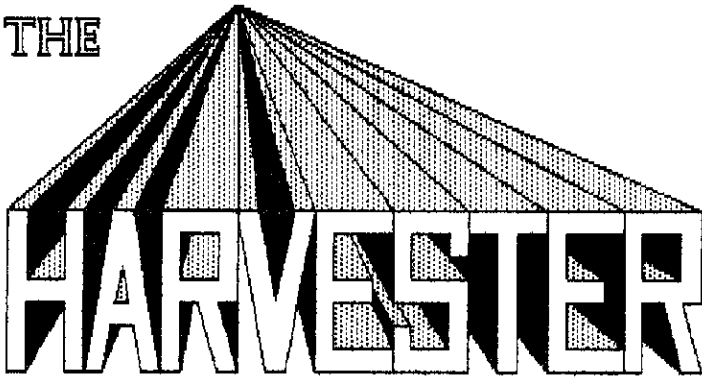


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"The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest." (Luke 10:2)

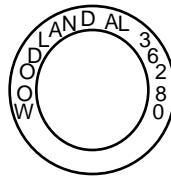
APRIL 2001

No. 184

ONE LOST SHEEP

Matthew 18:10-14, *"Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, That in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven. For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost. How think ye? if a man have an hundred sheep, and one of them be gone astray, doth he not leave the ninety and nine, and goeth into the mountains, and seeketh that which is gone astray? And if so be that he find it, verily I say unto you, he rejoiceth more of that*

THE HARVESTER
1120 Sun Hill Road
Birmingham, AL 35215-4106



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sheep, than of the ninety and nine which went not astray. Even so it is not the will of your Father which is in heaven, that one of these little ones should perish."

In this passage, Jesus identifies a concern we should all have: seek and save those of our number who have gone astray. A close look into this illustration reveals how important this should be to us.

The first part of the passage tells us not to despise the "little ones". To despise, according to McGarvey, is not to hate, but to regard with contempt. McGarvey also says that we are not likely to regard any in this way save those who have sinned or who are supposed to have sinned. Jesus reminds us not to have these feelings, and says that He had come to save "*that which was lost*". (We should work to develop this attitude ourselves!)

Then, he tells the story of the man who had lost one sheep out of an hundred. He left the other ninety-nine sheep behind to seek the one that was lost. He didn't take comfort in knowing he still had ninety-nine other sheep; he didn't overlook or forget the lost sheep; and he didn't sit back and hope the lost sheep would return on its own. He went and searched for the lost sheep! It is important to realize that Jesus didn't say the man would find the sheep, but if he DID, there would be great rejoicing.

Finally, Jesus says His Father would not have any of these "little ones" to

perish. This last part of the passage links the reader back to the ideas mentioned before the story of the lost sheep, and brings the complete thought to a full circle. We should not despise those who fall away, for God still wants them to be saved. Instead, we should work to reach them, and to restore them. And we should give every effort to do this. One sheep out of an hundred was important to Jesus -- every soul that is a part of our number should be just this important to us.

CHAD PRINCE
233 Oakland Dr.
Oxford, AL 36203

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

1. What did Eliab, Abinadab, Shammah, and David have in common?
2. How often did the Pharisee fast in the parable of the Pharisee and the Publican?
3. Who put their cloaks on the colt Jesus rode into Jerusalem?
4. Of the beings that Ezekiel saw in his vision, what parts touched one another?
5. What was the name of Moses' wife?

ANSWERS NEXT MONTH . . .

and remember last month's questions?

1. What is the name of the king's wife who was eaten by dogs? JEZEBEL(2 Ki.9:10)

THE HARVESTER is a monthly publication intended to encourage all men everywhere to become laborers into God's harvest (Luke 10:2). This paper is mailed free of charge to anyone who wishes to receive it. Please submit name, address and all correspondence to:

Ray McManus
 141 County Road 474
 Woodland, AL 36280
 Phone: (256) 449-9221

2. On what island was Paul when his ship arrived at Fair Havens? CRETE (Acts 27:7-8)

3. Who ordered a guard for the tomb of Jesus and a seal on the stone? PILATE (Matt. 27:65-66)

4. A woman was considered to be unclean for a period of days after childbirth. Was she considered unclean longer for a boy or for a girl? A GIRL (Lev. 12:5)

5. Of what material was the tower of Babel built? BRICK (Gen. 11:3)

DOES A WOMAN VIOLATE GOD'S WILL WHEN SHE CONFESSES JESUS OR HER SINS IN THE CHURCH ASSEMBLY?

