

The Gospel Trumpeter

JUSTIFICATION SANCTIFICATION

UNITY & TRUTH

"So will I seek out my sheep, and will deliver them out of all places where they have been scattered in the cloudy and dark day." Eze. 34:12 Jer. 32:39

"But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished." Rev. 10:7 Mal. 2:13

SOUNDING FORTH THE SEVENTH AND LAST TRUMPET

Vol. 39 May 2009 No. 5



Church of God Tabernacle in Newark, Ohio

*"I was glad when they said unto me,
Let us go into the house of the Lord."*

Psalm 122:1

"For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound,
who shall prepare himself to the battle?"

Guest Editorial

THE GOSPEL TRUMPETER USPS #871620

Periodicals postage paid at the post office in Newark,
Ohio 43055.

POSTMAN, send form 3579 to the printer:

THE GOSPEL TRUMPETER
675 N. Cedar Street
Newark, Ohio 43055

This periodical carries no subscription price;
however, it is partially maintained through the gifts
and offerings of its readers, with the balance of the
expenses being paid by the local congregation.

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This monthly religious journal is published for the benefit of the
Church of God universally. It is our supreme purpose to reach
the world for Christ through the printed page. Our burden is to
reveal the truth of God's Word to all mankind, to expose sin
and error, war against apostasy, and to eradicate the
longstanding traditions of men that have no biblical
foundations.

Brother Roger L. Decker Editor
Workers Too Numerous to Mention

THE CHURCH OF GOD BELIEVES IN:

A personal God (John 4:24)
A divine Christ (John 1:1, 14)
An infallibly inspired Bible (2 Tim. 3:16-17)
Salvation from sin (Matt. 1:21)
The new birth (John 3:3, 5-7)
A holy life (Luke 1:73-75; Titus 2:12)
Sanctification (1 Thess. 5:23)
Unity of God's people (John 17:21, Eph. 4)
Divine, physical healing (James 5:14-16)
The ordinances (Matt. 28:19-20; John 13;
1 Cor. 11:23, 34)
Eternal life (Matt. 25:46; Mark 9:43)
The Trinity (1 John 5:7, 8)

SOME SPIRITUAL FACTS PERTAINING TO THE CHURCH

Jesus organized it (Matt. 16:18)
On a good foundation (Eph. 2:20; 1 Cor. 3:11)
Christ governs it (Eph. 1:22-23; Isa. 9:6)
God admits members (1 Cor. 12:13-18)
Sin puts you out of it (Rom. 11:22; Ex. 32:33)
The saved only are members (John 15:2-6)
Membership is offered to all (Rev. 22:17)
Final rewards (Rev. 20:12-15; 21:3-4; 22:14)
Bible name of the Church (Acts 20:28;
Gal. 1:13; John 17:11)

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FALSELY CONDEMNED

Many conscientious Christians strive to walk uprightly, yet Satan is ever falsely condemning or accusing them. These dear ones love God and want to please Him in every way possible. Regardless of what they do for the Lord or how much time is spent in prayer or reading the Bible, it will not satisfy the devil nor can it. Satan's job is to taunt their minds by condemning and accusing them of failing God. Not understanding Satan's cunning tricks can often bring discouragement to the soul, which may result in their faltering in the Christian pathway. God's will is for all His children to be overcomers.

The devil always works in the darkness. Remember, he is not a creature of the light. He cannot work in the light, for his deeds are evil and deceitful. His purpose is always to hinder and upset if at all possible. He seeks for a way to confuse or to deceive the unsuspecting soul at every opportune moment. He harasses their minds and robs their souls of peace and joy. Satan's purpose is to retard their progress for God and hinder their usefulness in the work of God.

This demon often accomplishes his mission by sowing accusing thoughts in their minds over matters of doubtful wrongdoing. He will try to convince conscientious Christians that they have spoken harshly or acted in some unbecoming way. Upon believing this trick of Satan, the falsely accused are made to feel that they have failed God and are condemned, and then they think that the Lord has departed from them. What torment this brings to the soul!

Being falsely condemned or viciously accused is not a new thing. Satan has successfully

used this sly, deceitful tactic on multitudes throughout the centuries. It has proven to be a tool that works effectively to discourage men and women in their Christian walk. He knows that real Christianity places men and women on a higher plane. When the burden of sin is lifted upon repentance, the heavy load once carried is gone, and the individual feels as if he or she is floating on a cloud. It is like living on the mountaintop. Serving God is so wonderful, and being a Christian brings such contentment, peace, and joy into one's life.

As wonderful as this mountaintop experience is, one must realize that there are some valleys that the Christian will go through. When the dark times come about, the Spirit of God is not always felt in a mighty way. God allows Christians to go through the valley so that they can grow and mature spiritually. There will be seasons when the Christian will feel that he or she is all alone. He may even think that the Lord has departed. Dear child of God, you can be assured that God has not departed, because He will not leave the person who has been true and faithful.

During these periods of loneliness, when your feelings are in a low state, the enemy plans his attack. He will take advantage of the opportunity by suggesting that something is wrong in your life. You may do not feel right and begin to think that you have grieved God in some way. The longer the Christian listens to the devil talk, the more convincing he will become. The falsely condemned Christian must, by the help of God, lift the shield of faith and reject these destroying

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Mother's Day



Brother Roger L. Decker

Honor Your Father and Your Mother

Mother's Day is a day that has been set aside to honor the mothers throughout our nation. Many days are designated as holidays, and they honor different things in our land, but I feel that Mother's Day is one of the best holidays for us to celebrate. Being a mother is a tremendous task. It is one of the greatest positions of honor to which a woman can ever attain.

I read a little tribute once concerning mothers, and it is called, "Appreciating Mother." It says this: "*Not until I became a mother did I understand how much my mother had sacrificed for me. Not until I became a mother did I feel how hurt my mother was when I disobeyed. Not until I became a mother did I know how proud*

my mother was when I achieved. Not until I became a mother did I realize how much my mother loves me." This is so true.

Abraham Lincoln once said, "All that I am or hope to be, I owe to my angel mother." Henry Ward Beecher said, "The mother's heart is a child's schoolroom." Another said, "Of all the rights of women, the greatest is the right to be a mother." God demands respect for a mother. Exodus 20:12 says, "Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee." In the New Testament Paul wrote in Ephesians 6:2-3: "Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth."

God gave this commandment

and this honor to parents, and He places mothers in a high place of honor. Mothers and fathers, for a considerable time, stand in the place of God to their children. When a little child is growing up and really does not understand the things of God, he looks to his mother and father, and they stand in that place. The Christian mother and father train their little children to bring them to their own personal experience with the Lord. To be rebellious and disrespectful to the lawful commands of parents is very serious in the sight of God.

A mother has a tremendous influence over her children. An old Jewish proverb states, "A child without a mother is like a door without a knob." True godly mothers are needed in homes today.

A cartoon in the *Saturday Evening*

Post showed a young boy about five or six years of age talking on a telephone, and he said this: "Mom is in the hospital. The twins, Roxie, Billy, Sally, the dog, me, and Dad are all home alone." There is nothing like a real mother in the home.

Leading by Example

As a mother, you have a great opportunity, even from birth, to mold a little child into a child for the Lord. Proverbs 22:6 says, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." I want to talk about this Scripture for a little while.

Some children and grandchildren want nothing to do with serving God, and that is sad. What might be the problem? In some cases their mothers and fathers trained them up in the way they ought to go, but the parents showed them something different than what they told them. They did not tell their children to quit going to church. They wanted their children in Sunday school, revivals, and youth activities; but attending the church services is not enough to offset the training they receive from watching their parents. Their parents told them, but they did not show them.

There was a sign in the superintendent's office at the Rockwell International plant where I used to work that read, "Lead by example." Some parents tell their children about serving God, but they do not show them. In some homes they hear "church trash." They hear grumbling and complaining about the preachers, and they hear the parents find fault with the way the pastor does this and that. Therefore, the children want to get as far away from that as they possibly can.

Some parents make going to church a heavy burden. They do what they can to get out of going to church. Such training sinks into their little children's minds. The children become replicas of the examples they *see* in the home, not

what the parents tell them. Some children hear fighting and yelling. They hear their parents complain about how they are worn out and too busy to go to church. Children can see where their parents' priorities are, and that training sinks in.

Often children hear what the preacher says. They hear the warnings against this and that, but then they see Mom and Dad with their own standards, and those standards do not line up with the Word of God. In some homes they hear the singers and the preachers criticized, and they hear some people's failings discussed. When children in such homes grow up and someone invites them to church, they seem to give a silent laugh, as if to say, "Why? It didn't do you any good." Mothers and fathers must lead by example. It is not just what you tell your child, but it is what you *show* your child.

If you only go to church to put on a show, then your heart is not in serving the Lord. Often those grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and children say: "I'm not going to be a hypocrite. I just won't go at all. I saw the standard that was preached and how my family lived. I'm going to follow what I *saw* in the home, not what I heard. Don't talk to me about church. I'm living the way I was raised in the home."

The Influence of Godly Mothers

Mothers have a tremendous influence. If there is yelling, fighting, and fussing in the home, you will mark the children, and sometime in the future you will see the results from that. Raising children is a tremendous responsibility. It is an awesome responsibility to be the right kind of example. A child is going to learn more from his mother than in a classroom or in church. The mother is with that child more than anyone else. She brought that child into the world, and she is with the child as he grows up. I am talking about a godly mother.

In the Bible we can read about some who were influenced for good

and others who were under the wrong influence. One woman in the Old Testament had a heavy burden, and her burden was that she would have a man child. If the Lord granted her request, she vowed that she would give that child back to the Lord to serve Him all the days of his life. Her name was Hannah, and she was the mother of Samuel, the greatest prophet in the Old Testament. Without a doubt he stood head and shoulders above all the other prophets.

God called Samuel as a child, and Samuel, not recognizing the voice of God, thought it was Eli the priest who was calling him. The Bible says the lamp of God had gone out where the ark was. The Word of God was precious in those days, and there was no vision. Samuel's mother gave him back to the Lord to do the work in the temple, and he was under the priesthood of Eli. He ministered to the Lord, living in the temple until he grew up and then he became a mighty prophet. He was involved in the anointing of Saul and the anointing of David. He was a tremendous prophet, and many individuals sought his advice before they made moves.

