

EVERY STEP OF THE WAY

By Becky (Tilotta) Holbrook

DEDICATION

Dedication is made to the older women who have loved and cared enough to help the younger women to love their husbands and their children and to every woman that wishes to serve God all the days of her life.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

My heart filled thanks goes to Aletha Creech and Willene Adams for encouraging me for so many years to write this book. Aletha's persistence and help in making this book possible and my husband who has persevered during the interim, to Betty Beene Johnston for proofing the manuscript and to Mrs. Betty Johnson of Springtown, Texas, for typing. We all join hands to acknowledge that we need older women who are active teaching the younger in His kingdom. Some few older women have had a great impact upon my life. May God increase those numbers by the millions.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Becky Tilotta Holbrook has taught women and children of all ages for most of her adult life. Now Becky and D. L. Holbrook are spending their retirement years teaching in congregations in the U.S. and abroad to strengthen the babes in Christ. *EVERY STEP OF THE WAY* is Becky's sixth book, one being co-authored with her husband for teens purity. All of her books relate to the home except the teacher training book, for she is concerned at the progress of the Lib Movement in the homes of America.

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Introduction

Ladies, as you well know, Becky has meant so much to the young wives and mothers of our day. Why? Because she believes in and practices the scripture in Titus 2 that "older women teach the younger".

I asked Becky repeatedly to consider writing a book concerning this very thing. Why? Because some of our most learned gospel preachers such as Andrew Connally are concerned about the way the E.R.A., lib movement, etc. have affected the young and old Christian women of our day. Society has brainwashed our young Christian women and our older Christian women are doing nothing about it.

When I was converted from denominationalism 10 years ago and baptized into Christ, I was taught to "speak where the Bible speaks and be silent where the Bible is silent". Selective obedience was out and it still is. The Bible is not silent on "older women teaching the younger". It speaks!

Just because a young girl says "I do" may make her married, but it doesn't necessarily make her a good wife. Many may think this is the mother's job, but so many of our mothers work today and leave the training to a babysitter. They don't

have time to "teach the young women to be keepers at home, love their children, and be in subjection to their husbands."

We are not having as difficult a time getting preachers today as we are preachers' wives who are willing to be hospitable, open their home for Christ, be in subjection to their own husband so the word of God won't be blasphemed.

Claudine Connally and Maxine Whitten spoke to the wives of the graduating class of the Brown Trail School of Preaching a few years ago. The response was overwhelming. Our girls are starved for knowledge on the subjects which the ladies spoke (Maxine on "Duties of a Preacher's Wife" - - or any Christian woman for that matter; Claudine on "Follow Him Anywhere").

I have urged Becky to write this book because of the cry for help from our young women is immediate and urgent. We need more Becky's, Claudine's and Maxine's. These older women have touched my life and helped me change it for Christ. Won't you older women respond to the Lord's command and do the same.

Aletha Creech

Chapter One

Fail to Plan and You Plan to Fail

A man who had been blind from his birth was noticed by Jesus. His apostles were concerned over the cause of the sin (illness) rather than the man's need for help in his handicap. Jesus seized this opportunity to teach a lesson and to manifest the glory of God (John 9:1-4). In verse 4 Jesus knew He was bringing the wrath of the Jews upon Himself for He healed the blind man on the Sabbath day. He also knew His time upon this earth was soon to be ended. He HAD to work while He could to glorify His father because in six months our Savior was crucified. So, He said, ". . . *we must work while it is yet day . . . the night comes when no man can work.*"

Has our generation lost sight of the meaning of this "day and night"? Is our generation of women a sick one? Can it be possible that we put more value upon creams, masks, cosmetics and face lifts to try to "stay young" while the work of our Lord is perishing for lack of caring and preparing?

It is true that our Lord expects us to care for our bodies outwardly, but to care for our outward appearance more than our inward (or spiritual) is a warped view of true beauty. It is "day" for you and me.

Do "things" mean too much to us? Are we so blinded by the desire to live in this life, as our Heaven, that we fail to prepare for that life hereafter? Is keeping one's youth or gaining more material things THAT important to us? There is surgery to enlarge or diminish the bust, face lift to try to tell others we are still young? It surely must be a sick generation that has planted it's feet of clay so tenaciously upon this insatiable temporary life!

