

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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CHURCH LEADERSHIP AND THE CHRISTIAN WOMAN

The wise and tender concern of the heavenly Father is beautifully demonstrated in the creation record wherein God said, "*It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him*" (Gen. 2:18). Woman came into being for the express purpose of completing an arrangement designed by God and which, with His favor and provision, became the very core of human existence and well-being.

Another Adam would not have served the need. Woman was created so very much like man that she became the ideal companion. She possessed similar human needs, feelings, and

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understandings -- yet there was a distinct difference! She was designed to serve in a role which complemented Adam's, but which was subordinate to his. He came first, and she was created as a "help meet for him!" This distinction was purposely noted by Paul when he wrote to Timothy, "Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection. But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence. For Adam was first formed, then Eve. And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression" (1 Tim. 2:11-15). He had earlier written to the Corinthians, "For the man is not of the woman; but the woman of the man. Neither was the man created for the woman; but the woman for the man" (1 Cor. 11:9-10). In this same chapter, Paul directed that this distinction be observed by the different manner in which the man should wear his hair as distinguished from the woman. Earlier in the chapter, in verse 3, Paul wrote, "For I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God!"

Christian women are instructed by Paul, "to love their husbands" (Titus 2:5), while Peter wrote, "Likewise ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation (manner of life) of the wives; while they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear. Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; but let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price. For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God,

adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands: even as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord: whose daughters ye are, as long as ye do well, and are not afraid with any amazement" (1 Peter 3:1-6). Paul wrote to the Ephesians, "Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife . . . and the wife see that she reverence her husband" (5:22-23a, 33).

As to their sphere of activity and responsibility, Paul wrote, "I will therefore that the younger women marry, bear children, guide the house, give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully" (1 Tim. 5:14). The woman's role, and that for which she is ideally formed, mentally, emotionally, and physically, is the care of the home and family.

The role of the man has to do with the leadership, support, and well-being of the family. Paul spoke of this responsibility when he wrote to the Ephesians, "And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord" (6:4). Husbands are instructed to "love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it . . . So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies . . . Let every one of you in particular so love his wife as himself" (Eph. 5:25, 28, 33). Peter further says, "Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered" (1 Peter 3:7).

It should be especially pointed-out from the last verse that husband and wife (man and woman), notwithstanding the fact that man was first formed, are each responsible to God.

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This verse also pointedly states that the man must behave properly toward his wife or suffer the consequence of God not hearing his prayers. While the man does have the dominant role in the family, he must realize that with that position also goes the greater responsibility. Although James was speaking about another matter, his words certainly fit here in principle, *"My brethren, be not many masters, knowing that ye shall receive the greater condemnation"* (James 3:1).

Women seem to be naturally endowed with tenderness and compassion, and this is especially evident in their attention to babies and young children. Women may be more easily touched than men when it comes to responding to the Saviour. Women have served God in many outstanding instances. Moses' mother proved extraordinarily diligent as his protector and teacher (Exodus 2), Deborah served as an outstanding judge in Israel (Judges 4 and 5), and Ruth figured prominently in the ancestry of Jesus. In the New Testament, Timothy was commendably tutored by both his grandmother and his mother (2 Tim. 1:5), Priscilla is spoken of as teaching the eloquent Apollos (Acts 18:26), and our sister, Phebe, is spoken of in most complimentary terms for her works (Romans 16:1-2), as were other women in Phil. 4:3.

Indeed the role of the woman is most important and most effective.

But in every such instance, God used these noble women in a private, subordinate role. In every instance where God's people were gathered as an assembly, He authorized and used only men in a leading role. As to leadership among the Lord's people, God has specifically ordained that the man (and not the woman) function in that capacity. An absence of women in the decision making at the Jerusalem conference (Acts 15) is most noticeable. Elders were always spoken of as being men, as indeed, one of the qualifications specified, "*the husband of one wife*" (1 Tim. 3:2, Titus 1:6). The elders are specifically spoken of as those who led the various congregations (Acts 11:30, 20:17). It was no doubt with these principles in mind that Paul, by Divine inspiration, penned these words: "*Let your women keep 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*" (1 Cor. 14:34-35).

