

# The Old Hickory Bulletin

## Old Hickory Church of Christ

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### Young Lady, Marry a Christian!

Before any young lady marries a non-Christian, she should consider the following problems which so often face the Christian in a mixed marriage.

1. *Problems in attending services.* She should ask herself, "What will I do when my husband some Lord's Day drives away in the car at 9:15, leaving me with no transportation to the service?" "What will I do when my husband announces that his company is moving us to some distant community where no church of the Lord meets?" The husband may not be as co-operative as the young lady thought he would be.

2. *Problems in giving.* The young lady recognizes that if they are to reap bountifully, they must sow bountifully. She loves the Lord and His work, and wants to give liberally in support of it. Her husband, however, does not share her convictions and interest. He feels that a dollar is plenty to give.

3. *Problems in training children.* Yes, some have succeeded in bringing up their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord without the help of their companions. Eunice succeeded with Timothy. Other good women have succeeded. But the influence of a father is great, and many are the women who have not been able to overcome this influence to see their children become Christians.

4. *Problems in overcoming the influence, of one's companion.* Marrying with the hopes of reforming one's companion is a dangerous thing. Often the companion is lifted to a higher standard, but seldom to the standard of a Christian. Instead, as the non-Christian's standards are raised, the Christian's standards are lowered, so that the two meet somewhere in between. The young lady should realize that the man whom she marries will be the greatest earthly influence on her life, and she should ask herself, "Will this man help me to go to heaven?"

5. *Emotional problems.* The problems faced in life are great, but the emotional problems faced in death may be greater. Recently a godly woman, having just received word of her husband's death in an automobile accident, cried, "Why couldn't it have been me or one of the children, for my husband was not ready to die?"

The young person reading this is probably thinking, however, that she will convert her husband. She may be able to do so, but statistics show that her chances really are not very good. For every one who has been successful in converting her husband, there are several who not only failed in converting their husbands, but were influenced by them to return to the mire of sin and to enter the ranks of the unfaithful. No, the risk is too great. The only safe course is for Christians to marry Christians.

- Bill Hall

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## *Points to Ponder*

### **Sincere Words (Ecclesiastes 7:21, 22)**

In 7:21, Solomon warned, "Do not take seriously all words which are spoken." People say things they do not really mean. We may ask, "Why did they say it if they didn't mean it?" To this, Solomon responded, in essence, "Have you ever said something you did not mean?" (see 7:22). All of us would have to answer "yes" to that question. Maybe we spoke in anger. Perhaps we were tired, sick, or irritated - and so out came words that we later regretted.

This passage is not about guarding our words; rather, it is about guarding our ears. We need to be careful about overreacting to the words of others. We need to be less sensitive and more forgiving. We must not take everything so personally. Christianity is a religion of tenderness, compassion, and forgiveness. Rather than being quick to anger or easily offended, let us be kind toward each other.

- Denny Petrillo, Truth For Today Commentary: Ecclesiastes & Song of Solomon (145).

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# *A Voice from the Past ...*

## **Who Left That Door Open?**

My old friend, Brother Ira Rice Jr., is all kerflummoxed over the growth of liberalism and modernism in the church. And well he might be. What he sees is no mirage. It is the real thing. But what Ira does not see is that he is part of the trouble.

I do not receive his paper, "Contending for the Faith," but in the February issue of "Locust Light," bulletin of the Mt. Pleasant, Tennessee Church, Herschel Patton quotes from it. It seems that Brother Rice heard Herschel preaching on the radio concerning threats of apostasy that arise from within the church, and some of what he heard he did not like. He said, "it was not until the closing moments of his (Patton's) broadcast in which he began attacking such things as church sponsored recreational and dining activities, playgrounds, camps, kindergartens, church founded and supported institutions such as schools for edifying, hospitals for visiting the sick, and asylum type homes for orphans, old folks, and unwed mothers, that I could find anything to take issue with." Ira calls our opposition to these things "unprofitable contentions," and wishes that we might give up these objections and stand with him and the others who share his views.

He has now finished his third volume of *Axe on the Root*, I am told. He has said some good things in the two volumes now in print. It is unfortunate that he cannot see that these things which he so fervently supports and defends are just as indefensible and unscriptural as those things on which he is using his "axe." Through the same door by which his church supported schools, hospitals, etc. enter, have come, and will continue to come, the things he opposes.