"This corpse has been a member of this church for many years . . ." was once said at a funeral. Deut. 32:29 says, "*O that they were wise, that they understood this, that they would consider their latter end!*" Heb. 9:27 says, "*And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment . . .*" Read also Psa. 90:12, Mt. 7:22-23, II Th. 1:7-9 and Rev. 2:10.

Acts 9 tells us of one that did live a good life. When Dorcas died, her neighbors and friends grieved bitterly for her and wondered what they would do without their dear friend. If we warm a pew at the time and place of worship and feel this is our sole responsibility, are we not dead spiritually? Are we not kidding ourselves that we are God's children, loving and caring?

Heaven is a prepared place for a prepared people. Jesus said in John 14:1-3: "*Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.*"

Are we prepared?

James 1:2-4 tells us that "*the trying of our faith worketh patience . . .*" The writer of Heb. 10:34 says those that

gave self and means during a time of need knew that they had "*in heaven a better and enduring substance . . .*"

A piece of iron at the hands of a blacksmith or glass in the hands of a glass blower is of no value until it has been tempered and heated so it can be fashioned into a thing of beauty and usefulness. So we, too, need to be tempered and tried.

Once when things seemed to be stacking up on me (my husband had just been hospitalized with tuberculosis, both of our children had the measles and I became ill), a friend called me "Mrs. Job". Later, not then, I learned to think upon this as a blessing from God. If He sees something in ME that is worth working with, He will temper and try me so that I may be stronger, a soul of beauty, love and usefulness. We often need to be thrown onto the scrap pile of trials to begin anew and let God, through His word, shape our lives for that prepared home. Read James Chapter 1.

When we fail to plan, we plan to fail, someone has said. Do you plan for the future of living alone, of living till old (possibly senile) and even in a rest home? OR, do you sit and cry and wonder "if your children will *really* put you in a rest home?" Are you planning to fail as a worker for the Lord all the way, every step of the way? Are you planning to fail as a soul winner, a worker? Desire and dreams must come first and then preparation begun.

At this moment, Lawrence Welk, now in his seventh decade of life, is having a "heyday" with a weekly show of music and entertainment. I have often wondered how many hours per week this team of musicians and entertainers must rehearse, and the singers test and practice their parts before it is sent around the world by satellite. If they miss one practice, they can tell it. If they miss two days without practice, their fellow workers and leader can detect it, and if they miss three days practice, the audience notices it. Preparation is a must for all of us!

Man is born to die, but some seem to turn against God for taking a loved one . . . husband or child . . . and we

forget that from the beginning we are born to die. It is what we do with our lives, the daily preparation for living from birth till death that counts in the long run. We can prevent those self-pity days IF we prepare! Do we plan to be a thing of beauty to set on the pew, or are we planning a life of service EVERY STEP OF THE WAY?

James 4:14 tells us that our life is but "*a vapour that appeareth for a little time and then vanisheth away?*" Job 14:1-2 tells we are born of woman and have few days that are full of trouble. Psa. 103:14-15 says we are of dust, like a sprig of grass or flower in the field. Soon the winds pass over it, and it is no more. Such is our life. Why live it? Why bother to prepare every step of our way? For what purpose? If it is to be full of trouble, to turn back to dust and be forever forgotten, why bother? However, this attitude concerning the need to prepare is totally out of harmony with the word of God. By preparing properly, we can weather the storms of this life as God would have us.

Recently friends of ours told of hitchhiking across Europe, of meeting people that have become lifetime friends, of the joys and experiences of this trek. One was made to covet, in thought only at our age, such an exciting taste of European adventure. They planned the trip for several months. It began as a bicycle journey, but after a few days of her peddling and panting hard to crest a hill, all to see her husband coast down the other side, top the next one to wait for her, their plans changed. The two wheels were sold, and the thumb was used. Some years later with three children and their lives full of responsibility, this couple still swell within of those exciting days of fulfilled dreams and plans. Our lives, too, can be exciting if we will prepare for them.

Each day we can say, "We have not passed this way, nor will we ever pass this way again." Each day brings new opportunities and challenges; great doors are opened to us. We must make the most of every minute, every step of the way. We need the guidance of our Savior to make the most of each step. I Cor. 10:1-15.