In the New Testament you can read of a young minister named Timothy who had a godly influence in the home, and that godly influence had a great bearing on his life. The Apostle Paul wrote in 2 Timothy 1:3-5: "I thank God, whom I serve from my forefathers with pure conscience, that without ceasing I have remembrance of thee in my prayers night and day; Greatly desiring to see thee, being mindful of thy tears, that I may be filled with joy; When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also."

The influence of Timothy's godly mother and grandmother helped to mold his young life and prepared him to become a pastor at Ephesus. That godly influence of unfeigned faith in God helped to direct him the

right way. God wants the commandments and godly principles passed down from generation to generation. Timothy's grandmother Lois and his mother Eunice helped to form his character, and he became a mighty man of God. Paul told him one time in 1 Timothy 4:12, "Let no man despise thy youth." That young man was a pastor right in the time of apostasy.

Evil Influences

In the Old Testament you can read of evil influences that were passed on through families. Second Chronicles 22:1-4 says: "And the inhabitants of Jerusalem made Ahaziah his youngest son king in his stead: for the band of men that came with the Arabians to the camp had slain all the eldest. So Ahaziah the son of Jehoram king of Judah reigned. Forty and two years old was Ahaziah when he began to reign, and he reigned one year in Jerusalem. His mother's name also was Athaliah the daughter of Omri. He also walked in the ways of the house of Ahab: for his mother was his counsellor to do wickedly. Wherefore he did evil in the sight of the LORD like the house of Ahab: for they were his counsellors, after the death of his father to his destruction."

In the New Testament you can read of another influence. Matthew 14:1-12 says: "At that time Herod the tetrarch heard of the fame of Jesus, And said unto his servants, This is John the Baptist; he is risen from the dead; and therefore mighty works do show forth themselves in him. For Herod had laid hold on John, and bound him, and put him in prison for Herodias' sake, his brother Philip's wife. For John said unto him, It is not lawful for thee to have her. And when he would have put him to death, he feared the multitude, because they counted him as a prophet.

"But when Herod's birthday was kept, the daughter of Herodias danced before them, and pleased

Herod. Whereupon he promised with an oath to give her whatsoever she would ask. And she, being before instructed of her mother, said, Give me here John Baptist's head in a charger. And the king was sorry: nevertheless for the oath's sake, and them which sat with him at meat, he commanded it to be given her. And he sent, and beheaded John in the prison. And his head was brought in a charger, and given to the damsel: and she brought it to her mother. And his disciples came, and took up the body, and buried it, and went and told Jesus."

Sadly, some mothers act as though they resent being mothers. They seem to feel that being a mother is almost a punishment. They seem to resent being tied down and being confined to the home. Some young ladies put off becoming a mother, seeking first to go out and work in the business world. There is nothing wrong with getting an education, but remember this: being a mother is the highest honor that God ever placed on a woman.

Parent, you should not hurry your children into growing up. They will grow up fast enough, and they will be out of the nest soon. Then they will get married and have their own children. Next, loneliness will come upon you, not hearing all those voices around the house anymore. Do not hurry your young daughters into marriage. Do not hurry them up to make sure they get a date and go out with someone and try to make sure that someone is attracted to them.

Satan has attacked the homes across our nation and even in the churches. He loves to get Church of God homes. He would love to bring your home down and cause it to crumble to destruction, because when he gets the homes, he gets our nation. In some instances the wife runs the husband, and that is a shame. Sometimes the wife is the breadwinner. Certainly there are circumstances where that has to happen. In many cases a wife is the

one who has to make sure there is family worship. When things get out of the order that God has set up, you can expect nothing but chaos and confusion in that home.

The Virtuous Woman

Proverbs 31:10 reads, "Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies." The word *virtuous* is used only three times in the Bible. It is used twice in the Book of Proverbs, and once in the Book of Ruth. It means "having or showing high moral standards; a force of strength." In other words, the writer was saying, "Who can find a woman having or showing high moral standards?" This Scripture can be used two different ways: it can be talking about a wife or a mother, and also it can be an allegory for the church.

There are some things about a virtuous woman that we need to consider. Her worth is far above the wealth of this world. The Scripture says "her price is far above rubies." Proverbs 19:14 reads, "House and riches are the inheritance of fathers: and a prudent wife is from the LORD." A prudent wife is wise and uses good judgment.

Proverbs 31:11 says she can be trusted. She will do her husband good and not evil all the days of her life. She is a helpmeet. She helps her husband financially and spiritually, and she is the strength in that home. The father is gone most of the day. He is the breadwinner; he has to bring home the paycheck. The mother is there to guide the home. She instructs and trains the children in the home. She has a tremendous responsibility!

The Scripture says she does her husband good all the days of her life, not just when they are first married. She keeps a clean house. You can be poor and yet be clean. Soap does not cost that much.

I remember when I was in the Marine Corps. One day as we were sitting on our bunks in the barracks, the drill instructor came in and said, "Today we are going to learn how to

shine shoes." I thought I knew how to shine shoes, but he was going to give us special instructions. The first day we had to dye our shoes and let them sit overnight.

The next day he came in with instructions concerning how to shine our shoes. He sat down on a locker box and called us all around. He took a can of shoe polish, opened it, and put some water in it. He said, "You take a little water and a little polish and rub it on the shoe, around and around and around. You keep doing that until you cover the whole shoe." He was saying that you do not need to have much to polish with, just a little work.

The same is true in the home. You might not have much in your home. You might be poor, but you still can be clean. Your home can still look good for what you have. Mothers ought to train their children how to keep a good house, not sweep the dirt under the rug. A mother should teach the children how to do spring cleaning, how to make a bed, how to fix meals, how to iron clothes, and how to mend and sew on a button. This is valuable training because someday your daughter will have a family of her own. She is going to have to know how to do those things. It is an awesome responsibility in the home.

The virtuous woman keeps a clean home, and she does well. Her main concern is the spiritual welfare of her family. She is concerned that her children grow up to know the Lord. Just as Hannah had a burden for her son Samuel, the number one priority in the home for a godly mother should be the spiritual welfare of each of her children. You should teach them to be faithful in the house of God, teach them how to pray, and teach them how to read the Bible.

Godly Training in the Home

You should have family worship. You need to instill in your children the desire to read God's Word. That is lacking in many

homes today. Your children may go astray. They may go out into the world and turn away from the things of God, but you can have the consolation within that you did your best to train them the right way. Your children will never forget that training. They may end up being soldiers in a war, but they will not forget how to get hold of God. They will not forget how Mom and Dad prayed, and they will realize that they can do the same thing. They might not serve God for many years. They might go out into the world and turn their backs on Mom and Dad, but they will never depart from the training.

Your children might depart from the church, but they are not going to get away from that training and the voice of Mom. They will not get away from the things of God. When they are hurting out in the world, they will remember how they used to take that hurt to Mom and she would pray. They might have some decisions to make out in the world. Their minds will go to when they had decisions as a teenager and how they would go to Mom and she would have prayer with them. This is the training that is needed.

A godly mother's main concern is the spiritual welfare of her family. She teaches the children responsibility. She insists on prayer in that home, and she instructs her children to take things to God in prayer. Every time your children get offended, you do not have to be their defense lawyer. You should teach your children to pray about things. Children growing up are going to offend and hurt one another. When that happens, the parents of the child who has been hurt or offended should not go out after the other child or take on the parents. The godly parent should teach the children to take their problems to God in prayer. You will be surprised how well God can work out problems. Sometimes it is not the children who have the problem, but it is the parents. You need to always

remember this: your child could have been the one who was wrong and might have started it. Some parents do not think of that. They always think their children could not possibly do that because they taught them so well in the home.

Children should be taught responsibility. Also, they should be taught to tithe when they understand money. You ought to teach the children how to tithe and that God will prosper them in their lives when they do so. You cannot tell your children to tithe if you do not do it yourself. You should teach your children that tithes are not offerings. The tithe is the Lord's, but the offering is between you and God. The tithe is 10 percent of your income, and it belongs to the Lord.

You should also train your children to have their own private devotions. As they begin to mature enough to understand, you should teach your children that they need to talk to God privately, even when Mom or Dad is not there.

Teaching Reverence and Respect

As soon as your children begin to read, you ought to teach them the necessity of reading the Scriptures. They may not understand much of it. There are Scriptures that you do not understand, but just because you do not understand them is no sign that you should not read the Bible. You should also teach your children to reverence elders. My father was not a Christian, and neither was my mother in her earlier years, to my knowledge, but I was taught in the home to reverence elders. That is where I learned to say "sir" and "ma'am." I did not have to learn that in the military. When people came to our home to visit or to work, I always addressed them respectfully. If I did not do that and my dad heard it, I got in trouble. Your children should be taught not to run through the church and run into someone who is using a walker or crutches or someone who is in a wheelchair. A mother should keep her children in

check. Also, you should teach your children to respect the property of others. For example, they should not run through flower beds or mulched areas. Parents should know where their children are.

There is a great need for reverence in church. The reason some children do not obey their parents in public is that they do not obey them at home. Mothers have a great responsibility to train their children. Sometimes mothers feel they have failed, but I believe that every godly mother is doing her very best to raise her children right. The enemy would like to accuse Mom and Dad, saying, "Well, if you had done this, that would not have happened." Do not let the devil accuse you when you did the best you could do at that particular time.

A godly mother is charitable. Proverbs 31:20 tells us, "She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy." She has a burden for others besides her own household. Deuteronomy 15:11 says, "For the poor shall never cease out of the land: therefore I command thee, saying, Thou shalt open thine hand wide unto thy brother, to thy poor, and to thy needy, in thy land."

It is an honor to have a virtuous woman for a wife. She is a praise to her husband. She adds to her husband's influence. Proverbs 31:23 says, "Her husband is known in the gates, when he sitteth among the elders of the land." What does that mean? It means that he is set in a place of respect among the elders. He is respected among the elders because he is first respected at home. A good woman will add character to a good man.

Godly Wisdom

Proverbs 31:26 reads, "She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness." Many times a mother has special abilities with the children that a father does not have. It seems that God gives the godly mother the

right things to say and a special ability to give godly counsel to her children. Her wisdom and good understanding come from the Lord. I repeat, mothers have a tremendous influence with their children. A virtuous woman insists on the fear of God being present in the home. The Bible says in Proverbs 31:28, "Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her." Her husband and her children give God the glory for allowing her to be the main influence, besides God, in their lives.

