

MAY 2020

The Messenger

ZION BAPTIST CHURCH

"The Church with a history and a future"

Confusion and Service

We definitely find ourselves in a confusing time. The corona virus health crisis has kept us at home, cancelled normal church, work, school, and life activities. When will we get back to "normal life"? We may not return to life as it was before. I imagine we will all be very mindful of staying safe and healthy, making sure to wash our hands, cough into our elbows, and do our part to keep our friends, family, and neighbors safe. I remember another time in our country's history that changed life as we knew it, 9/11. We became aware of a global threat against our country, we changed how we travel, but we also came together as a country during that confusing time.

COVID-19 has not only affected our town of Shelby, our county, but our state, our country, and the entire world. It is understandable to be confused. Some 18 plus years ago while serving as a youth minister at Edenton Baptist Church, I preached the following sermon less than two weeks after the 9/11 event. I hope these words can offer us comfort and help during these confusion times:

Confusion and Service

This sanctuary is different from many of the sanctuaries in which I have had the opportunity to worship in. The U-Shaped design creates a feeling of unity within the congregation, a feeling of closeness and togetherness. This is what being a church is all about -- brothers and sisters in Christ coming together in fellowship and love for the purpose of worshipping God. This sanctuary offers a place for worship and unity. Now, what if we were not blessed with such nice church facilities, would we still be a church? Edenton Baptist Church is not these buildings, not this sanctuary, but all the people of this congregation. We are the church, we are the family of God, united together through God's love. This feeling of unity offers us great hope and comfort in the midst of all the confusion. The tragic events of September 11th have caused many of us to be confused. It is a comfort to all of us in the midst of the confusion to be able to come together as a church in unity. We are able to share each other's burdens and worries to help us deal with our current situations.



Let us consider this question, "Why are we here today?" Hopefully, we can answer this question by saying, "We have come together to worship, fellowship, and share each other's burdens and worries to help us deal with our confusion." Let me also share with you something about myself which my wife could have already told you. I am not perfect. I may think I am sometimes, but Melanie could tell you otherwise. My point is that all of us are not perfect. We are limited in our understanding of certain situations, of each other, and sometimes of God. Therefore, we can become confused. Because of our human imperfection, we need Divine guidance to help us deal with our confusion. We need to intentionally seek God in this time of confusion.

Confusion

Sometimes we are confused. Sometimes we do not understand the things and events that are happening around us. Sometimes our **school** and studies can be confusing. Buenos dias hermanos y hermanas. Es un bendicion para estar con Ustedes aqui en este templo. Sometimes we are faced with classes and studies that can be confusing. For example, when I first started studying Spanish in college, it was difficult to understand. The professor only spoke Spanish during the class, so every day after class I had to ask someone what our homework was for the next day because I could not understand her.

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Sometimes our **work** can be confusing. I have previously shared with you that I worked with computers. When I first started that job, I could not tell you the difference between RAM, Hard Drives, BIOS, and PROCESSOR. In fact, the more that I learned about computers, the more I realized that there is so many things about computers I will never understand. Sometimes work can be confusing.

Sometimes our **lives** can be confusing. The tragic events that took place these past weeks have been real confusing. Many of us here today are confused by the situation. Why did this take place? Many of us either now or at some point in our lives have questioned God. Or we have even been angry with God. It is OK to question God. Why?, that means you are searching. You are working out your faith. The more you consider you faith, the more you think about it, the stronger it will eventually become. It is OK to be angry with God. Why? That means you are still considering God as a higher power, that means you are still in a relationship with God. What is bad is when you forget about God completely, forgetting about the relationship. Psalm 97:2 says, "Clouds and darkness surround Him." Sometimes clouds and darkness seem to surround God. Where before we could see and understand God completely, now we may be confused with God and the situation we are dealing with. God can help us deal with our confusion and deal with our anger.

Physical, emotional, and spiritual confusion happens to all of us, and the disciples dealt with this as well. In the midst of all our confusion, we need to seek out God. One way to do this is through service. We are going to look at a situation where the disciples were confused with Christ, and how He turned their confusion into a call for service.