Why is it that we find ourselves bogged down in the mire of self-pity, when things have not been as we want? Why, when the nest is empty, does one become senile while yet young in years, or poor health makes us old long before our time? Why, when we are older and death has taken our beloved mate, do we let self-pity set in and ruin our lives? God needs and desires that we walk with Him EVERY STEP OF THE WAY. If He gives us health, then why do we not let Him lead us.

God made plans for us long before we were conceived. He planned to give us a Savior to redeem us from ourselves. Spiritual corpses are filling pews everywhere. We are not working while we have our "day". Jesus said, ". . . *we MUST WORK WHILE IT IS YET DAY.*" (Every step of the way.)

If you are in a class situation, spend time after each study period to discuss these lessons and apply them to self. Turn to I Pet. 1:17-25, and read aloud. Look deep into your life and answer yourself if you found "your faith and hope might be in God . . ." This can mean the difference between Heaven and Hell for self and many others. Discuss all the scriptures and try to relate them to self. You will find, that when we open our hearts to each other and confess our weaknesses, it is a therapy (Jas. 5:16 and 4:17). "Therefore, to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin." Few of us today can search the scriptures and find ourselves not wanting!

Chapter Two
**“The Harvest is Plentiful, But
Laborers are Few” (Matt. 9:37-38)**

In our society today we reach a point where we are not useful to the employment world, and our physical and financial fitness is declining. Our productive days are about over. We reach this point in life where we need more rest, so retirement takes place. Some live and plan for this period of life so they can “buy a home on wheels and travel”. This is the main goal of life for some! There is a certain excitement about this, BUT God also has plans for us every step of our lives.

For every vacuum or loss in our lives, because of getting older, we become even more valuable to His work. We must not abandon His work to seek strictly selfish pleasure. The younger set needs us, (Titus 2:3-4) the hand of experience, and we should care enough for the souls of our friends and neighbors to try to reach them with the gospel. There is more time to study and more opportunity to teach than ever before. Let us not bury our heads in the sand of selfish pursuit and forget our Lord, who has blessed us with health, mind and the tools for teaching.

Did you ever hear this statement? "I taught my children when they were young. These young mothers can do the same." Wouldn't it be good if grandmothers would love and care and teach those classes of little ones, and let the young mothers, who are inexperienced, sit in a class to prepare them to build better Christian homes and prepare to teach when their children are older? Is this not what Paul wrote in Titus (2:3-5).

I feel there is no such thing as a generation gap. It is a gap that we build ourselves because we think of self and not the other person. If love is there, we find the generation gap non-existent. Love is the key. Selfishness is the six foot brick wall that prevents communication and makes the gap between any age.

When love exists, older women will take the younger children and help to train them. This also stops grandparents from being permissive with their grandchildren. They love them enough to train them. Some grandparents destroy the training of the parents by allowing their grandchildren to be rude and undisciplined, laughing at their antics. We must uphold those younger parents' goals and training by encouraging them, not destroying them.

Some do not teach because they are described in Heb. 5:12:14 and are not capable. Where are you?

" . . . by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil." NIV

Notice this version says that the convert is still an infant and not acquainted with righteousness. He is not acquainted with his or her Bible and cannot distinguish good from evil. Those that are able to take solid food (meat) have matured. They have had a regular diet (meal) of Bible study and have exercised (practiced what the Word teaches).

Are we too busy with wrinkle creams, hair dyes, the latest fashions and fads to put the blessings that are ours first, to reach the lost with the saving gospel? At this time of life, when the children are making their own homes, we have time to study more and prepare lessons, and visit the sick, widows, etc. Of course, we cannot, if we prefer to hug a typewriter, sell for others, or hold down a professional job. Can these things mean more to us than to watch a babe being born into His Kingdom, because of our planting the seed, nurturing it and weeding it?

My husband and I have been teaching the young married class. D. L. teaches the men, as I the women. This has kept us young at heart and on our toes with studying and trying to help them to not make the same mistakes we made in rearing our own children. We make mistakes that are sometimes costly for our children's souls, and by all means we must help others to prevent these judgments of the head and not the heart. The young couples appreciate honesty.