I miss my mother, and as I look back over my life, I would to God that I had done things differently. I miss calling my mother on Saturdays. I told her I loved her, and she said she loved me too. She would tell me about some of the events going on in our hometown. My wife said she misses talking to her mother too. That is the reason God says to honor your mother and your father. You should call them and talk to them. Do not let there be a breach between you. That does not mean you have to follow their ways if they are not serving God, but you still can honor them and treat them right.

I was nineteen years old when my father got killed. Many times I have walked over to his grave and just stood there and cried. I would to God that I had known Jesus back then and that I could have influenced his life for the Lord in some way. It was a hard place as a nineteen-year-old young man in the

military to have a dad taken out into eternity, knowing that he was not in a condition to meet the Lord. I would to God that I had known then what I know today, but I cannot back up time, no matter how much I would like to. The Bible says to honor your mother and your father, which is the first commandment with promise. You should treat them right.

The wise man said in Proverbs 31:30, "Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised." The beauty and the charm are not lasting. No matter how attractive you look right now, as the years go by, the skin will begin to sag and wrinkle. When your mother and your father get in that condition, you still ought to honor them. Godliness is a virtue, and it is praised even in old age.

It seems that so many times mothers are taken for granted. Sometimes they do not get much praise. At times they hear everything else but praise. As far as God is concerned, God really respects godly mothers, and He really appreciates the job they are doing. As a mother, you will make plenty of mistakes and wrong decisions. Just think about how many decisions a mother has to make in her life. You will probably make wrong moves sometimes. God has placed mothers in a place of honor, and He instructs the children to honor her. Of course, you should honor your mother every day. May God bless you.

(Compact Disc TR-246M)

HOW MOTHER'S DAY BEGAN

Anna M. Jarvis (1864-1948) first suggested the national observance of an annual day honoring mother's because she had loved her own mother so dearly. At a memorial service for her mother on May 10, 1908, Miss Jarvis gave a carnation (her mother's favorite flower) to each person who attended. Within the next few years the idea of a day to honor mothers gained popularity, and Mother's Day was observed in a number of large cities in the United States.

On May 9, 1914, by an act of Congress, President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day. He established the day as a time for "public expression of our love and reverence for the mothers of our country." By then it had become customary to wear a white carnation to honor deceased mothers and a red carnation to honor the living, a custom that continues to this day.

WHO MADE IT?

Sir Isaac Newton had a friend who, like himself, was a great scientist; but he was an infidel, while Newton was a devout believer, and they often locked horns over this question, though their mutual interest in science drew them much together. Newton had a skillful mechanic make him a replica of our solar system in miniature. In the center was a large gilded ball representing the sun, and revolving around this were smaller balls fixed on the ends of arms of varying lengths, representing Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, in their proper order.

These balls were so geared together by cogs and belts as to move in perfect harmony by turning the crank. One day as Newton sat reading in his study with his mechanism on a large table near him, his infidel friend stepped up to it. He slowly turned the crank and with undisguised admiration watched the heavenly bodies all move in their relative speed in their orbits. Standing off a few feet, he ex-

claimed: "My! What an exquisite thing this is! Who made it?"

Without looking up from his book Newton answered, "Nobody!" Quickly turning to Newton, the infidel said, "Evidently you did not understand my question. I asked who made this thing?" Looking up now, Newton solemnly assured him that nobody made it but that the aggregation of matter so much admired had just happened to assume the form it was in. The astonished infidel replied with some heat: "You must think I'm a fool! Of course somebody made it, and he is a genius, and I'd like to know who he is."

Laying his book aside, Newton arose and laid a hand on his friend's shoulder and said: "This thing is but a puny imitation of a much grander system whose laws you know, and I am not able to convince you that this mere toy is without a designer and maker; yet you profess to believe that the great original from which the design is taken has come into being without either

designer or maker! Now tell me by what sort of reasoning do you reach such incongruous conclusion?" The infidel was at once convinced and became a firm believer that "The LORD, he is the God" (1 Kings 18:39).

"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth" (Genesis 1:1).

"And God made two great lights . . . he made the stars also" (Genesis 1:16).

"The sea is his, and he made it: and his hands formed the dry land" (Psalm 95:5).

"I fear the LORD, the God of heaven, which hath made the sea and the dry land" (Jonah 1:9).

"God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands. . . . but now commandeth all men everywhere to repent: Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead" (Acts 17:24, 30-31).

"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him" (John 3:36).

Selected

Give as you would to the Master
If you met His searching look;
Give as you would of your substance
If His hand the offering took.

Galatians 5:19 Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,

20 Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred,

variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,

21 Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also

told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

Fornication



Brother Calvin Foster

Mortify Your Members

I want to draw your attention to verse 19 of our Scripture text, which reads, "Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness." One word I want to focus on from this verse is the word "fornication," which means, "elicited or unlawful sexual intercourse." This is a serious subject.

In our society today fornication is running rampant. It is sad, but even religious people have failed in this area. Finding companionship is not an easy task, but God demands us to keep ourselves pure. God is faithful, and He will give us grace to do so. Many single people do not think about this. They are happy in the Lord, and they have victory. However, godly pastors try to look out for their people in every way

they can. They watch over them, and they are concerned about how they are getting along.

In Ephesians 5:3 the Apostle Paul said, "But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints."

In 1 Corinthians 5:1 the Apostle Paul wrote, "It is reported commonly that there is fornication among you, and such fornication as is not so much as named among the Gentiles, that one should have his father's wife." In 1 Corinthians 6:13 Paul said, "Meats for the belly, and the belly for meats: but God shall destroy both it and them. Now the body is not for fornication, but for the Lord; and the Lord for the body."

Saint of God, do you think the devil cares about how long you have been saved? If you are married, do you think that a spirit of lust cannot

get hold of you simply because you are married? You had better be careful! Some people who have lived for God for many years have fallen over the spirit of adultery. It is sad to say that many preachers are no longer around because they fell into adultery. The Bible tells us to flee fornication. Some people think they can play around with emotions, but the flesh is weak. The flesh is nothing to play with. The spirit of fornication is a work of the flesh.

Colossians 3:5-10 says: "Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience: In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them.

"But now ye also put off all

these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him." I thank God that I have put on the new man and crucified the old man. Nevertheless, I still have to watch and pray because the old man wants to come back.

Possess Your Vessel in Honor and Sanctification

Hebrews 12:16, speaking of Esau, reads, "Lest there be any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright." Esau sold his birthright for just a few moments of pleasure. Would you sell your birthright? Would you sell your salvation for just a few moments of pleasure? Husband, you need to be careful of how you talk and of how you conduct yourself around the women with whom you work. Wife, if you work outside the home, you must be careful of how you conduct yourself around the men with whom you work. The spirit of adultery is always lurking. The church choir members should be careful of how they conduct themselves around one another. The devil comes through the church doors too. Satan does not care how long you have been preaching or how long you have been saved.

You do not have to wear jewelry of any kind to prove that you are married. If you are married and you are in different places around the opposite sex, you should act married. If you are not married, you ought to conduct yourself in a godly manner, because you are married to Jesus Christ. The devil is not playing in the time in which we live. These demons are no respecter of persons, and they are out to destroy you and take your salvation.

Esau sold his birthright for one morsel of meat. For one moment of pleasure, people fail God. We are

living in a time when sex is all over the place; it is advertised. You can hardly go anywhere without seeing it. They have no respect for who you are or for what you believe. Many women are very loose in the way they dress and in the way they conduct themselves. They do not care about taking your husband. Many men are very flirty, and they do not care about taking your wife or disrespecting you. That is the spirit of the world. As a Christian, you should value your salvation more than having a few moments of pleasure. You could lose your soul over a few moments of pleasure.

First Thessalonians 4:3-4 states: "For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour." If you do not respect yourself, how do you expect others to respect you? You need to possess your vessel in sanctification and honor.

First Corinthians 7:2 says, "Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband." If you are married, you should be thankful and appreciate your wife or your husband. Brother, if the young lady is not your wife yet, you ought to respect her. She is still your sister in the Lord. Sister, if he is not your husband yet, he is still your brother in the Lord. You must make sure that you both keep your hands to yourselves to avoid falling into fornication.

Guard Your Heart

Matthew 15:19-20 reads: "For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: These are the things which defile a man: but to eat with unwashen hands defileth not a man." These are the things that will defile you. You need to be careful, be on your guard, and be watchful. These spirits come from the heart.

No matter how long you have been married, the spirit of lust can get hold of you. The spirit of lust could lead you into adultery. Even ministers need to be reminded of these things and ought to keep their hands to themselves. I keep my distance from women. I must be careful around the opposite sex. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak. You should not put any confidence in your flesh.

Many people may not know that these things are in the Bible because today many preachers are not preaching these things. I thank God for the Truth and for the Church of God. First Corinthians 10:1-13 reads: "Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea; And did all eat the same spiritual meat; And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ. But with many of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness.

"Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted. Neither be ye idolaters, as were some of them; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play. Neither let us commit fornication, as some of them committed, and fell in one day three and twenty thousand. Neither let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed of serpents. Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer. Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come. Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall. There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temp-

tation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it."

We should not take that sin too lightly. Twenty-three thousand people fell in one day under the spirit of fornication. I think we ought to take it very seriously. The spirit of adultery and the spirit of fornication have destroyed many good marriages and have broken many hearts.

You should not listen to Satan. He will feed your mind with ungodly things. You can get hold of an evil spirit of lust, and it will take you down. It will drive you, and you will not be able to control yourself. You need to confess it and talk to someone about it. You must get that evil spirit out in the open. You should not hide it; expose the devil. Do not let it fester in your heart.

Hebrews 13:4 says, "Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge." Marriage is honorable. If you are married, you should love your wife or your husband and be faithful to her or him, because no matter what the devil tells you, no matter how many beautiful women or handsome men you see out there, there is nothing better than what you have at home. If you go out and mess around, you will pay a price. Sin will cost you something.

Do you remember your marriage vows? You said you would forsake all others. Others may wink at you and blink at you, but you are married. When I found my wife, I quit looking. The Bible says, "Whoremongers and adulterers God will judge." God is against fornication. Jude 1:7 states, "Even as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire." Giving themselves over to fornication means to indulge in it excessively.

In 1 Corinthians 5:9-11 Paul said: "I wrote unto you in an epistle not to company with fornicators: Yet

not altogether with the fornicators of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or with idolaters; for then must ye needs go out of the world. But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat." Do you understand what he meant? He was letting you know that you cannot help but work among people who commit fornication, but should those people come to church and say they are saved, we cannot allow that.