MATTHEW 20:20-24 - ²⁰ Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Jesus with her sons and, kneeling down, asked a favor of him. ²¹ "What is it you want?" he asked. She said, "Grant that one of these two sons of mine may sit at your right and the other at your left in your kingdom." ²² "You don't know what you are asking," Jesus said to them. "Can you drink the cup I am going to drink?" "We can," they answered. ²³ Jesus said to them, "You will indeed drink from my cup, but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared by my Father." ²⁴ When the ten heard about this, they were indignant with the two brothers.

James and John's mother, Salome, went to Jesus with a request for her two boys to sit at both sides of Christ, to be honored. (There is an account of this story in the book of Mark, where the disciples asked directly, not being mama's boys.) 1. The disciples were being selfish, wanting to be in a place of authority. 2. The disciples were **confused**. They believed that Jesus was going to rise up to power in a military sense, to become king of the nation, to exercise his authority and power. Jesus replied that you do not know what you are talking about. You do not understand. The disciples were confused. Jesus is then talking about the disciples drinking of the same cup and being baptized the same way he is to be baptized. Cup and baptize was figurative language that was used to refer to suffering. They said they could do this. Did they? Well, when Jesus was arrested James, John, and the other disciples did not stay around too long to be drinking of any cup. They did not even give it a chance to try and endure the same type of suffering that Christ dealt with. This is evidence that the disciples were confused. Many of the disciples eventually did suffer and die for their faith.

Service

You may be saying to yourself, "Ok, I'm confused, the disciples are confused, everyone is confused, but what does this have to do with service?" In confusion we need God to help us through the difficult situations and problems. Sometimes we hear better when we are not talking, but listening. Sometimes it is easier to hear God better when we are not talking, but listening. When we are not serving ourselves, talking, but serving others this provides us an opportunity to listen and be open to hearing God.

MATTHEW 20:25-28— ²⁵ Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. ²⁶ Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, ²⁷ and whoever wants to be first must be your slave— ²⁸ just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

The gentile rulers and the world rulers would exercise authority over the people. That was a sign of their greatness. Jesus told the disciples that if they wanted to have authority, if they wanted to be great, if they wanted to do what God the Father wanted them to do then they needed to become a slave/servant. Being a slave and a servant were a long ways from sitting on the right or left side of

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Christ in His glory, in His Kingdom. Jesus said, "I did not come to serve, but to serve." The disciples started out wanting to be great, but then they became confused. Christ turned their confusion into a desire to serve others. He showed them that God wants us to serve others.

So what? Why does this apply to me?

At one point, or at many points in our lives, we have been confused -- confused by our school work, by other persons, by ourselves, and sometimes we are confused by God. So in these times of confusion, we need to seek God's guidance. One way of seeking God's guidance is through service to others.

By becoming involved with serving other people, with missions, we can take the focus off of ourselves, our problems, our confusion, and place that focus on other people. It is in these moments that we can be open to hearing God's voice by placing our focus on God and experiencing His peace, love, and hope.

We all need God. We all need to seek God daily, especially in the confusing situations. How do I seek God? How do I hear His voice? Through prayer, fellowship, Bible reading and study, but also through service. Our challenge today is to commit to serving God in all things that we do. To do this, first we have to realize that we need God and His guidance. Next we need to seek God through everything we do. There are many ways, but especially through service we are open to His voice. We need to trust God to use our talents and our unique gifts for the many ministry opportunities here at Edenton Baptist. In college during a cross-country race, I noticed two runners running side by side, connected by a string tied to their wrists. I realized one of the runners was blind and the other runner was his guide. I was amazed at the level of trust the blind runner had in his guide. The blind runner simply ran the course, trusting his guide to lead. Do we have this level of trust in God?

We are all confused; we need to seek and trust God. There may be times in our lives where clouds and darkness surround God, but if seek God He will lead us through the confusion to the Light. Do you know the Light? What the Light represents? Are you willing to commit to serve the Light?