As an inspired penman for God, Paul presents the Divine will in regard to many subjects. Being inspired, his teaching is sound and correct and will be joyfully followed by those who wish to please God. Being removed as we are,

however, by two thousand years and living under different social conditions, there arises all along questions as to present-day application of some things written by Paul. At the forefront of these questions are those regarding the woman's role in God's provisions.

In his first letter to Timothy, Paul discusses the woman's subordinate, yet extremely important place in the human family. He speaks of her responsibility as the child-bearer. To Titus he wrote of women loving their husbands and children, being "keepers at home," and being obedient to their own husbands. To her belongs that role for which she is both physically and emotionally equipped by God. She is adapted physically to perform where a man cannot. Her temperament, her tenderness, and her compassion are traits ideally conditioned for child nurturing.

In view of the distinctive roles of both men and women, it is no wonder, then, that in discussing the church assembly Paul would instruct in 1 Cor. 14:34-35, *"Let your women keep in silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law. And if they will learn any thing, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a shame for women to speak in the church."*

The church assembly is an area of service where a man may ideally exercise his position of leadership. It is here in the assembly that God restricts a woman (even a God-fearing and obedient woman)

from teaching or asking questions. This is not because she does not have the knowledge or the ability. Timothy was very capably taught by both his grandmother and his mother (2 Tim. 1:5), and the eloquent Apollos was taught by both Aquila and his wife, Priscilla (Acts 18:24-28). The reason of Paul's restriction upon women in the assembly is because of the distinction in roles between men and women.

But here the restriction is limited to the role of leadership. The woman should assemble, remember her Lord in the communion, sing praises along with others, and sincerely participate in prayer. But as it regards teaching, Paul limits that aspect of the assembly to men. If questions arise in her mind during the assembly, the Godly woman will wait and ask her husband (or someone else equally qualified) after the assembly has been dismissed.

This restriction in no way limits the woman singing praises to her Lord, for verse 15 extends that joy to all. Singing is not the teaching under consideration in verses 34-35.

This limitation in no way restricts the woman from confessing Jesus as the Christ or acknowledging sin in a confession, for neither of these constitutes teaching or denotes a role of leadership. Note these passages:

Romans 10:9-10, *"If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be*

saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

Phil. 2:11, "Every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

James 5:16, "Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

1 John 1:9, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

While both acknowledging of Jesus and confession of sins may and should be done privately, 1 Corinthians 5:4 provides for such to also be done before the congregation, "When ye are *GATHERED TOGETHER ...*" Paul's limitations upon women certainly cannot be understood to condemn in one passage what he encouraged in another.

Singing, acknowledging Jesus, and confession of sins do not constitute the teaching or the speaking which Paul restricted.

HARRY COBB

PO Box 75

Wedowee, AL 36278

**ALL WORK AND NO PLAY MAKE JACK
THE WEALTHIEST MAN IN THE CEMETERY.**

GOSPEL MEETINGS

<u>DATES</u>	<u>PLACE & TIME</u>	<u>SPEAKER</u>
April 6 - 8	Valley, AL	Harry Cobb (Wedowee, AL)
April 8 - 13	West Broad St. Church Wedowee, AL	Sam Dick (Cave City, KY)
April 15 - 20	Mt. Zion Church Brookhaven, MS	James McDonald (Woodbury, TN)
April 27 - 29	Willow Oaks Church Russell Springs, KY	James McDonald (Woodbury, TN)
April 30- - May 4	Chestnut Grove Church near Danville, KY	various speakers

* * * * *

GOD LOVES YOU!

- * If God had a refrigerator, your picture would be on it.
- * If He had a wallet, your photo would be in it.
- * He sends you flowers every spring and a sunrise every morning.
- * Whenever you want to talk, He will listen.
- * He can live anywhere in the universe, and He chose your heart.
- * And the Christmas gift He sent you in Bethlehem?
- * Face it, friend. He's crazy about you!

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