Pastors are watchmen on the wall for that spirit lurking around the congregation. The single sisters in the church are sisters in the Lord. If I see a strange man coming around or a brother from another congregation who says he is saved coming into one of their lives, I want to know who he is and what he wants. What is he doing lurking around? Who knows him? Since they are sisters in Christ, I try to help out and watch over them to keep them from making any mistakes. I do my best because lustful spirits are around. Also, we have to watch out for our children nowadays because of so many perverted spirits of sexuality in the world. You have to watch into whose hands you put your children. We must be wary of fornicators around a congregation who say they are saved but are not.

"Let No Man Deceive You"

In 1 Corinthians 6:9 the Apostle Paul said, "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind." Notice that he put the word *fornication* in with all those other sinful conducts.

It is up to you to keep yourself from falling into fornication. In Ephesians 5:5-7 Paul stated: "For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor

unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience. Be not ye therefore partakers with them." They do not have any inheritance in the Kingdom of God. The preachers who fail to warn people of these things are doing them a very great disservice.

Revelation 21:8 reads, "But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death." All those people in those kinds of lifestyles will burn in the lake of fire and brimstone. This is sad but true. I am trying to keep you out of hell.

I encourage parents to educate their children about the diseases that are transmitted by sexual contact. You cannot develop an immunity to them, and you can become infected with the same venereal disease repeatedly. Shame on the husband who would commit adultery and bring home a venereal disease to his wife. Husband, you ought to be faithful to your wife. Many women have unsaved husbands who cheat on them.

Sister, if you have a saved husband who is faithful to you, you should thank God. Brother, if you have a wife who is true to you, you should thank God and stay true. Some people call the venereal diseases "the love bugs." They are gonorrhea, syphilis, herpes, and AIDS (which is a number one killer today). The incest that is going on today is very sad. Some people wonder why God is looking out for us. They wonder why He wants us to be saved and to stay saved. God is saving our lives from destruction. Where would we be if it was not for God?

I am preaching these things to warn you because none of us is ex-

empt from these spirits. As we go through our daily lives, we are tempted, so we need something within us so that, come what may, we will remain faithful to Jesus Christ. No matter how old you are, a spirit of lust can get hold of you, and if that happens, the devil will get in. Friend, the devil may send someone your way to put you to the test. You may feel strong, but the flesh is weak.

The Key to a Successful Life With Christ

Matthew 9:10-13 says: "And it came to pass, as Jesus sat at meat in the house, behold, many publicans and sinners came and sat down with him and his disciples. And when the Pharisees saw it, they said unto his disciples, Why eateth your Master with publicans and sinners? But when Jesus heard that, he said unto them, They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick. But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."

If you are without salvation, you do not have what you need to overcome the spirit of lust in our world. Satan will cause you to do things that you do not really want to do. He will cause you to do things that you thought you would never do. If you are spiritually sick, Jesus came to heal the sick.

Again, Jesus said in Matthew 9:12-13: "But when Jesus heard that, he said unto them, They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick. But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance." Though a man may not be saved, he can still be faithful to his wife. The Bible says that "Marriage is honourable in all." Even unsaved people can be faithful in marriage, and God will bless that faithfulness.

James 4:6-10 tells us: "But he

giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded. Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up."

If you are a sinner, you ought to cleanse your hands, purify your heart, and give your life to Christ. If you will do these things, you will never regret it. You might have a happy home now, but you will make your home happier. God might be blessing your marriage, but you can make it more blessed by accepting Christ. You ought to let God take control of your home and your marriage. It would be so much better! If you are not married, draw nigh to God, and He will draw nigh to you.

Christ, speaking to the Jews, said in John 8:21, "I go my way, and ye shall seek me, and shall die in your sins: whither I go, ye cannot come." You do not want to die in your sins. If you should die in your sins, you cannot go where Jesus is. This is very serious.

You need to fall deeper in love with Jesus Christ, saint of God. You do not want to worry about failing your wife, failing the church, or failing God. As long as you stay faithful to God, you will never fail God, your wife, or the church. You need to stay faithful to God; that is the key to a successful life with Christ. There is great joy awaiting the sinner who will give his or her life to the Lord and turn away from sin. It is a joy that he or she cannot understand or imagine.

Jesus said in Luke 15:4-7: "What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it? And when he

hath found it, he layeth it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he cometh home, he calleth together his friends and neighbours, saying unto them, Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost. I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance."

Sinner, won't you turn away from sin and heed the Word of God? The spirits of the world are out to destroy any happiness that God has blessed you with. Fornication is one of the greatest sins in our society today. As a result, the divorce rate is high, and people are unfaithful. The sex industry is one of the largest industries in the world; it is making millions of dollars. Someone is buying that garbage and filth, and it is destroying many people's lives. If the devil can get you to become involved in this, he will. You should not take it lightly.

If you do not know the Lord, why not seek Him now? There is great joy for you and greater happiness for you. With Christ you will have strength to stand against the temptations that are knocking men and women down on every hand.

(Cassette C-5309E)

**Chasing after pleasure is
a true confession of an
UNSATISFIED life.**

**THE PSALMIST SAID:
"In thy presence is
FULNESS OF JOY:
at thy right hand
are PLEASURES
FOR EVERMORE."
(Psalm 16:11)**

Love's Law

*I knelt in the twilight of evening
And lifted my voice in prayer,
I opened my eyes in wonder,
For Jesus was standing there;
And He was so shining and beautiful,
His eyes like the stars of night,
His face shone with a radiance
That filled the room with light.*

*I covered my face in terror,
He voice came soft and low,
"Be not afraid, my daughter,
For all things Christ does know;
Lift up your heart of sorrow,
For I have known too,
I died on the Cross for sinners
To give them life anew."*

*"I am Your humble servant
You may ask of me what You will,
And I whispered in words scarcely audible,
"Dear Lord, that You love me still."
Often have I been in error
And grieved Your holy heart
When from the path of righteousness
My wandering feet apart.*



*Then gently He stooped and answered,
"Place your hand in Mine"
And I will safely lead you
Where paths of glory shine,
Do not repine in sorrow
Others know sorrow too
I came to the world for the erring
To give them hope anew.*

*Then, into my troubled spirit,
There crept a wondrous peace,
And I knew this was happiness,
Pure joy that would never cease;
Again, I heard the promise,
"Ask of Me what you will,"
And out of my heart came the answer,
"Teach me love's law to fulfill."*

Selected

[Guest Editorial—continued from page 2]
impositions.

So often in a worship service Satan will impose himself on the conscientious soul. In 2 Corinthians 11:14 Paul told us, "Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light." He is capable of disguising his voice; therefore, he makes himself sound as if God is speaking.

As the message goes forth, Satan will mask his voice and cause men and women to believe the preacher is actually accusing them. This will cause the overly conscientious souls, who are truly striving to be their best for God, to fall under a spirit of false condemnation.

They go to the altar and pray for God to help them and deliver them. When the pastor comes to counsel them regarding their need, and he may ask, "What can I do to help?"

Often the reply is, "I just don't feel like I'm saved."

When asked, "Do you know of anywhere that you have sinned or failed God?"

The answer is, "No." When it all boils down, we find it is the enemy falsely accusing or condemning that person for no definite reason.

Real condemnation is defined in John 3:19-21 when Jesus said: "And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men

loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov'd, But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God."

Condemnation from God is brought to reprove those who do wrong, not those who are striving to live for the Lord and to be pleasing to Him. In 1 John 2:29 we find that "every one that doeth righteousness is born of him (God)."

Selected



The ladies were gathered in the chapel one day, packing their annual missionary box. Someone had given until it meant self-denial touched a joy deeper than words.

They worked busily all the morning. By noon the box was packed and the janitor had nailed on the covers. They did not notice when the door was pushed timidly open, and another woman entered.

She was a pale little woman dressed in shabby black who felt her presence to be a jarring note among these easy well-to-do women. She faltered a moment; then seeing the closed box, a sudden fear overcame her hesitation.

She touched the lady nearest her, "I hope I am not too late," she stated, looking at her with eager appeal. "I could not get here before, but I wanted to bring my bit."

The lady glanced at the little package held out to her and looked embarrassed. "I am so sorry, Mrs. Tremont," she said, "But the box is all nailed up. If you had been only ten minutes earlier!"

For a moment, the little woman did not seem to understand. Then her hand dropped and her eyes filled with tears, and without a word she turned away and pushed open the swinging doors.

Out in the vestibule she stopped. She could not go out in the street so. She wiped her eyes on her little cotton handkerchief, but it seemed to do no good. "I ain't ever

had things like other people and don't expect to, but I did think I could give," she said tearfully.

The door behind her opened softly, and a girl slipped through. She was the youngest of the workers that day, and she felt shy and strange, but as she saw the pitiful little figure, she forgot her shyness, ran forward, and put her warm, strong, young hands over the little trembling ones.

"Don't," she cried, "don't feel so, please. The ladies are opening the box while I ran after you. I am so glad I caught you. Let me take it back for you, unless you would like to put it in yourself."

The woman looked up with a quick, quivering breath. "It can go?" she cried.

"Of course it can go," answered the girl.

The woman gave her the little package. "It was for Mother's sake," she said humbly. "I wouldn't have cared for myself." She pushed the door open and went away.

The girl walked slowly to the chapel. She was very silent. One of the ladies took the little package and tried to slip it in at the side of the box. As she did so, it tore and she looked up in amazement.

"Of all things to send to a missionary!" she exclaimed. "It's a Scripture calendar, a nice one too. It must have cost a dollar. It seems a pity people are not more sensible! A dollar would mean a great deal to

the missionary, while the verses, well, he would naturally know them."

A strange expression crossed the girl's face. "And yet," she said, "she cried because she thought it couldn't go. She said it was for her mother's sake."

Suddenly one of the ladies spoke. "I should never have forgiven myself had we let her go away," she said with a quiver in her voice. "I feel somehow as if it meant more than anything I ever gave in my life."

There were hard times that year. The well-to-do pastor of the church spoke of it often. The poor pastor to whom the missionary box was sent spoke of it seldom, but as the months passed by, every one cut deeper the lines of suffering on his face. It was a terrible year. Sometimes he felt that he could not endure the privations he had to bear.