For many of us, we are in the middle of clouds and darkness, confused. Are we willing to do everything it takes to seek God? Today, we have the opportunity to respond to God, to seek His love, peace, hope. May we know the light in the midst of the clouds of confusion, may we commit to sharing the Light with those in need. Amen

In Christ,
Matt

Mission Opportunities for the Month of May

Our main opportunity to help lessen the spread of the corona virus is to continue to stay at home, wash your hands, and practice social distancing. With that said, if you are looking for a way to get the family out of the house, (or just yourself for the introverts) consider helping with one of the numerous mission and service projects here at church and in the community.

Zion Food Pantry- We are in the process of setting up a Food Ministry here at church. We will be using the basement of the Fellowship Building to store and distribute the food items. We need individuals and families to help get this area setup and ready. Contact Matt or Carson if you are willing to help with the following:

Help Setup - Scrape, prime, paint the walls. Clean, sanitize, and setup the cabinets and shelves used to store the food. Help install an appropriate heating or cooling system for this area.

Donate Food – items such as peanut butter, canned beef stew, canned vegetables, canned fruit, pudding, tuna, canned chicken, granola bars, etc. They can be dropped off to the church office on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays between 8:30am—1:30pm.

Deliver meals to some of the students in our community. If you are interested in helping deliver these meals, contact the church office or staff. Volunteers will pick up the meals at 11:00am and usually are finished delivering in 30-45 minutes.

Various Work Projects around the church - Please contact Kenneth Wellmon or Franklin Barbee if you are interested in helping with a variety of church work projects such as pressure washing, painting, cleaning, trimming limbs and shrubs, pulling weeds, etc. The church will provide the supplies and tools if needed.

Please continue helping our church folks stay connected by calling, emailing or texting to let them know you care and are concerned. If you know of someone who needs some meals or needs someone to run errands, please help them or call Matt or the church office and we will try to meet that need.



Thank you for your continued support of Zion Baptist Church during this difficult time. Each week we share a Call to Give; it is a charge to recognize our blessings from God and then give back a portion of those blessings for Kingdom work. We acknowledge the blessings of time; we seem to have an abundance of free time now. How can we give back our time this month? We can call, give cards or texts, and do some individual and family mission projects at church. We are gifted with talents, those unique skills we are able to use to help others and glorify God--mowing a neighbor's yard, helping with a work project at church. We are blessed with treasures--our financial resources. I am thankful for the ways Zion Baptist Church has continued to share their treasures, even when we are not able to gather in person. Here is our giving report, weekly, YTD with budget and expenses:

Offerings

March 22nd	\$5,870
March 29th	\$4,030
April 5th	\$3,869
April 12th	\$5,810
April 19th	\$5,695
April 26th	\$8,835

Year to date giving: \$117,335

As of April 29th, the giving is \$1,773 above expenses and \$10,871 behind budget.

Many folks are mailing in their offerings, some are giving online via our webpage or mobile phone app, and some are folks are dropping off their offerings at church. We are limiting our work time in the office. Wanda will be available Monday, Wednesday, and Fridays from 8:30am -1:30pm. We do also have a church mailbox attached to the office that remains locked, if you choose to drop off your offering here. The church mailbox and office locked box are checked daily each evening.

May Prayer Requests

CHURCH FAMILY

Ronnie Blanton
Jessica Brooks
Family of Hal Cabaniss
Dick Canipe
Dixon Fletcher
Lib Gantt
Blake Goforth
Alan Gold
Clyde Gold
Gary Gragg
Jewel Greene
Tim Hamrick
Jim Hendrick
Myrna Hollifield
Dale Jackson
Kim Lee
Carol Martin
Dale Mayes
Marshall Mayes
Mickey Morehead
Rachel Proctor
Barbara Reynolds
Barbara Wellmon
Betty Wellmon
Scott Wellmon
Silent request from church family

OUR HOMEBOUND

Dorcas Barbee
Sue Cabaniss
Gene Cornwell
Veva C. Gold
Bob Horn
Ora Trivett
Billy Wright

MISSIONS

Will & Lucia Meeks - Honduras
Larry Hoyle - Larry Hoyle Ministries
Marc Brice - Haiti people, mission and Orphanage
Cecelia Beck - Buffalo St. Ministry
Fuente de Salvacion - Guatemala
Haiti Pastor Raynald's wife - cancer

OUR NATIONAL & STATE LEADERS

HEALTHCARE WORKERS

TEACHERS

STUDENTS

★ NATIONAL ★
DAY of PRAYER
THURSDAY, MAY 7TH

*Save
the
Date*

The wedding shower for Katie Lail, originally scheduled for March 29th, has been postponed until Sunday afternoon, July 26th.