"If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. Do nothing out of SELFISH AMBITION OR VAIN CONCEIT, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Jesus Christ: Who, being in the very nature of God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself: And being obedient to death—even death on the cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name . . . " Phil. 2:1-9 (NIV)

Christ left that "home of the soul", that home He is preparing for God's children, to live the lowly life of a man

without money, prestige, formal education or political pull. He left His Father and that heavenly home to be born in a barn, to live almost like the animals, for He had no home to call His own in His Father's world. BUT, He loved you and me enough to do this so that He could set the example for us. (John 3:16) His love is beyond our ability to understand. He died for us, but asks only that we live for Him, not self.

His death was a shame to the society because of the abuse. Even those that should have stood by Him to the bitter end forsook Him. Never have there been such humiliating circumstances and torment as His crucifixion! WHY? So that we might live for Him! He wants us as *women* to teach *women, children* and, in cases where possible, even *men*. What a thrill to be one of His lively trees that is bearing fruit! Nothing is more desolate than a dead tree. It is of no value to anyone. It won't even make a good shade or fire. But the tree that bears fruit is a joy. It is pruned, sprayed and fertilized. Christ expects such a lively tree of us.

Women make excellent teachers of children, but we are also very good in helping and in teaching Bible studies in the home. Priscilla helped her husband. Lydia invited her friends and neighbors into her worship on the riverside; they were taught because of her influence. So we today MUST be continually on the alert to find the lost and help to bring them to the Lord.

In our home, my husband is the most patient, kind, gentle and thorough teacher I have ever seen. He is not pushy and never tries to overpersuade any Bible student. He has refused to baptize some because he felt they did not have enough knowledge to understand fully what a new life in Christ means. (Luke 14:28) I am the helper in this case. I usually plan the class for him, setting the time and place, and I find scriptures that he cannot recall (which are few and far between).

At this point we are studying with a restaurant owner and one of her waitresses. It has been interesting, for, while they

are studying with my husband in a closed dining area, I am on call to clean tables and take up the slack of less help during the study. Last week the cook resigned, and I made chicken and dressing and hot rolls and helped her get her steam table set for the lunch rush. I have spent hours in helping her the past week. We pray they both will be baptized soon. We have some friends, some "children in the Lord" and it has been such a joy to be a part of helping them to "know the Savior". Jesus set the examples for us. He fed the people and then taught them. He healed them and then taught them. We can babysit, clean a home, do their laundry, shop for them, cook a meal and do menial tasks in order to teach.

Usually I care for the children where I am needed. Our trunk is full and running over with toys. Our play-pen (bed), high chair and wind-up swing have been used often. We plan and prepare for these things. All of these things have been given to us. The toys came from my neighbor's children, who are abundantly blessed with every toy that comes out, and she cleans the toys out and gives them to me. Most of them are new. The children go to that room when they arrive at our house, and the parents know their little ones are welcomed, when they see we have prepared for them. I do not say this to boast, but to share with you the rewards of being able to bring fruit to the Lord. Try it, for you will love it!

Some have tried to knock doors and prayed the people will not be home. We begin with our friends, and it is not difficult to get started. Aleth Creech and her husband, Eugene, were taught first by Janell Cochran, a member of the church, who made the first contact with a tract on her coffee table. Some time later, others, such as Dick Case, in Houston, and Andrew Connally, in Springtown, touched their lives, and they were able to be reached. Few conversions are credited to only one person.

Aletha and Eugene Creech's conversion could be said of many today. Aletha has "bugged me" to write this book for a long time and has given her time, energy and money to help me put this on paper. She has shared with us some of her

outlines and helps that she taught the wives at the Brown Trail School of Preaching in Fort Worth, Texas, and we share them with you. For discussion and involvement in this class period, consider where each one might improve and grow to be a soul winner for Jesus. For truly, "the harvest is white, but the laborers are few . . ." today. We cannot go to Heaven alone. Our love and concern MUST compel us to teach others about Christ and how He can save and to pass this onto our daughters, the younger generation.