I am reminded of the answer a small boy gave the teacher of an arithmetic class: *"If you had 100 goats and one should get out of the pen and leave, how many would you have left?"* asked the teacher. *"None"* replied the boy. *"Oh, yes,"* said the teacher, *"you would have 99 left. One from 100 leaves 99."* *"Teacher"* answered the boy, *"you know arithmetic but you don't know goats. When one goat gets out they all get out."*

Since Brother Rice and those who share his views, made a door in scriptural authority large enough to bring in church supported schools, hospitals, etc. they should not be too surprised if some more goats get IN through that same hole. Goats like "speaking in tongues," "denying the verbal inspiration of the Bible," or, like the preacher at the recent "Preacher's Workshop" in Abilene, who urged the brethren to "involve themselves in the same worldliness as found around them." He called it "holy worldliness." You'll find that in the Bible just below honest thieves.

As for me, no thanks! I think I shall just continue with my "unprofitable contentions," and smile as sweetly as I can when I remember from time to time that the greatest growth the church ever enjoyed was during the first fifty years of its existence, when there was not a single church supported hospital, orphan home, school, or preacher with a Ph.D.

- Luther Blackmon, via Truth Magazine, July 22, 1971

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## Concerning Fathers in Our Homes

Paul wrote in Ephesians 6:4, "Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord." The King James Version has: "bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."

Children are a great blessing from the Lord (Psalms 127:3-5), but at the same time, great responsibilities are upon parents. In a peaceful and God-fearing society, loving parents graciously nurture their children, striving for balance, fairness, integrity and righteousness. The infallible Scriptures put special emphasis upon the role of fathers in seeing to it that their children are properly disciplined and instructed in the fear of Jehovah God. Pleasing to the Lord are the well-rounded parents who tenderly and carefully provide for the needs of their children: mental, emotional, physical and spiritual. Serious dedication is required on the part of both parents.

What happens when parents fail in this endeavor? Bible students can recall the problems that are well-documented when failures occur among God's own people: "Now the sons of Eli were worthless men; they did not know the LORD" and, "Thus the sin of the young men was very great before the LORD, for the men despised the offering of the LORD." (1 Samuel 2:12, 17; see vss. 27-36). "For I have told him that I am about to judge his house forever for the iniquity which he knew, because his sons brought a curse on themselves and he did not rebuke them." (1 Samuel 3:13). These destructive sins happened in the midst of God's chosen people! What would happen in any society when the high standard of Biblical parenting is rejected? Just look at present-day America, where the Holy Scriptures have been rejected and replaced by every person becoming his own standard.

Considering fathers, every father must be involved with his children! Abandoning this moral responsibility through neglect, bed-hopping fornication, abandonment and divorce has one result: darkness of seriously damning sin! It is blatantly obvious in our own society. Millions of children (estimated as 18.5 million) are growing up without fathers in the home. Do we have to guess what the horrible effects on society are as we are eye-witnesses of community devastation? As we look at our beloved country and notice its decline, the desolation is obvious: poverty (five times more likely in a single-parent home),

decreased academic performance (nine times more likely to drop out of school), behavioral disorders, drug and alcohol abuse, increase in crime and incarceration (callous murder of the innocent), runaways and exploitation, lack of courage and fortitude to deal with various adversities of life, theft and destruction of property, cruelty to animals, etc. We do not have to guess at the depths of darkness into which any society will sink when God is rejected! (See Romans 1:18-32.)

If children are to grow up into responsible, God-fearing adults, it will be the result of dedicated parents who train them to love and submit to the Holy Scriptures. To all the godly fathers who love the Lord and demonstrate such by their teaching and example: THANK YOU FOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE!

- Gary Smalley

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- \* "Guidance means I can count on God. Commitment means God can count on me!"
  - \* "Speak well of your enemies – you made them!"
  - \* "It's better to keep a friend from falling than to help him up after he falls!"
  - \* "Self-made men should be more careful in selecting the material they use!"
  - \* "An optimist is one who makes the best of it when he gets the worst of it!"
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## ***What Must I Do To Be Saved?***

### **HEAR THE GOSPEL**

(Romans 10:14-17; John 20:30-31; Romans 1:15-17)

### **BELIEVE IN JESUS CHRIST**

(Acts 8:37; John 8:24; Hebrews 11:6)

### **REPENT OF PAST SINS**

(Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38; Acts 17:30)

### **CONFESS CHRIST**

(Romans 10:9-10; Acts 8:37)

### **BE BAPTIZED**

(Romans 6:3-4; Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:38; Acts 8:36-39; 1 Peter 3:21)

### **LIVE A FAITHFUL LIFE**

(Revelation 2:10; 2 Peter 1:5-11; John 15:1-8; Hebrews 10:23-25)