His need was pitiful. The long strain had been too much for his wife, and she was sick, dying, the doctor said, for lack of nourishing food. The children were growing thin with languid, unchildlike ways, and Beth, with her patient care-taking, was at the same time his greatest comfort and almost his greatest heartache.

The pastor had written the board that his family would starve unless money came. Day by day, he looked for the answer, but no

answer had come. His wife and Beth did not question him any more. They told each other that they must keep bright before Papa, but they had given up trying to do so when alone.

It was Monday night, and Sunday had been an unusually trying day. The minister looked at the clock and drew his breath hard. It was mail time, and it seemed to him he could not go and meet another disappointment. Then he saw the expression on Beth's face and went for his hat.

At the door he stopped, "I may be home late, Beth," he said. "Don't wait supper."

Beth turned her face away. She understood so well! "Yes, Papa," she said in a choked voice.

The door closed, and the minister went outside into the darkness. A neighbor had taken the children for the day, and Beth and her mother were alone. Beth ran over to the bed and buried her face in the pillow.

Her mother's thin hand touched her lovingly. "Don't dear," she whispered. "It's best—it must be best—though it is hard to bear now."

Beth lifted her face desperately. "It isn't the letter, Mama. I guess I don't know how to hope any more."

Her mother gave a little start, but she was not thinking of herself. "Beth," she said quickly, "We must not let Papa know. I can get along. Do be brave, dear, for his sake."

"I'll try," sobbed Beth, "But Mama, sometimes I wonder what God can be thinking of."

The child sat still, and the expression of misery on the little pale face made it seem old far beyond its years. That look was to the mother the hardest thing in all their hard years. She reached out speaking passionately to her, and her voice was full of an intensity that Beth had never heard before.

"Beth," she said, "pray—pray and I'll pray with you, but don't stop until you believe that God is good."

The child knelt beside her in an obedience that was frightened at the

first, and only the ticking of the clock broke the silence in the room. Ten, fifteen, twenty minutes passed and Beth had not spoken. Twenty-five minutes passed, and Beth had not moved yet. Half an hour passed, and then the child looked up with the light on her worn face. "It's all right, Mama," she said softly.

Her mother looked at her, "Beth, you are looking for something!"

The child lifted her face, full of bright confidence. "I can't help it Mama," she answered. "I am sure it's here coming somehow. Maybe not today, but it will come."

Her mother's voice was low, but she had to ask the question. "And if it doesn't?" The child's lips trembled a little, but she answered, "Then it's all right too."

Suddenly her glance fell upon the calendar that had come in their missionary box nearly a year before. She brushed the tears from her eyes and crossed the room to read it. In their anxiety, they had not torn off the leaves for three days. She read John 6:35 softly aloud.

She did not notice that her father was softly opening the door, his face white and drawn with the pain of bringing them another disappointment. The words of Isaiah 66:24 sounded almost triumphantly.

She tore off that sheet too, and then stopped in bewilderment. Instead of the verse for the day, she saw a white envelope pinned across the text. She unpinned it; there was

a carefully folded note inside. As she turned she saw her father standing by the door, and running over to him, she thrust the note into his hand. She forgot his hopeless errand. "What can it be?" she asked excitedly. Her father went to the table, and lit the lamp with unsteady fingers. He unfolded the note and looked at it almost blindly for a moment; then suddenly he buried his face in his hands on the table. Beth picked up a paper that fluttered from it, and her face grew white. It was a twenty dollar bill.

In a few minutes they read the note: "Dear unknown friend," it said, "I am only a plain little dressmaker, but it doesn't make any difference who I am—the money is from my mother. She was all I had in the world, and I had been saving this to take her away and make her well, but God took her away and made her well first. So I have put this money here so that you can find it on her birthday, and I pray it may bring you a bit of the blessing that my mother gave me."

One morning that pastor of the rich church read his people a letter. As it told of the bitter need, the little dressmaker joyfully heard how her gift had helped and promised in her heart to give as long as she lived, twenty dollars every year, for her mother's sake.

Selected

ONLY
One life
'twill soon be past
ONLY
What's done for Christ
Will last!

Hebrews 13:3 Remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them; and them which suffer adversity, as being yourselves also in the body.

4 Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.

Marriage Is Honorable



Brother Allen Polston

Bear One Another's Burdens

I do not claim to know everything there is to know about marriage, but I am acquainted with God through a born-again experience. He has helped me to have a very wonderful marriage. As long as there are people in the world, there will be times of hardship. My wife and I pray together regularly, and our desire and prayer is that God will give others good marriages as well. A strong, stable marriage is a real asset to a person who is endeavoring to live for God. It is a witness to the world of God's goodness. We pray for those who are not married so that when the time is appropriate, God will give them good, strong marriages. It is something to be concerned about. Having the right companion can be a real help to you throughout your life.

Verse 3 of our Scripture text reads, "Remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them; and them which suffer adversity, as being yourselves also in the body." As Christians, we have a responsibility to pray for others who may be going through hard places in their lives. God said to remember those who are in bondage, or in difficult situations. Sometimes in our relationships things can become strained. Certainly this Scripture applies to more than just those who are going through hard times in their marriages or in their homes. Nevertheless, when we are aware of marriage situations that are less than favorable, we have a responsibility to uphold those individuals in prayer.

It would be easy to find fault with people rather than to include them in our prayers. God wants us

to go into the prayer closet and talk to Him about those who are going through difficult times in their lives. We should use wisdom and not inform the public or even other individuals of people's personal situations through the means of requesting prayer for them. We can bring an unspoken burden. One song says, "Go and tell somebody." Too many times it is not what the Lord has done for you that you want to go and tell. It is what you have heard that someone else is going through or has been through. Let us keep with what the song says, "Go and tell somebody what the Lord has done for you." Sometimes situations are better kept between you and God. You should take them to the Lord.

The Apostle Paul wrote in Galatians 6:2, "Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of

Christ." It is burdensome when conflicts, tensions, and problems arise in close proximity. The devil is trying marriages today. He is attacking homes, and I trust that God will help you to see the reason as you study this thought. The enemy of souls is working hard against homes. He wants to invade marriages and cause problems to compound one upon another.

Praying for Others

Paul, when writing to Timothy in 1 Timothy 2:1, said, "I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men." When you realize or discern that others are having problems, God wants you to pray for them. It is good to have someone else praying for you. Those who have strong marriages might have the faith to pray for others who may be struggling. Sometimes when you are the one going through a deep valley and you are really in the heat of the battle, all you can see are the enemy's forces before you and the weapons formed against you. However, someone whom God has helped and strengthened can have the faith to pray for you. You need to pray for others, not necessarily publicly and thereby exposing things that need to be kept private, but you need to pray and carry a burden for those who are going through difficult times.

The Hebrew writer said in verse 3 of our Scripture text, ". . . as being yourselves also in the body." This principle applies to many things, but I want you to focus your thoughts on the honorable state of marriage. No doubt that is part of the reason that God instructed the elders of the church to be called and to come with anointing oil and pray for the sick. Many times when you are the one dealing with the pain and the suffering of an affliction, you can hardly pray about anything, let alone have enough faith to be inspired to pray for your own heal-

ing. Therefore, God has provided a way to approach this situation.

When you know that people are going through rough places, as a Christian, you should feel a burden to pray for them. Saint, you have a responsibility to pray for others. Again, Hebrews 13:3 says, ". . . as being yourselves also in the body." If you were in that situation, you would not be too excited about telling others of the difficulty that you are going through.

The God-Given Desire for Companionship

God honors marriage just as His Word says. Verse 4 of our Scripture text also gives the alternative to marriage, which states, "Marriage is honorable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge." The Hebrew writer gives us both sides. This should be an encouragement as far as marriage is concerned. The Bible lets us know that God created us in such a state that we need a companion. There are exceptions, and God has grace for every situation.

In the Book of Genesis, God told Adam that it was not good for man to be alone. God has designed us with natural, God-given desires for companionship. When young people become young adults, they begin to feel a desire for companionship. This desire is placed within us by divine placement. He has also made a righteous, honorable way to see that desire fulfilled. We can pursue that desire and see the fulfillment of it, and God will honor that. However, when individuals begin to engage in ungodly activity, the other side of this, according to the Scripture, is ". . . whoremongers and adulterers, God will judge." This does not mean that everyone who is not married is a whoremonger or an adulterer, but rather, God has designed marriage as an honorable way of fulfilling the desires that He has put within us.

Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 2:11, ". . . for we are not ignorant of his [Satan's] devices." The enemy will

throw out an alternative to you, and that is to skip over marriage altogether and go the way of the world. God does not want you to listen to Satan. James said in James 1:16, "Do not err, my beloved brethren." The devil wants you to err in judgment. He does not want you to think things through and come up with the right conclusion. On the other hand, God wants you to see both sides of this so that you can make a well-informed decision. God wants you to know that in order for a man and a woman to lawfully pursue and fulfill the God-given desires for a companion, they must be married. By doing so, they make themselves eligible for a special bestowment of honor from the Lord. On the other hand, if they choose to cater to the flesh outside the constraints of marriage, they are qualifying themselves as whoremongers and adulterers. I know it is not very popular to mention those terms, but I want you to know that God is displeased with ungodliness. He has established a means by which each one who has that desire can be married. The man can have a wife, and God can bless them in a very rich and wonderful way. Marriage is honorable.

Too many people are living together outside of wedlock. Often someone will meet a person one night and the next day or even before the night is over, they decide to move in together and become engaged in a relationship. God does not honor that kind of activity. Marriage is honorable. God still wants things to be done according to His Word. He still honors marriage, but He does not accept shacking up. He does not overlook it, promote it, or approve of it. God honors those who come to the place where they forsake all others and commit their lives to each other and say, "We will work together to build a home and become established as a married couple." No matter how much this world makes these other things seem acceptable and attractive, God will never accept them. Others

around you may accept it, but God will not. The Bible still says in 1 Corinthians 6:9-10: "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God."

Seducing Spirits

Do you know what the problem is in our day? Many people are being deceived along the very lines of morality. They are being tricked by false religion and by the enemy of their souls into thinking they can be adulterers, fornicators or drunkards and still be Christians. They are being deceived. It is no surprise that Paul wrote to his young minister friend, Timothy, and said that seducing spirits would come and really work in these last days. When I speak of seducing spirits, I am not merely speaking of spirits that entice you to drink alcohol, but about spirits that entice you to drink and have a church membership at the same time. These are seducing spirits. Many people are doing the same things that people are doing out in the hell holes of the world, yet they have a religious affiliation while they are doing those things and feel they are all right. God does not accept this kind of worship.