SOUL-WINNING IDEAS

1. Start a home devotional. Pray for self and the candidate.
2. Start a home Bible Study for neighborhood ladies.
3. Start a Bible Hour (for children) in your home or in the church's meeting place.
4. Place tracts in public places (airports, hospitals, hotels, doctors' offices, beauty shops, etc.)
5. Visit a convalescent home.
6. Visit newcomers.
7. Write letters to bereaved outside the church. (note: bereavement does not end at the grave)
8. Baby-sit one day a week for soul winners.
9. Conduct a Bible correspondence course.
10. Help in a religious census or campaign effort.
11. Help in benevolent work.
12. Be a teacher or a helper.
13. Counsel young or older women in or out of the church.
14. Help in fair booth work.
15. Be active in camp work. Pay fee for new-member to attend.
16. Help in bus program.
17. Make your home available for any good work.
 - A. Life Sessions (youth or older)
 - B. Bible Studies - you set up study, someone else conduct it.
 - C. Needy People - hungry or homeless
18. Visit new parents in the hospital; encourage them to put spiritual life first.
19. Pick out one room in the hospital; visit it regularly regardless of the occupant.
20. Participate in making hospital favors for hospital and/or rest homes as an outreach into the community.
21. Use ladies' class as evangelistic tool.

May you be fruitful and increase in the doing of all good,
as you thus know God! Colossians 1:10, 11

Making Personal Contacts

I. Suggested material for private Bible studies:

- a. Learn where they are in their knowledge of the scriptures. If there is no background, begin a study with the Jule Miller Filmstrips and tapes. These are excellent for it holds the prospect on the subject until it is said.
- b. Ice breakers - use individual studies such as John M. Hurt course.
- c. Open Bible Study. These have been used a lot with Ivan Stewart. We feel a more thorough study works for us better.
- d. For the prospect that has a fair working knowledge of the scriptures, use resource material published by Brown Trail School of Preaching or others like theirs. Or use topical study, using the Bible, concordance, dictionary, etc. to cover subject taught in error. Always lean upon the word of God for the answer.

II. Suggested ways of making contacts to study:

- a. Give out tracts or leave them lying around the house, on the airplane or service station.
- b. Invite friends and neighbors into your home for a study. Serve light refreshments for social fellowship.
- c. Invite possible prospects into your home for a meal. We have found a foreign dish of sweet-n-sour pork, using chopsticks to eat, has been a great opener for a study.

III. Some Don'ts

- a. Don't spread yourself too thin. Do a thorough job of teaching. Be patient.
- b. Don't gossip. Keep your conversation pure and happy.
- c. Don't criticize or tear down their religious belief or others.
- d. Don't let them put you in the judgment seat of God by trying to answer such questions as "Don't you think there will be good people from all churches in

Heaven?" or "Won't all those that are sincere be in Heaven? It doesn't matter what we believe, as long as we are sincere?" Let the word speak there. A standard answer could be, "Don't make me the judge, that is God's place. We KNOW His word will be the judge and let us study to see what He says!"

- e. Don't be a know-it-all.
- f. Don't try to sell yourself - sell God, His Son and His word - let them answer their questions.
- g. Don't loose your cool or become sarcastic or dogmatic.
- h. Don't push or pressure. Know when to leave and leave.
- i. Don't forget to take God with you. PRAY PRAY PRAY
- j. "I can do all things . . ."
"I become all things to all men that I might teach some . . ."
"Do good at every opportunity . . ." (If you do not have an opportunity, something is wrong. Pray for opportunities to open to you . . . watch for the answer . . .)
- k. Don't dominate the conversation - be a good listener.
- l. Don't become discouraged - Remember Christ did not win them all. "Count it all joy . . ."

IV. Remember these good habits:

- a. Organize - make a list of prospects and begin to pray for them and watch for the opportunity to teach.
- b. Make a habit of inviting a different couple into your home once each week.
- c. Don't turn on the T.V. or read the newspaper until you have studied one hour at least of God's truths.
- d. Pray without ceasing (while you are cleaning the house, driving, sewing, etc.)

V. Things to think about:

- a. When we are lazy or unorganized, we excuse ourselves with "I don't have time . . ."
- b. When we are covetous, spoiled and selfish, we use the excuse, "I don't have money to entertain." Remember

it takes only a pot of beans and lots of love . . .

- c. When we don't want to mess up our home, we use, "My house is too small" or "I don't have a place to entertain." Christ had no home but look at His life.

If we are to increase our talents and blessings, we better use the ones He has given us. "It is more blessed to give than to receive." Just try giving yourself away for Christ!

