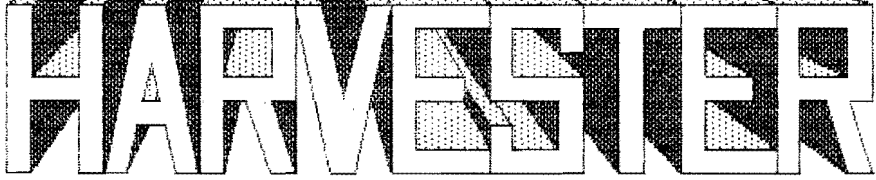


THE



HARVESTER

"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]

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THOUGHTS ON MARRIAGE

Ever since I became involved in the church I have heard and still continually hear debates, discussions, heated arguments, encouraging sermons, and hell-fire brimstone lessons on the subject of divorce and remarriage. Some people are for remarriage when a divorce has occurred between two people who have pledged their lives together in front of God and witnesses. Some people encourage young men and women, who have fallen into the state of divorce blues, to remarry under any condition. Some people say that unless your beloved spouse has committed fornication you can remarry and not live in a sinful state. Some people say you can never remarry, once the marital bond has been

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broken for any reason. Some people say ... "Round and round it goes, where it stops, nobody knows" Over and over again, we discuss, hash, rehash, get mad and dis-associate with one another over all of these issues. It is insane! No doubt these are all very important subjects to the livelihood of the church. No doubt divorce is running rampant in the church with remarriage fast on its heels. Brethren, where is the answer? If you walk up to your front door and the first key that you place in the tumblers to unlock it doesn't work, what do you do? You try the next one, and the next one and the next, until you find the right one that will unfasten that lock. The key we are using now to unlock the continuous link of divorce has the wrong grooves. We need a new combination to unlock the hearts of all men and women, young and old, to the realization that once you have committed yourself there is no turning back!

You may ask the question, "Who is this squirt trying to tell me, his respected elder, how to handle my marriage?" I am only a novice at the marriage table, concerned for the church, giving ideas, using other people's and asking for yours. As of this day, I feel that I have a wonderful marriage of five years. What's more important, I feel that I have a wonderful wife! Also, I try to make every day of my marriage a better one than the previous day. Why do I feel this way? My mother and father raised me this way. They have discussed with me what a marriage should be and have shown me by their example that two people who have been married for 30 years can still be madly in love with each other. This is the key.

Ephesians 5:25-29 says, "*Husbands, love your wives*", how? "*Just as Christ loved the church and gave himself for it!*" Could you give your life for your wife? Would you

willingly go to the headman's stump and sacrifice your body in order to save your spouse's? Go ahead and nod your head, it is a habitual response to questions like these. But is it a true response? *"Husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies"* (v. 28) Would you complain to yourself, yell at yourself, avoid yourself and be rude to yourself? I think not. We feed and care for our own bodies as we should *"nourish and cherish"* our wives. (v. 29) In I Peter 3:7 it says, *"Husbands give honor unto the wife"* Also in Col. 3:19 it says, *"Husbands love your wives and be not bitter against them"*

Colossians 3:18 says, *"Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands as it is fit in the Lord"* This part is harder for me because I can't look at myself to get my ideas, and I definitely don't know how my wife thinks. We just discussed how husbands are to love and treat their wives as their own bodies. That is exactly what this verse tells wives. Submit yourselves, give wholly, completely, unselfishly. I Timothy 3:11 tells wives of deacons to be *"grave, not slanderers, and sober in all things"* It should be a goal for a man to become a deacon or elder in the church, but before he can attain that goal, his wife must have these attributes. I Peter 3:1-6 tells wives to be in subjection to their husbands, be an example of chaste conversation, not only be beautiful on the outside but also on the inside. Be meek with a quiet spirit, and be considerate to husbands, even as Sarah was to Abraham.

We need to teach the young in our midsts who are not married, that marriage is completely what you make of it. Two people can decide to have a non-communicative, 'I go my way - you go yours' relationship, or an unselfish, communicative active marriage. Proverbs 18:22 says, *"Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing,*

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and obtaineth favor in the Lord!" I Timothy 5:14 tells the women to marry, bear children, and guide the house. Hebrews 13:4 then mentions to us all that "*marriage is honorable, and the bed undefiled!*" What does it take to express to our young and old alike that marriage can be, and should be a lasting establishment. I believe that by the examples of those already married, and a willingness to express to our children and our unmarried friends the difficulties and enjoyments of sharing your life with someone, we can make progress. What you have read so far are my ideas. Next, I want to give you ideas from various bulletins and articles I have found interesting.

Out of Levelland, TX, we find that "Troubles in marriage often start when a man is so busy earning his salt, he forgets his sugar." Also, what is wrong today is "Too many marry for better or for worse, but not for good." We then find an exhortation for men to have "enough horse sense to treat his wife like a thoroughbred", so she "will never grow into an old nag" Paul told us in I Corinthians 10:12 to "*take heed lest ye fall!*" One way that we can do this is to ask ourselves questions like these found in a survey. Do you make your wife feel good about herself? Remember now, we are to treat our wives as our own bodies. Does your face spontaneously break into a smile when you see your wife? Also, would your wife say you

are a good listener? These are very small things but very telling about how good a relationship is.

As I put together my thoughts for this article, I decided that not only did I need scriptural background and secular studies on marriage, I needed personal answers from people that I could talk to. This part of my study was difficult, for it meant that I had to ask some very personal questions, that in reality would be none of my business. I had to ask them though. I knew that if I could not get any ideas from people that I know, I would never know if these secular studies that I found were useful. One of the questions that I asked was, "What makes your marriage enjoyable?" Since I was talking to Christians, the answer was consistently the agreement of convictions and morals. There was also an agreement on the importance of communication and the willingness to listen to each spouse's needs or ideas. Another important factor was the need of quality time between spouses.