Marriage is honorable. This should stand as an encouragement to get married. This does not mean that you ought to rush into something without giving it time and prayer. Marriage is a part of God's design for mankind. Genesis 2:18 says, "And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him."

In Ephesians 5:31 the Apostle Paul said, "For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh."

Notice that he said, "For this cause. . . ." For what cause? No doubt, there is more than one, but verse 29 says, "For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church."

Paul was speaking a great mystery, and that is the relationship between the Lord Jesus Christ and the church, He being the husband and she being the bride. These principles also apply to the institution of marriage. The cause is that man needs to be nourished and cherished. God has put within us to nourish and cherish ourselves. I am not saying that we should exalt the flesh or give in to sinful, fleshly gratification. Nevertheless, we have a God-given desire to take care of ourselves. God has put that desire within us. When you are in your right mind, you want to take care of yourself. You do not want to inflict undue harm and injury upon your body. You want to nourish your body, care for it, and attend to it.

Again, Genesis 2:18 reads, "It is not good that the man should be alone." He needs a helpmeet to nourish and cherish him in his daily living, just as the Lord nourishes and cherishes the church. I am glad that we have a God who cherishes and nourishes and cares for us! How many times have you been down in the valley and God came and lifted your spirit and flooded your soul with glory, goodness, bliss, and grace? He is caring for you, cherishing you, and nourishing you. Just as Christ cherishes, nourishes, and cares for the church, when a man and his wife become one flesh, together the two of them work to nourish, cherish, and strengthen each other.

Nourishing, Cherishing, and Caring for Each Other

You need to look into how much nourishing you are doing when situations come your way and problems occur in your marriage. I can assure you that the devil will try

to challenge every marriage from time to time. If you have had some opposition and faced some trouble in your marriage, do not think that you are the only one. Do not think that your marriage is destroyed or that it is a lost cause.

I want to remind you that the devil is working hard to challenge all marriages. He will try to elevate little disagreements to cause you to pull away from each other. Sooner or later, the enemy of souls will come against your marriage. Again, do not think that because you have some problems and disagreements that there is no hope for your marriage, because I am preaching to you about the God of *all* hope. Others have faced marital difficulties too, and God has brought them through.

Ephesians 5:33 says, "Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband." God wants the husband to love his wife even as himself. This takes us right back to the nourishing and the cherishing and the reason that the man leaves his father and mother. No man has ever yet hated his own flesh. God does not put it in man to work against himself, just as a kingdom divided against itself cannot stand, unless something is done about the division.

God did not put it in us to go out and bring harm upon ourselves. Therefore, he tells us in Ephesians 5:33, "Let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself." This tells you that God is instructing the husband not to bring undue harm, pain, or injury upon his wife, anymore than he would upon himself.

Now, I am sure that you would not enjoy bringing pain upon yourself. You will do everything you can to avoid it. If you realize that something about your life is inflicting pain and suffering upon your body, what do you do? You start making some changes to correct it. God, through the Apostle Paul, was telling the husband to love his wife

even as himself. In other words, you should not do or say things that would bring pain and harm upon your spouse.

I am not fond of conversations where someone is constantly putting down his or her companion. Some do it jokingly, or so they say, but even then, I am not really fond of that kind of behavior. It can easily go too far and get out of control. If you are not careful, it can be like the chickens that pick on the weak chicken. Such behavior can easily cause hurt feelings, even though that one may not manifest those hurt feelings right away.

Ephesians 5:33 continues, ". . . and the wife see that she reverence her husband." The Bible teaches that we are to reverence God, and that essentially means to fear God. In other words, you should take into consideration how God would feel about your actions. I do not believe that a wife ought to expose her husband's weaknesses or shortcomings. She ought to take into consideration how her words might make him feel. She is to build him up, encourage him, nourish him, and cherish him. He is to do the same. He should love her and give himself for her. At times he may suffer a little shame or reproach on her behalf because he is giving himself for her. This is what can make a good marriage. God said marriage is honorable.

Since God said that He honors marriage, I am convinced that He will give you the grace to uphold your end of it. He will give you the grace to do what you need to do. Sometimes people need to do a little investigating and ask themselves, "Am I helping to nourish my companion? Am I cherishing him or her?" People cherish material things. They may buy a fireproof safe to secure the things they cherish or value. They want to protect them. You should highly value your companion that God has given you, cherish him or her, and hold him or her in high esteem. If God has His way, you will be married to your

companion until death do you part. He wants you to cherish your spouse.

"Charity Suffereth Long"

We are living in a time when human life is not being valued very much. From the womb to the rocking chair, so to speak, and everywhere in between, but more so on the extreme ends, the world does not value human life. I believe in the sanctity of human life. Every life is precious, regardless of the difficulties or disabilities. God has placed an extremely high value on every life in this world, and we should cherish each one.

You should not criticize or find fault with your companion or any one else. I am sure you could find things that would be unfavorable in others if you really searched. I am not talking about sin, but about human faults. In a marriage relationship, no doubt, you could find all kinds of faults if that is what you are looking for, but that is unprofitable. God does not want you to criticize others. It is very detrimental to criticize your companion, especially to your family. Why? Because your loved ones are going to side with you in just about every case. Being critical of your companion to your family is not going to help you to work things out or help you to get through situations.

My wife and I have had some disagreements since we have been married, but I have never gone back to my parents and criticized her, not one time. Furthermore, if anyone should criticize her in front of me, I would put a stop to it. God has given her to me. She is my wife, and I cherish her. You need to be careful that you do not criticize others, because it can be habit forming. There may be times when you need to counsel with your pastor, and there may be situations where you will have to work through and explain matters. However, getting on the phone or going to someone's house and criticizing your companion will

not be profitable for you. God is not in that. You should not expose each other's weaknesses. Each of us has human weaknesses. Again, I am not talking about sin. You should not cause others to learn of those weaknesses; instead, you should help him or her to overcome them.

In your marriage you should help each other with your weaknesses. Wife, if your husband is having trouble getting out of bed in the morning, you should do what you can to help him. Husband, if your wife is overwhelmed in getting some things accomplished, you should do whatever you can to help her. The newspaper can wait for a while. You are not too good to run the sweeper or to wash the dishes now and then. These are things that can benefit your marriage.

First Corinthians 13:4 says, "Charity suffereth long." You should be patient and long-suffering with your companion. In Matthew 10:22, as Jesus was dealing with tribulation, He told His disciples, "He that endureth to the end shall be saved." Sometimes you have to endure some things. You must wait on the Lord and endure, and He will strengthen your heart and encourage you. It is good to be patient and to endure. Too often people are ready to give up when they have the first argument or disagreement. You should not even entertain the thought that your marriage is not going to work, but rather you ought to keep in the forefront of your mind that you are going to work through whatever problems you may face. You may not always know exactly how or what steps you need to take, but with God's help you can do it.

Resolving Issues

Sometimes at county or city council meetings, they say, "We are going to table this matter until next month." What they mean is they are unable to resolve an issue, so they put it off and come back to it later. Sometimes that is what you and your companion need to do when

disagreements occur. If you and your spouse cannot come to an agreement or a resolution, you need to table it, pray about it, and let God help you. It may be the other person who needs to change, it may be you, or it may be both of you. Just because you were unable to fully address a matter does not mean that your life and your happiness in the home has to be put on hold. You need to just put the issue on hold and go right on and enjoy yourselves and work together. You can remind each other, if one tries to bring it up, that you have tabled the matter for right now. When you table a matter, the devil will look for an opportunity to bring it up again.

Some things take time; not everything can be resolved immediately. It takes time to build a good strong, solid home. It takes time to build a congregation. You are not going to have anything good if you are not willing to put some time into it. Your relationship with God is going to take some time. It takes time to advance in your career. Young person, it takes time for you to be able to afford to buy things that others have.

One downfall of this generation is that people put so much on credit. You can run out and accumulate goods that you think you cannot live without, but then you have to start paying for those things. Your parents and grandparents labored hard for many years to be able to get those things, but you can get them right now by putting them on credit. That can be dangerous. If you need to live in a smaller house, drive a less expensive vehicle, and get by with less, you might have fewer problems and be better off. Your main concern should be that God is there. I am not preaching against having a nice, large home or having nice things, but I am saying that good things take time to acquire. If you are not careful, you will rush into things. It takes time to work through some issues that come up in a marriage, in a home, and in a family.

Second Corinthians 9:7 states, "God loveth a cheerful giver." Your companion would love a cheerful giver too, someone who is willing to give in the marriage without doing it grudgingly, someone who will give without the thought, "That interferes with my interests and my hobby." You should give cheerfully. God loves a cheerful giver, and it is good to give to your marriage in a cheerful way. You should give of yourselves to each other.

One thing that I have found to be very important is to spend time with my wife in conversation, just discussing things. My wife does not work outside the home. She is there all day with the children, working in the home. The washing machine rarely stops at our house. When I come home from work, she needs some interaction. She has had to deal with messes, little injuries, and lots of other things. She has guided the home, kept track of things, and fixed the meals.

Interacting With Each Other

My wife cut out a little comic strip and posted it in my office. It portrays a woman wanting to talk with her husband. It shows the husband with a little bitty coffee cup and his wife with a huge coffee cup. She is ready to sit down and talk with him over a cup of coffee. She wants to spend a long time, but he wants to sip a little and go. When I look at that once in a while, I laugh, but it is true. Your wife does not need you to just come home, throw your boots on the mat, demand your supper, and then go to sleep or do your own thing. She needs some interaction with you.

Likewise, God wants interaction with the church. He instructed the church to be faithful in attending the house of God. That is in the Bible. You ought to be faithful and not forsake assembling with the saints. Part of the reason is that you need to be an encouragement to others in the assembly. It is not all about you. Someone may say, "I can get along

fine without going to the worship services." What about the person you were supposed to encourage that night? Another reason is to be in the presence of God. The church interacts with God through the singing, the fellowship, and the preaching.