MAY

Birthdays

5 Cindy Hoyle
6 Matthew Ange
7 Tim Hamrick
8 Kathi Fletcher
9 Janice Cabaniss
Linda Cornwell
10 Jay Gragg
11 Caroline Martin
15 Gary Alsobrook
Ryan Parker
16 Thomas McSwain
17 Emma Harrill
20 Jerry Harris
Beth Cochran
22 Jan Jenks
Elizabeth Sparks
23 Pam Spurling Patterson
Morgan Payne
25 Sue Cabaniss
Vicky Hoyle
27 Jessica Brooks
Tevin Brooks
28 Kay Cabaniss
31 Brenda Dixon
Allison Greene



MAY

Anniversaries

1st *Patrick & Laura Gammons*
5th *Dave & Teresa Worster*
18th *Danny & Kim Lee*
19th *Ronnie & Mindy Humphries*
22nd *Mickey & Betty Morehead*
23rd *Clyde & Karen Gold*
27th *Matt & Lindsay Cornwell*
29th *Charlie & Rhonda Yarborough*

 *If we have omitted your birthday or anniversary, please contact the church office and we will be glad to add it to our calendar.*

MILLS & EARCIE CORNWELL SCHOLARSHIP

Applications for this college scholarship are available in the church office and online at zbcshelby.org under Events & Info/Facilities and Forms. You may call the church office and we will mail or email an application to you. **Any interested applicant must complete the application and return it to the church office on or before Wednesday, May 6th. No applications will be considered if received after May 6th.**



Orange

Although our Wednesday evening gatherings in the church building are cancelled for the time being, let's not allow that to stop us from learning about Jesus and growing closer to Him! In fact, let's use this time to grow in Christ, and in love, both individually and as a family. Every Wednesday that we do not have evening church events, a video will be posted on the children's ministry Facebook page, the church's YouTube channel, and the church website. We encourage you to watch the video together and to discuss the story and the lesson each week.



Sundays

Missing out on seeing your friends on Sunday evenings? Playing games? Starting on Sundays in May, videos will be posted to the youth ministry Facebook page, the church's YouTube account, the church website, and the youth group Instagram account. Be sure to tune in to get a short lesson, other video shorts, and you may just see your friends featured in a video!

MAY 1, 2020

The Messenger

"The Church with a history and a future"

ZION BAPTIST CHURCH

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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John Carroll, Organist	704-434-5193	john@zbcshelby.org
Wanda Schenkel, Secretary	704-487-8216	secretary@zbcshelby.org



Share Encouraging Words

We are asking our folks to share words of encouragement, devotional thoughts, videos, etc. with the Zion family. Tell us how you've seen God working during this time of health crisis. You can email, mail, or text your encouragement to the church office or staff and we will post them on our church website and Facebook page.

HOMEBOUND MINISTRY

Tap Ramsey/Sally Barker

VIDEO MINISTRY - May

Mickey Morehead

DEACONS OF THE WEEK

Week of May 3rd

Dean Jenks, Kenneth Wellmon

Week of May 10th

Dannie Moore, Steve Boatwright

Week of May 17th

John Carroll, Franklin Barbee

Week of May 24th

Matt Cornwell, Clyde Gold

Week of May 31st

Tommy Harrill, Tim Tallent

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

The bulletin is printed each week on Thursday Morning. Please forward any announcements, inserts, or prayer requests to the office by 10:00 am on Thursdays for publication the following Sunday.

NEXT CHECK WRITING DATES - APRIL 14TH & 28TH

DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING INFORMATION FOR PUBLICATION IN THE MAY NEWSLETTER - APRIL 28TH

**SECRETARY'S NEW OFFICE HOURS:
MONDAY, WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY
8:30 AM - 1:30 PM**