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SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

1. Who was Abram's father?
2. What hour was Jesus crucified?
3. Why did the Lord want Jeremiah to buy land while Jerusalem was under seige?

4. Did David, or did he not, sit with deceitful men?
5. What did Moses feel his weakness was that would prevent the Pharaoh from listening to him?

ANSWERS NEXT MONTH . . .

and remember last month's questions?

1. What Old Testament king literally behaved in a beastly manner? **NEBUCHADNEZZAR (Dan. 4:33)**
2. Where was Jesus when He discussed the signs of the end of the age in Matthew 24? **THE MOUNT OF OLIVES (Matt. 24:3)**
3. For what things should we give thanks to God? **EVERYTHING (Eph. 5:20)**
4. What famous visit is recorded in 1 Kings chapter 10? **THE QUEEN OF SHEBA VISITING SOLOMON (1 Kings 10)**
5. When Abraham took Isaac up the mountain to offer him as a sacrifice, what did Isaac carry with him? **WOOD (Gen. 22:6)**

RUNNING TO EGYPT

During the days of the divided kingdom, God pronounced his heavy judgment upon the nation of Israel. Many prophets, including Isaiah, tried their best to warn them but Israel had a plan. They thought they had found a way of escaping God's punishment. They were going to run to Egypt and seek help there. But in 721 B.C. Israel was taken captive by Assyria.

The prophet Isaiah already knew their scheme would not work. In chapter 31 of his book, he points out the folly of trusting in Egypt's

chariots and horsemen (verse 1). The answer is plain to see: *"Now the Egyptians are men, and not God; and their horses flesh, and not spirit"* (Isa. 31:3a). There is no comparison between the country of Egypt and our heavenly Father, is there? Although one of the most powerful nations at that time, Egypt was no match for the God Almighty. Both Israel and Egypt would fall before God! (Isa. 31:3b)

In the same way, many of us are guilty of trying to escape God's judgment. We ignore the repeated warnings found in the scriptures. We point the finger at someone else and blame them. We close our eyes to the whole situation. We listen and put our faith into false teachers and false doctrines. We try to act stupid and say things like, "I didn't know that was in the Bible." We even put too much trust into our thoughts, our feelings, and our opinions. All in all, many of us think if we can run to "Egypt", then we will be safe. But that plan will never work!

The only way to salvation is to obey God and do his will. *"Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven."* (Matt. 7:21) Dear friends, the Judgment Day is really coming! Now is the time to seek help for your lost soul. Don't run to Egypt because it will be useless. Don't try to run away FROM God. Salvation comes only when we run TO him!

RAY

<p>AS SCARCE AS TRUTH IS, THE SUPPLY HAS ALWAYS BEEN IN EXCESS OF THE DEMAND.</p>

GOSPEL MEETINGS

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Place & Time</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
March 4 - 6 (F-Su)	Napolean Church Woodland, AL 7:00 evenings	Wilbur Bass (Auburn, AL)
March 13 - 19	Jigger, LA	Wilbur Bass (Auburn, AL)
March 18 - 20	Fayetteville Road Church Atlanta, GA	Sam Dick (Cave City, KY)
March 21 - 26 (M - Sa)	Ashlock Church Celina, TN -Studies in Revelation-	Sam Dick (Cave City, KY)

OBSERVANCE OF THE LORD'S SUPPER:

It is observed in spirit and in truth --
John 4:24.

It is observed in decency and in order --
1 Cor. 14:40.

It is observed in remembrance of Christ's
sacrifice -- Luke 22:19.

It is observed in anticipation of Christ's
return -- 1 Cor. 11:26.

It is observed on the first day of the
week -- Acts 20:7.

It is observed upon self-examination --
1 Cor. 11:28.

It is observed to proclaim Christ as the
Savior of Men -- 1 Cor. 11:26.

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