Just as the church needs to interact with the Lord, so the husband and the wife need to interact with each other. I do not mean just going over problems. You need to put the bills on the desk for a while so you can talk. At work, during the course of the day, I try to make a mental note of things that happened that my wife might find interesting. Then when we get the children in bed, we sit and talk. You need to spend time with your companion and interact with each other. You need to keep falling in love over and over again. This needs to happen in marriages. You must keep working at that love and keep interacting. An old expression says, "Absence makes the heart grow fonder," but I do not buy that. I know when you have been absent, you are ready to go home to see your companion, but it is not the policy that you should abide by. You ought to interact with your companion, spend time together, and strengthen your marriage.

As God works with the church, He commissions each of us to be laborers together with Him. In other words, the Husband (Christ) and the bride (the church) must work together for the benefit of souls. So it should be for the husband and the wife. You need to work together to resolve things, to reach others, and to spread the Gospel.

Ephesians 4:32 says, "And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." You need to be forgiving. At times someone may speak too harshly or speak before realizing how it sounds or what the implications are. We each have had those occasions. Sometimes when things are said or done, you need to be forgiving and

tenderhearted. You ought to forgive your companion.

Many people do not have a problem with forgiving others out in the world who have wronged them, but they need to forgive in the home too. Sometimes it is easy to have a Christian witness out in the world, but in the home it is not as evident. Dear one, when something is said or done that you are displeased with, you need to forgive and work on it. I want people to have good marriages. God said that marriage is honorable. He will honor your marriage with your companion.

Recovering From Hard Places

Sometimes you might have to take the wrong. Someone may say, "I know I'm right and he's wrong. He just would not listen. He is being hardheaded." When Paul wrote to the Corinthians, he dealt with a situation where some brethren had problems. He said in 1 Corinthians 6:1, "Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unjust, and not before the saints?" Before he finished speaking to them, he said in verse 7b, "Why do ye not rather take wrong?" It would be better to take the wrong, forgive, and go on. You may need to humble yourself under the mighty hand of God, take the wrong, and not let it produce bitterness. You need to realize that you have been wrong at times. You, too, have made mistakes in judgment.

Jesus took the wrongs against Him. He set the example for us. If anyone had a right to avenge himself, it would have been the Lord Jesus, but He took the wrong for us. Sometimes it is a matter of humbling yourself and saying, "Let us put this behind us and move on."

I realize that some situations are very troubling. Not everyone has a saved companion. As Christians, we need to pray for them. I want to encourage you by these words in Galatians 6:9, which read, "And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint

not." You may be facing a very hard situation, but be encouraged.

Paul told the Corinthians about a very difficult place that he went through in Asia. You can read about it in 2 Corinthians, Chapter 1. Basically, he said in verse 9 that they had the sentence of death in themselves. In other words, they felt there was no hope for them. It seemed as though there were no possible way of recovery, but he said that God delivered them and brought them through. As he looked back, he realized that God allowed it to happen, and through what happened, God helped him to learn to trust in Him. You may be going through some very hard places, but God can use these times to help you learn to really pour out your heart to Him. Jesus set an example for us. First Peter 2:23 says, "When he was reviled, reviled not again . . . but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously." At times you have to make a fresh commitment and stay in there, work harder, and do your best for God. Some situations may look impossible; however, we read in Mark 10:27, "And Jesus looking upon them saith, With men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible." Sometimes things look impossible. Like the Apostle Paul, you might seem to have the sentence of death in you, but God can deliver you. Paul said He "doth deliver" (2 Corinthians 1:10).

"Unto Him Be Glory"

Paul wrote in Ephesians 3:20-21: "Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen." First, Paul was encouraging the saints that God is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we can ask or think. Also, he said to Him be glory. One thing that can help, if you are going through problems, is to make sure

that you are doing all you can to give God glory. If you are not careful, the world will have you glorifying it rather than Him. The Apostle Paul said, "Now unto him be glory."

If there is an area in your life that is not giving glory to God, He wants you to seek the very means of help so that you can start giving Him glory right now. Many people say, "Somewhere down the road, I am going to get active for God." If you keep delaying things, you might lose your marriage. You could lose many things, including your soul.

I am not saying that in every marriage that has ever been lost, both parties were not glorifying God. Sometimes you can do everything you possibly can to try to work things out, but that still does not change the other person's mind. However, you need to make sure that you are giving glory to God. He is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that you can ask or think. We all pass through different seasons in life; however, that does not mean things have to deteriorate.

Paul said to the Corinthians in 2 Corinthians 4:16, "Though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day." God can renew and strengthen your marriage regularly, and that is necessary. At home my wife and I kneel down by the bed and pray. Husbands and wives need to pray together. The devil will try to make it seem awkward, but you need to pray together. Also, you need to gather the family around and pray together. Husband, it would not be out of order to take your wife by the hand and go to the altar and pray together. You may say, "We have a good marriage." That is good, but you can pray for those who do not. You can pray for those who are seeking a good marriage, for those who desire to have a good companion. The Hebrew writer said to remember those who are in bonds.

Marriage was designed to be a wonderful relationship. If you have been working on your marriage and it does not seem to improve, you

should press on and not give up. Do not quit. You may be very close to an incredible turning point in your relationship. I want to encourage you. God can help you to overcome and triumph. Child of God, God has made you a king and a priest, and you can reign in this earth over the things that try to destroy your marriage. Others can testify that God

has helped them along this very line.

Dear one, we want people to have good marriages. It is a real witness, a powerful tool for the church, and a real benefit to every individual family. God honors marriage. If you really want to do the right thing and commit yourself to God and be determined, you will

work to enhance and energize your marriage. If you want to make it work and you really mean business, God will honor it. He will help you. You cannot do things on your own. You stand in need of a Higher Power, a divine intervention to help you. May God bless you.

(Compact Disc TR-192E)

A MOTHER'S LOVE

"She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness. Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her" (Proverbs 31:27-28).

In the life of Abraham Lincoln nothing was more sacred than the love of his self-sacrificing mother, Nancy Hanks, who died when he was a boy of nine. When a grown man, he could say, "All I am and hope to be I owe to my angel mother."

During the Civil War there was a young army surgeon who pitifully neglected his dear loving mother. His thoughtlessness was rebuked by the personal attention of the stern but tenderhearted President Lincoln.

Jason, a fine surgeon, working in field hospitals, was so skillful that men often asked for him when the fear of death was on them. So very engrossed was he in his work that he neglected to write his mother. Time slipped by into a year, and then two years.

In his second year, Jason was stationed in a hospital near Washington. One morning while on his way to the cot of a man dying from gangrene, an orderly stopped him, "Dr. Jason Wilson?"

"Yes," the doctor replied.

"Sorry, Doctor, but I have to arrest you and take you to Washington."

"Surely you must have the wrong man."

Then the orderly drew from his pocket a heavy envelope and handed it to Jason. This is what he read: "Show this to Surgeon Jason Wilson. Bring him to me immediately. A. Lincoln."

In a daze Jason was taken to Washington. Soon he found himself at the White House in a room before President Lincoln. "Where are you from and have you any relatives?" asked the President.

"I'm from Ohio, and only my mother is living," answered the doctor.

"How is your mother?"

"I don't know, sir. I have neglected to write to her. I don't suppose she knows where I am."

There was a silence in the room. Mr. Lincoln clenched his great fist on the desk! "I had a letter from her. She supposes you are dead and asked me to trace your grave. What kind of a mother was she?"

"The best that ever lived, Mr. President."

"Still you neglected to write to her! How did you get training as a surgeon? Who paid for it?"

Jason reddened. "My father was a poor preacher, so mother raised the money selling things such as her treasured old silver teapot, father's gold watch, and even Pilgrim, her favorite horse."

"You poor fool!" said Lincoln. "She sold her household treasure for you!" Pointing a long, bony finger at his desk, he continued, "Come here and sit down and write a letter to your mother!"

Flushed with anger, Jason did as he was told. Under Lincoln's burning gaze, he seized a pen and wrote his mother a stilted note.

"Address it and give it to me," said the President. "I'll see that she gets it. And now, Jason Wilson, as long as you

are in the army, you will write to your mother once a week or I'll have you court-martialed. Now you may go, my boy." Lincoln shook hands with Jason, who in anger stumbled out of the room.

Making his way down Pennsylvania Avenue, he passed a hotel where he saw an officer dismount and leave his horse. While passing near the horse, he heard a soft whinny as it laid its head on Jason's shoulder and softly muzzled his cheek. It was Old Pilgrim, his mother's horse! Suddenly he threw his arms around Old Pilgrim's neck and sobbed into the silky mane. When the officer returned, Jason offered to buy the horse. After telling the touching story of how Pilgrim had once been his mother's horse, the officer agreed to sell for the same price that he had paid for the horse.

Arrangements were soon made for Jason to take a furlough that he might visit his mother and also bring Pilgrim back home.

Within a week he and Pilgrim rode up to the door of his mother's cottage. Seeing them through the window, she rushed out to meet them. After Jason dismounted, he ran to her and threw his arms around her. "O Mother! O Mother! Forgive me! I didn't realize. I didn't know!" What a joyful homecoming! What a happy reunion between mother and son.

Exodus 20:12 says, "Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee." Proverbs 23:22 tells us, "Hearken unto thy father that begat thee, and despise not thy mother when she is old."

Selected

ARE YOU JUDGING YOURSELF UNWORTHY OF EVERLASTING LIFE?



Brother Esau Brooks

"Another Beast Coming Up Out of the Earth"

Many people in the religious world are worked up over the number "666." One of my grandsons called me and asked, "Grandfather, does the Bible have anything to say about the number 666?" I replied, "Why do you ask?"

He said, "Well, in school that is what they are talking about."

The denominational world has gotten so confused that I wonder if many of them will recover from that work of deception. In the midst of all the confusion, do not lose sight of something that the world and Church of God need to be aware of. Revelation 13:11 reads, "And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth [John saw this beast rising up, giving us insight as to what part this beast plays in people's lives];

and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon."

From what I know of lambs, they are docile creatures. A goat is different; it has horns, but a lamb has never been interpreted to have aggressive attributes. Jesus bore the title of the "Lamb of God." John the Baptist said in John 1:29, "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." We can read about Jesus getting stirred to the degree that He knocked over the tables of the money changers in the temple, but that was not a common occurrence. God's people are like Jesus; they have the nature of a lamb.