These are just a few examples of the questions that I asked, but enough was expressed to me that I found backed up the articles that I read. I believe it is important for us to be an example to those around us just as I Timothy 4:12 tells us. If you feel that you have a good relationship with your spouse, you can help those around you by being that good example and having a willingness to discuss your marriage to those around you, just as these truthful people did for me. A marriage relationship is not easy, and I have just started on mine. During this study, I found myself lacking and having a long way to go as a husband. Reading these articles, scriptures, and talking to these husbands and wives has encouraged me. I hope that it can give you the help that you may need but more so, the

desire to use it so we can stop fumbling with our keys.

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SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

1. Who changed her name to Mara?
2. After how many oracles was Balaam told to go home by Balak?
3. What should you do if a brother is caught in sin?
4. What two books of the Bible were written by a physician?
5. Which tribe received the last allotment of land in the promised land?

ANSWERS NEXT MONTH . . .

and remember last month's questions?

1. In what Philistine town given to him did David and his 600 men live? ZIKLAG (1 Sam. 27:6)
2. On what did the people sit in the feeding of the 5000? GRASS (John 6:10)
3. King Agrippa said that Paul could have been set free if he had not done what? APPEALED TO CAESAR (Acts 26:32)
4. What happened to the widow's son in Zarephath, where Elijah was living during the drought? HE BECAME SICK AND DIED (1 Kings 17:17)
5. According to the book of Esther, what filled

Haman with anger? SEEING MORDECAI THE JEW
SITTING IN THE KING'S GATE (Esth. 5:4)

YOU PREACH FIRST

The first sermon preached each Sunday is NOT by the preacher, but by you!

YOU PREACH a message of good cheer when you say, "Good morning" to those you meet when you park your car.

YOU PREACH a message of "Welcome!! We have room for you!" when you slide over in the pew instead of forcing others to squeeze in front of you.

YOU PREACH a message of hope and joy when you sing enthusiastically during the song service.

YOU PREACH a message about the power of prayer when you fervently enter into our time of prayer together.

YOU PREACH a message of respect when you listen attentively while the preacher is speaking.

YOU PREACH a message of love when you smile, say "Hello", and introduce yourselves to visitors.

YOU PREACH a message about the importances of the Scriptures when you bring your Bible.

Many messages are PREACHED BEFORE the preacher stands up to bring his message. If your message is positive and consistent, then the message given from the pulpit will be much better received.

Come each Sunday prepared to PREACH YOUR SERMON.

GOSPEL MEETINGS

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Place & Time</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
Sept. 4 - 6	Pleasant Ridge Church Woodbury, TN	Thaddeus Eubank (Somerset, KY)
Sept. 21 - 25	Mt. Zion Church Crab Orchard, KY	James McDonald (Woodbury, TN)

BIBLE PRINCIPLES OF SALVATION

I. ALL PEOPLE HAVE SINNED

1 Ki 8:46 Rom 3:10 Rom 3:23 Rom 5:12 1 Jn 1:8 1 Jn 5:19

II. A SINNER WILL FACE ETERNAL DEATH

Ezek 33:8-9 Rom 6:23 2 Thes 1:7-9 Jas 1:15 Jas 5:20 Rev 21:8

Unless he:

1. Hears the Word of God
Matt 13:23 Lk 10:39 Jn 10:16 Rom 10:17 Eph 1:13 1 Thes 2:13
2. Realizes Jesus Christ is the Only Way to Eternal Salvation
Jn 6:68 Jn 14:6 Acts 4:12 Eph 2:18 1 Thes 5:9 Heb 5:9
3. Believes Jesus is the Son of God
Mk 16:16 Jn 3:16 Jn 8:24 Jn 20:31 Acts 10:43 Acts 16:31 Heb 11:6
4. Is Convicted in his Heart of his Own Disobedience
Acts 2:37 Acts 16:29 Acts 24:25 2 Cor 7:8-11
5. Repents of his Sins
Lk 13:3 Acts 2:38 Acts 3:19 Acts 17:30 Acts 26:20
6. Confesses his Faith in the Lord Jesus
Matt 10:32 Acts 8:37 Acts 19:18 Rom 10:9-10 Phil 2:11 1 Jn 4:15
7. Is Baptized by Immersion for the Remission of Sins in the
Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost
Matt 28:19 Mk 16:16 Jn 3:5 Acts 2:38 Acts 8:36-39 Acts 10:47-48
Acts 16:33 Acts 22:16 Rom 6:3-6 Gal 3:27 Col 2:12 1 Pet 3:21
8. Lives a Faithful Life, Guided Only by the Authority of the NT
Matt 25:21 Rom 1:16 Tit 2:11-12 Heb 4:12 Jas 1:21 1 Jn 5:4 Rev 2:10
9. Worships in Spirit & Truth, not Forsaking the Assembling, and
Observing the Lord's Supper every first day of the week
Matt 4:10 Jn 4:23-24 Acts 2:42 Acts 20:7 1 Cor 11:20-30 Heb 10:25
10. Prays for Forgiveness, if he should Fall into Sin again
Acts 8:22 1 Cor 10:12-13 Eph 6:18 1 Thes 5:17 Jas 5:15-16 1 Jn 1:5-10

III. ONLY THOSE WHO DO THE WILL OF GOD SHALL BE SAVED

Matt 7:21 Matt 12:50 Lk 6:47-48 Rom 2:13 Jas 1:22 1 Jn 2:17 Rev 22:14