CONCLUSION: Happiness is what we make of our lives, we make them fruitful and filled or we fail to empty self and serve self. You will be a fruit harvester if you prepare for it.

prepared by Aletha Creech and edited by
Becky Holbrook

Chapter Three

Growing Up in the Lord

My sister told us of their "little angel's class" of slow learning children conducted each Sunday morning. One of the students came into the grocery store of a member of the church and sold the owner some pop bottles. The owner told him he would buy all the bottles he brought in. Within the next two hours, the "little angel" brought in three or four cases of pop bottles. Finally, the owner asked him where he was getting the bottles, and he answered very honestly, "Oh, dar's a whole wot wright behin you tore!" Of course the grocery owner had been buying his own bottles for some time before he realized it. The little angel is not accountable.

We say to our children, "Why don't you grow up?" And they soon will. But, too often, we do not grow up ourselves. Not many of us will qualify for the "little angels" ticket to Heaven. So let us look at ourselves and see if WE have grown up. Of course, we are talking of *spirituality*. Heb. 5:12 reads:

"When for a time you ought to be teachers, you have need that one teach you again which be the first principles

(rudiments ASV) *of the oracles of God and are become such as have need of milk and not of strong meat . . .* ”

The little angel is cared for, but most of us will not be. The writer of the Hebrew letter is telling us that we have not grown up until we can teach others, until we can and DO tell others how to become a Christian and help them to find the way from darkness to God's eternal light. Many are too busy with their lives upon this planet to stop and feast at the fount of our every blessing.

Our cows are calving now, and it is fascinating to watch a newborn calf as it begins to gurgle and gasp for breath, shake his body and some time later stand on his wobbly legs and begin to hunt for the food which God has provided. He nudges and hunts until he finds it. A little calf never loses that desire to nurse its mother, and it is always a problem to wean the calf from its mother.

We should be as desirous in studying God's word. *“As newborn babes, desire (long ASV) the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby; If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious . . . ”* I Pet. 2:2-3. Are we really hungry for more of God's word, His will in our lives?

Parents that do not mature cause many problems and heartaches to their families. While Dean of Women I occasionally had a problem with a mother appearing on campus with a shorter dress than the dress code allowed or the father with longer hair than the younger set. A preacher in his early 40's, trying to hang onto his youth, purchased a “souped up” sports car. His son had problems, because he was no match for the father who had failed to grow up. How sad when mother feels she must dress and act like her teenager to relate to her, when a father competes with the son for things the youth covet.

What does our Father see when He looks down upon us, being Christians for lo these many years and still we have not grown spiritually? His heart must bleed for our dwarfed condition. We still are taking milk, and someone else has to teach us and for us. If we had an opportunity to teach

someone, we'd have to say, "I'll call my preacher, he can tell you . . ." "When for a time ye ought to be a teacher . . ." Scripture Heb. 5:12-14.

It is interesting to listen to women who have been Christians for many years when they are together in any social event and hear the topics of discussion. Too often it is a current sale some coveted item, or a delicious dish or . . . ! How many conversations turn to the Lord, and what we can do to "become teachers" and get off the milk. It is important that we think on those things and prepare for them if we do them. Can you imagine what would happen if all of us would "*. . . lay aside all malice, and all guile and hypocrisy, and envies and all evil speaking . . .*" (and worldly thoughts) and begin to study to become teachers? Talk about turning the world upside down, Honey, we'd do just that. But we have not grown up, have we? I Cor. 10:1-15.

I have procrastinated for a long time in writing this book for it could be unpopular. It could make some women angry, but if it will help any of us to grow up in the Lord, I do not mind. Maybe someday you will say to me, as I did to Opal Byers in Houston. When my first husband fought my going to church, I would rather take his fussing than to face Opal. I was stewing inside "because Opal just did not understand!" She kept telling me, "YOU WILL NEVER TEACH YOUR HUSBAND UNLESS YOU PUT GOD FIRST!" How I wished she would "tend to her own business!" I lived to thank her for caring enough to help me. Maybe you will also, for I fear, unless we do grow up, we are lost and our beautiful world will loose the freedom to teach our children of the saving grace which was given so generously and willingly.

In Mk. 4:30-32 we find the kingdom of God is like a mustard seed. A Christian is a part of the branch of that tree that grows large enough for the birds to nest and lodge in its spread. We may feel we are just a tiny seed; that we cannot do anything. But with the help of our God using our one, two or five talents (Matt. 25) that He has given us, we

rise to heights that overshadow many lives and bring them into the sheltering shade of God's promises. A young gospel preacher in Wellingboro, England, told us a few days ago "I am a living example of Christ's power. I was too shy to talk to anyone. I have just finished the preachers training school in Ireland. God has done much to build my one talent.