John the Revelator spoke of a lamb that had two horns and spoke as a dragon. In Revelation 13:12 he wrote, "And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them

which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed." This lamb that John spoke of here cannot be a real, genuine lamb. It does not fit the Bible Lamb. What is this beast? It is a beast that had a deadly wound, but when John saw it, the wound was healed. I remember very vividly a few years ago when the world had gone completely crazy over the Roman Catholic Pope. You may ask, "What is wrong with that?" I will answer that when you tell me what is right about it. Strange things are happening today, things that involve our souls and the future of our souls.

John said in verse 13, "And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men." When you begin to talk about the sight of men, you need to be careful,

because men seem to see all kinds of things. These men whom John spoke of in his vision thought this beast was making fire come down from heaven, and that is where the danger lies. Also, that is where we need to shake ourselves concerning what is going on. If this beast is bringing fire down from heaven, why not in the sight of God? Notice that God's name was not even mentioned here. As we continue this study, you will find some more things that are very marvelous.

Corrupt Religion

In verse 14 John wrote, "And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live." Would it not be well to get a really good understanding of this? You can. God stands ready to reveal it to you. You have to beware of religion, because it is not good in every case. I like Paul's testimony when he wrote the letter to the Galatians. In Galatians 1:13 he stated, "For ye have heard of my conversation in time past in the Jews' religion, how that beyond measure I persecuted the church of God, and wasted it."

These are perilous times, and we need to know the difference between religion and salvation. You can have religion and not salvation, but you will have religion when you get salvation; it will be a pure, undefiled religion. All kinds of things go on in the name of religion. I do not know what the percentage is, but much of the world today is covered with religion.

When Paul entered the city of Athens, he saw people blindly going through religious practices. He was only supposed to have been there until the brethren came back to pick him up, but he was so stirred by what he saw that he began to preach there. In Acts 17:22-23 we read:

"Then Paul stood in the midst of Mars' hill, and said, Ye men of Athens, I perceive that in all things ye are too superstitious. For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD." Those people were worshipping a God that they knew nothing about. Do you know anything about the God whom you are worshipping?

Going back to Revelation 13:15 John stated, "And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed." Nothing will kill you quicker than religion. Religion brought the end to Paul's life, and it brought the end to the life of the Son of God. Religion put Him on the Cross. Someone may say, "I thought religion was a good thing." It is good when it is pure, undefiled religion. However, it is very bad when it is corrupt religion. You see, when it comes from the devil instead of from God, it is bad.

In verses 16-17 John wrote: "And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name." This is what had my grandson stirred, because people were saying that a man was coming who would brand everyone. This mark does not have anything to do with physical things, but rather spiritual things. He was not talking about doing business in a supermarket or any other business. He was saying those who have this mark can sell anything else, but they cannot sell, or give you, the Truth. If they had the Truth, they would not have that mark.

Take Heed

John wrote in Revelation 13:18, "Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of

the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six." According to the wording and the description of this reading, we would get an idea that this is a literal man, or a natural man, but I would like to impress upon your mind that it is a spirit. There is a spirit of antichrist. The prefix *anti* means "against"; therefore, the word *antichrist* means against Christ.

When I was growing up, I thought everything religious was good, but I thank God that He opened my eyes. I pray that He will open the eyes of those who are unable to see the difference between salvation and religion. Religion can damn your soul if it is the wrong religion. In James 1:27 James said, "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world." This is the religion that you must get.

Are you judging yourself unworthy of eternal life? That was the burden, or the message, of the morning-time church. Throughout Acts, Chapter 13, you can read of how the Apostles preached the Word of God with boldness to the Jews and then to the Gentiles.

Breaking in at verses 44-46 we read: "And the next sabbath day came almost the whole city together to hear the word of God. But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy, and spake against those things which were spoken by Paul, contradicting and blaspheming. Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said, "It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you: but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles." Religion robbed those people of the glorious experience from God that was extended toward them.

The Apostle's message was founded on "Thus saith the Lord," not on theology. When they laid out

the Word of God to the people, often their preaching brought rebellion. The preaching brought either revival or rebellion. Those were glorious times! It can still be that way, and in places it still is. The problem is, we do not have enough of it. So many saints have gone on to Glory, and some who have not gone on to Glory have gone some other way. It is sad to see what has happened and what is happening to men and women today. If you do not remember anything else, remember this: do not judge yourself as being unworthy of everlasting life.

Jesus is coming back, but not to offer salvation or to reign on a throne in Palestine. He is not coming to give you big watermelons and sugar cane, as some say will happen in the millennium. Some people are painting such a beautiful picture

that, if you do not watch yourself, you will be as John was on the Isle of Patmos when he saw that woman on the scarlet-colored beast. When he first saw her, he wondered with great admiration. The angel had to rebuke him and, in essence, said, "What are you wondering about?"

Friend, this lamb with the two horns has the kind of power that, if you are not careful, will have you admiring the wrong things. That is what is bringing all the fighting, the rebellion, and the corruption that is happening in religious circles today. How wonderful it would be if people would let God continue to lead, but too many times people begin to rise up and voice their opinions about who they do or do not like instead of sounding forth the Word of God.

Dear one, please wake up to

what the devil has going on around us today. Many men and women who once preached the message of Truth and shouted and rejoiced in the Truth have ended up fighting, opposing, and bitterly hating those who continue to be faithful to God. It is not a beautiful picture, and you have to keep up your guard. The harvest is great, and the workers are few. I would to God that many of the young people would dedicate their lives to God to promote holiness and righteousness across the land. If there was ever a time in America when it was needed, it is today. If there was ever a time when the church needed it, it is today. May God bless you.

(Cassette C-5602)

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Online Newsletter

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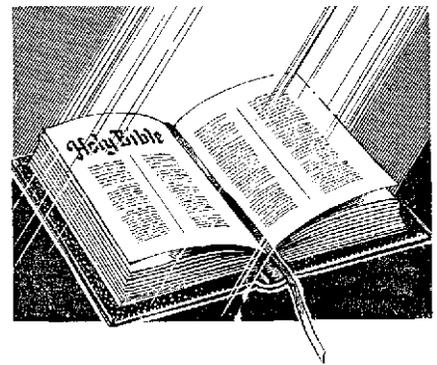


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RevelationExplained.com • SaveMeLord.com***

The Pawned Book



Dr. W. P. Mackay left home to attend college at the age of seventeen. His mother gave him a Bible, writing her name, his name, and a verse of Scripture on the flyleaf. He graduated with honors and became the head of a hospital. He also became the head of an infidel club where they practiced everything that was licentious and vile. He was open in his ridicule of God and the Bible.

One day they brought in a man on a cot, the lower part of his body horribly crushed. On his face, however, was a look of calm and peace so pronounced that Dr. Mackay was amazed. The man asked what the doctor's verdict was.

"Oh, I guess we will pull you through and fix you up."

"No, Doctor, I don't want any guess," the man said. "I want to know if it is life or death. I am saved, and I am not afraid to die." With a face shining with radiance, he continued, "I know I am going to be with the Lord Jesus. He says, 'Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out' in John 6:37. I have come to Him and accepted Him as my Savior. But just what is my condition?"

"You have, at the most, three hours to live," replied the doctor frankly. "Is there anything you would like to have us do for you?"

"Yes, Doctor. In one of my pockets is my paycheck. I wish you would send it to my landlady and ask her to send the book to me."

"What book?" asked the doctor.

"Oh, just the book; she will know."

Dr. Mackay arranged for this request to be carried out, and then started on his hospital rounds. But those words, "I am ready, Doctor," kept ringing in his mind. Never before had he ever inquired about a patient for personal interest, but now he wanted to know how this one was making out.

"He died just a few minutes ago," the nurse informed him as he came in. The doctor asked if the book had arrived in time.

"Yes, it arrived just a few minutes before he died," she said.

"What book is it?" asked the doctor, "his bank book?"

"No, it is not his bank book," she replied. "He died with the book under his pillow. It's still there; go look at it."

Dr. Mackay went to the bedside, reached under the pillow, and drew out an old Bible. He thumbed through it a little, and then he turned to the flyleaf. There, in his own mother's handwriting was her name, Dr. Mackay's name, and a verse of Scripture. It was the very Bible that she had given him when he left home to

attend college. In a drunken brawl he had pawned it many years ago.

Dr. Mackay slipped the Book under his coat and rushed up to his private office. He began thumbing through it again, looking at the man's markings, and the crude penciled rings around certain verses. One of these verses that caught his eye was Romans 5:8, which says, "God commandeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

Another verse that he had marked was Ephesians 2:8, which states, "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God." One well-marked verse was the one the man had quoted: "Him that cometh to me, I will in no wise cast out." Dr. Mackay cried out to God to have mercy on him. On the promise of this Scripture, he accepted Christ as his own personal Savior.

Selected

Announcements

HONDURAS

May 4-10

CONVENTION: Church of God, Honduras

Evangelists: Brother E. David Stegmeier, Canby, Oregon & Brother Roger L. Decker, Newark, Ohio

For further information contact: Pastor Esau Brooks

Telephone: (Honduras) 011-504-451-514; (Grand Cayman) 1-345-947-2114

KENSETT, AR

May 22-24

MEMORIAL DAY FELLOWSHIP MEETING: Kensett Church of God, 409 Southeast 2nd St.,

Kensett, AR 72082. Holy Ghost preaching. Service times: Friday 7:00 p.m.;

Saturday—Dinner will be served at 3:00 p.m. Service at 7:00 p.m.; Sunday school 10:00-11:00 a.m.,

Morning worship 11:30 a.m. & Evening worship 6:00 p.m. Dinner will be served after the Sunday

morning service. For further information contact: Pastor Calvin L. Foster

Telephone: 501-742-3006 or 501-742-3961

Spring Camp Meeting

time will soon be here!

June 21 - 28

We encourage you to attend our old-fashioned Camp Meeting here at God's Acres.

**Three services daily: 10:00 a.m. 3:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.
(The afternoon service will be a teaching service.)**

We have special services for children, youth services, morning prayer services, inspirational singing, Holy Ghost preaching, divine healing, and fellowship with the saints.

On the grounds we have a large air-conditioned dining hall that serves delicious, home cooked meals and fresh baked pies and desserts, snack stand, dormitories, and so much more. Most important of all, you will hear anointed men of God preach the Truth.

The meals are reasonably priced (full-time evangelists and pastors [with spouses] half-price). LODGING free-will offering basis.

We welcome everyone!

**Send reservations to: Brother & Sister David L. Bush
725 N. Cedar St., Newark, OH 43055
Call (740) 345-1213**

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