counselors, chauffeurs and coaches. Mothers are

developers of personalities, molders of vocabularies and shapers of attitudes. Mother's are soft voices saying "I love you."

It is said that a mother is someone who...

- Is able to function on black coffee and leftovers
- Has six pairs of hands
- Has three pairs of eyes
- Can heal herself when she is sick
- Can feed a family of six on one pound of hamburger
- Can persuade a nine year old to take a shower

Psychologists say that the bonding of a baby with its mother in the first few minutes of life are vital for the stability of that child's future. A mother's influence cannot be overstated.

A survey of 4000 adults was taken. The question was asked: "Who was the greatest influence in your life?" The person with the greatest influence was mother.

The Bible says that mothers and fathers are to nurture their children in Ephesians 6:4 "bringing them up in the training and instruction of the Lord." Parents are to...

- Train and teach children God's Word
- Train and teach children by godly example
- Train and teach children with discipline, correction and admonition (mild rebuke and warning)

The Bible says that mothers will be known for "bringing up children." I Timothy 5:10 Mother's who follow the Lord's instruction in Proverbs 22:6 which says "Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it" can have the confidence that they send their children into the world prepared to face life and to enter eternal life.

The task of motherhood can be overwhelming. We live in a sinful world and things don't always turn out the way we would like with our children. **Mother's must rely upon the Lord.** It is an act of...

- Trusting the Lord in faith
 - Seeking the Lord's guidance
 - Seeking the Lord's strength
- Mothers face many heartaches. Mother's Day can be stressful for women who have no children or for mothers who have lost a child or for mothers whose children may have strayed from the faith and family. Many a mother's heart has been broken by children who have gone their own way. The godly mother so much wants the best her children and she is grieved when the child rebels and refuses what is best and right.

Being a mother is not easy. But the Lord promises to be with you and give you strength. When things in life with our children don't always turn out the way we would like, we simply need to say what David said when he faced the giant Goliath: **"The Battle is the Lord's."** I Samuel 17:47

We commit our lives, our children, our challenges, our ups and downs in life to the Lord. For the Bible says: "God is our refuge and strength, an ever present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear...the Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress... Be still and know that I am God." Psalm 46

All we can do as parents is to bring our children to the Lord and provide times for them to hear His Word. They need God's Word and time spent with God's people.

Society doesn't have any reservations about influencing our children. From society our children will learn about humanism, materialism, reincarnation, astrology, evolution and other false religions. Our children are influenced by television, the internet and their peers. As parents we are in a battle for the souls of our children. But take heart because we have the Word of God. This Word is described as "...living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit..it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart." Hebrews 4:12 This Word brings us to faith and keeps us in faith as

Peter says: "For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God." I Peter 1:23

The things of society come and go but the Bible says: "The Word of the Lord stands forever." I Pt 1:25

When you came into the world, your mother held you in her arms. You thanked her by wailing like a banshee. When you were 1 year old, she fed you and bathed you. You thanked her by crying all night long. When you were 6 years old, she walked you to school. You thanked her by screaming, "I'm not going!" When you were 13, she suggested a haircut that was becoming. You thanked her by telling her she had no taste. When you were 24, she met your fiancé and asked about your plans for the future. You thanked her by glaring and growling, "Muuhh-ther, please!" When you were 40, she called to remind you of a relative's birthday. You thanked her by saying you were "really busy right now."

I think we get the point, right? The fourth commandment says we are to "HONOR" our mother and father. The word HONOR means to place high value upon something. We place high value upon our parents, upon our mothers today. For our mothers have not only taught us about life but about eternal life so that our names may be written in the Lamb's Book of Life.