The endangered species today is the family, the home. I firmly believe that the fault is ours, Christian Sisters, for failing to teach our daughters their beautiful role in life. I believe that, in the not too distant future, those precious freedoms we now possess (and they are fewer every year), will all be gone unless the older women grow up, quit coveting things and begin to think upon and act upon spiritual growth.

We have had our heads on the carnal - - Rom. 8:6 "*For to be carnally minded (the mind of the flesh ASV) is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.*" - - and we have failed to teach our children the selfless life of a Christian woman or man. Our world has hit us where we are the weakest. We have become a world of *me, myself and I*. Hence, selfishness is a disease among women. We have pampered ourselves and have developed an insatiable appetite for life on this earth. "*Dearly beloved, I beseech (beg) you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul.*" I Pet. 2:11

Titus 2:3-4 is the core of the entire book's study. Older women are to teach . . . Let us consider the older woman. This does not mean wrinkles and gray hair, but experience. Suppose you have married a non-christian and your home is divided and you know of a young girl or guy planning to marry and begin her or his home religiously broken. You have had experience, and you can help that younger man or woman to see that it would be much easier to teach and reach them before marriage than after the ceremony. Your experience can speak and encourage them not to make the mistake of "hoping" to reach him or her later. They might not appreciate it at first, but if the concern is shown in love, you will probably be received royally. These things help us to mature also.

But, too often, *we do not want to get involved*. Christ became involved with saving our souls and the apostles became involved. And we **MUST** get involved with others, get out of self, if we are to fulfill Christ's commands.

Study the scriptures given and consider them in light of your own personal needs. I beseech (beg) you to talk about your own lack of maturity. If you are not a little angel, then you need to prepare for that home of the soul. Confessing that we have not been a soul winner and beginning to study, so that we can get off the milk, should be our first goal. Maybe you can do this, but you have other weaknesses of self. Let us never forget that we are His, and He is with us **EVERY STEP OF THE WAY**.

Chapter Four
“Go, and Bring Forth Fruit”
(John 15:16)

“Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.” John 15:2. By command and/or example, we contend that we are to understand God’s will and obey it in our lives. Either it is commanded or inferred, without any doubts, or by example. So let us go back to the church in its beginning and see if women had any part in the church and if so, what.

For a faith building lesson, first consider the enclosed chart on the prophesy and fulfillment of the church. We think it would be helpful to fully understand this lesson as a basis for every soul winner. D. L. Holbrook, my husband, developed this lesson when a man he was studying with asked “when could the church have painted its name on a shingle and hung it up.”

Only a few prophesies are given, but enough of both the major and the minor prophets are shown to prove it was planned over 750 years before it came to be. For best results

PROPHECY OF THE CHURCH

<u>OLD LAW</u>				<u>NEW LAW</u>					
ISAIAH 2:2, 3	DANIEL 2:44	JOEL 2:28	MICAH 4:1-3	LUKE 1:33	MATTHEW 16:18-19	MARK 9:1	LUKE 24:45-49	PULFILLED IN ACTS 2:	
last days	days of kings	after-ward	last days					17 last days	
Lord's house	kingdom			house of Lord	His kingdom	my church kingdom	kingdom of God	47 Lord added to the church	
shall be	shall			shall be	will build	come	should be	16 this is that	
all nations	all flesh		people many nations					17 all flesh	
		pour out my spirit						with power	4 filled with Holy Ghost
teach			teach					preached	14 Peter taught
STAND FOREVER				NO END					
Jerusalem			Jerusalem					Jerusalem	5 in Jerusalem
							repentance	38 told to repent	
							remission of sins	38 for remission of sins	

GALATIANS 3:24-26

BIRTH OF CHRIST

ASCENSION OF CHRIST

study each scripture beginning with Isaiah 2:2-3, using the various descriptions of the kingdom "to be". Note all the future tense until the 2nd chapter of Acts. Even when Christ was in His ministry, He told Peter in Matt. 16:13-19 "... *I will build my church* ..." Still in future tense. However, in Mark 9:1 He tells His apostles that some of them would not taste of death until they saw the kingdom come with power. Jesus gave Peter the keys to the kingdom and Peter was the one that opened the door to His church on the day of Pentecost. (Acts Chapter 2). Note Peter said "... *this is that which was spoken of by the prophet Joel* ..." From here on it is present tense.

