

CHRISTIAN HOME IN AN UNCHRISTIAN WORLD

by

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INTRODUCTION

"Through wisdom is an house builded; and by understanding it is established" (Proverbs 24:3)

It comes to no surprise to anyone that loves the Lord that the home is under a constant, Satanic assault. It comes to my mind that the Lord JESUS promised that the gates of hell would not crush His Church - but that promise is not given to the home. Yet, any Bible-believing, CHRIST-honoring, New Testament Church is only as strong as the families that make it up. Churches are falling into modernism at a faster pace than ever before. Is it not cause to suspect that the state of the homes are a direct indicator of the strength of the churches? Yet, all across America, GOD still has His faithful ones, his remnant according to grace that are still standing by the stuff.

Our SAVIOUR is returning someday. It could happen before I am able to type the next stroke on this study or before you can read the very next word. Before I have a chance to blink another time I may find myself standing with the throngs of GOD's saints on Heaven's bright shore looking at the single brightest light in the crowd and finding myself home in the presence of my Lord JESUS CHRIST. Isn't that an exciting possibility? Of course, the Christians of Paul's day believed the very same thing and yet two thousand years have passed. Perhaps we are to wait another generation or two before the realization of the blessed hope takes place. That means that we may still have some time to get our families in order.

Listen to me please! Many of those that are reading my words right now know that your families are a mess. You know that if you don't do something soon - and I mean very soon - you will lose your son or daughter, or your spouse to the glamour, baubles and beads of this world. Do you know, dear reader, that Christianity is always only a generation or two from extinction? But wait! Are we living in hopeless times? I think not. Is there still a chance to turn the inevitable and see a miracle of GOD performed within your dear family? Yes, and the reason that I believe this is because you are reading these words right now.

The fact that you are here, gentle believer in CHRIST is because you know that GOD is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we can ask or think because of the grace of the Lord JESUS CHRIST that resides within you. We can do all things [including raising a family to the glory of GOD] through CHRIST which S - T - R - E - N - G - T - H - E - N - T - H - US.

So let us offer up these words to our beloved SAVIOUR and trust that He is still in the miracle-performing business. Yes, I know that the government is against you, the schools are against you, your unsaved relatives and neighbors are against you, but bless GOD if He is for you, who can stand against you? Are you willing to place your faith and trust in the One that washed away your sins and sat you in heavenly places in CHRIST JESUS to do more than "just" save you for eternity - but also to save your family in this present vale of tears as well? I believe that you can trust Him even for the seemingly impossible - and in so doing, please your Master more than anything else you could ever do. In case any of my readers are in Christian service themselves, may I be so bold as to remind you that your families are your first ministries? GOD is much more concerned about what happens to your own house in the eternal scheme of things.

The following study, "*The Christian Home*" was originally prepared as a ten-week series of Gospel messages written by Pastor John W. Lawrence, Th. M.

It is an uncopyrighted, out-of-print item from my box of treasures that was entrusted to me way back in 1980 by the widow of a recently-deceased radio minister, when I was but a first-year Bible college student. I have held these items in sacred trust since then not really knowing what GOD would have me do with them, until the advent of the internet - and web sites where they could be preserved for generations that the original author never expected to read. Bear in mind, please, that these messages are dated - as they were originally printed in the 1960's - but beloved, also bear in mind that they are based upon a document that is eternal -- the inerrant, verbally-plenarily inspired Word of GOD as is preserved for us in the Authorized King James Version.

As these are uncopyrighted works, I certainly would have no problem with other web site managers posting them on their own site. We would appreciate a link back to our site.

If you have faithfully taught them as you should, the promise of GOD remains. They will be back if you have done your job faithfully day by day.

"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it"
(Proverbs 22:6).

So strongly do I feel about this that if one of my children rebels from the Christian life, two things will take place.

- (1) They will leave home.
- (2) I will leave the ministry.

I may well imagine that some might think: "Why that is a terrible teaching, this thing of casting a rebellious son or daughter out of the home."

I would remind you first of all that there is always "an open door" whenever the child is willing to return and live by the minimum standard set by the Word of GOD for the home.

Secondly, if you feel this is a terrible thing to do, you do not in any wise realize the seriousness of this sin in GOD's sight.

This thing is equal to witchcraft.
It is equal to incest of the worst sort.
It is equal to sin of the worst nature, and so the punishment is identical.

The reason the punishment was to be so great in the nation of Israel was because if a child gets by with this, everything falls. This only leads to further rebellion against other God-given authority. They will rebel against governmental authority as well as parental authority and GOD's authority. Consider what Peter and Jude, as well as Paul and John, say about men in the last days and their rebellion against authority.

This rebellion against all authority is just what is happening today. In the last days there will be a complete breakdown of the home, and the end result, chaotic conditions in every sphere. We are living in an age where the Christian home is a unique thing. GOD wants us as families, as well as individuals, to shine as lights in the world.

GOD's desire is that our homes be guided by three governing principles.

1. Parents are in the place of God-given authority and are thus to be respected by the children.
2. Wrongs must be punished.
3. Love is given to all members of the family even in the midst of punishment and in spite of unloveliness. Love is never to be conditional. You never say to Johnnie, "If you do this, Mommie won't love you . . . or will love you."

Why does GOD desire these things? Simply because if a child learns respect, discipline and unconditional love in the home, he will understand the Lord in the spiritual realm. The Lord must be respected: "**Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: For our God is a consuming fire**" (Hebrews 12:28). He cannot let wrongs go unpunished even though He will be longsuffering. His love for us is unconditional. He loves us in spite of our sins.

The key to the future homes, for good or for evil, is in the hands, not of the men, but in the hands of you mothers. It is no small task and no little calling. In fact, what greater calling could anyone have than to hold the destiny of other generations, if the Lord should tarry His coming, in your hands and arms?

Never despise your position nor the Lord's calling for you, but use it by His power and ability to His glory, and great shall be your reward.

You may never cross an ocean and speak of the Lord JESUS CHRIST in a foreign language, and so feel your life has never accomplished great things for the Lord, but such need not be the case as Hattie Vose Hall brings out in her poem, "*A Child's Immortal Soul*."

"A builder builded a temple:
He wrought it with care and skill --
Pillars and groins and arches,
All fashioned to do his will,

And men said as they saw its beauty,
'It shall never know decay.
Great is thy skill, O builder!
Thy fame shall endure for aye.

"A mother builded a temple
With infinite loving care,
Planning each arch with patience,
Laying each stone with prayer.
None praised her unceasing efforts,
None knew of her wondrous plan,
For the temple the mother builded
Was unseen by the eye of man.

"Gone is the builder's temple --
Crumbled into the dust:
Low lies each stately pillar,
Food for consuming rust.
But the temple the mother builded
Will last while the ages roll,
For what a beautiful unseen temple,
Was a child's immortal soul!"

~ end of Introduction ~