Before Christ's death, burial, resurrection and ascension into Heaven, one of His apostles was loyal, one denied Him, one betrayed Him and nine of them forsook Him. But, please notice, the women were with him to the end and were first at the tomb to learn of His resurrection. They were terribly hurt emotionally, but seemingly had no fear of physical harm as did Peter who denied Him and the other apostles. Jesus elevates a woman's life when He comes into it.

The women had prepared spices for the tomb, but when they arrived on that resurrection day, they found it empty. The Lord used women to spread the word to the men. The woman at the well was His messenger to bring the whole city to hear what He had to say. Even though she was a sinful Samaritan woman, Jesus loved her and used her to be His servant to reach her own people.

They were women on the day of Pentecost when the first gospel sermon was preached. Peter told them what to do to be saved. Acts 2:38. And about 3,000 souls were added to the church (present tense) and (women included) v. 41. Fear came upon every soul v. 43 (again women included); "*and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles* ..." v. 44 "*all who believed*" v. 46 ... and "*they continued daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house* ..." (ASV says "at home"). Women were among those

that were taught and were added by our Lord to His church, His kingdom.

Let us study further the first century church to see examples of the place the home and woman are given. Acts 8:3 - - "As for Saul, he made havock of the church, entering into every HOUSE and hailing men and WOMEN, committed them to prison . . ." Women were involved and were persecuted along with the men.

When Saul was stricken blind on the road to Damascus, he was led into the city to a house on Straight Street (Acts 9:11), the home of Judas. It was there that Saul became Paul and was taught how to become a New Testament Christian. Paul became a Christian through baptism and was a "chosen vessel to the Gentiles". Women were important to Paul in his ministry.

There was the widow's mite that will live throughout time, and the seamstress that used her talents to help the widows and orphans. Dorcas (Tabitha - Acts 9) was doing a great work for our Lord. Lydia helped to start a congregation (Acts 16:14). Phoebe was a deaconess at Cenchrea but moved to Rome. Paul introduced her to the Christians at Rome (Rom. 16:1). Women have a royal, exalted and an influential place to fill.

In Acts 10 where we learn the Gentiles were first taught at the home of Cornelius, Mr. and Mrs. Cornelius had invited their "family and friends" to hear the gospel preached for the first time to the Gentiles. Can you see Sister Cornelius as she cleaned her house? No, it does not say she did this, but it does say they were prepared for this event. And today, we are to "*be ready to give an answer to every man that asketh you the reason of the hope that is within you.*" (I Peter 3:15) There was Simon the tanner where Peter stayed when he went to sleep and had the dream. Surely there was one or more women in this house also!

Acts 16 records Lydia, alone as far as any family is mentioned, but she begged the disciples to stay in her home and honor her by helping her serve God in this manner.

Later in chapter 16, we learn the jailer was very much involved, and he and his household were baptized the same hour of the night. They washed the stripes of Paul and Silas. They gave them meat for strength.

Acts 21:8-11 we learn Phillip, the evangelist, had four daughters (virgins) that prophesied. Their home was open to Paul. They were of great comfort to him as they showed their love and concern for his safety when he was returning to Jerusalem, and he knew it was not safe to do this. We cannot forget Brother Ananias and Sister Sapphira in the 5th chapter when they lied to the Holy Spirit and were stricken dead. The blame was hers as well as her husbands for their sin. In Acts 18:24-28, another couple that brought glory to God was Brother Aquila and Sister Priscilla who "took Apollos and expounded to him the way more perfectly . . ." Women have always had an important part in the work of the church. A woman must be near to the heart of the work of the Lord's church if we grow as we MUST.

The last scriptures to consider of women in the first century church are Acts 20:28 and 35 where the missionary Paul is urging the elders to ". . . feed the church of God . . ." and ". . . It is more blessed to give than to receive." While the women can feed the physical needs, they also can be of untold help in relaxing the mind and emotions with love and hospitality. This back-up is a must for the man to do his best and for the teamwork of the man and wife to serve God. In verse 35, we are told we need to support the weak, and it is more blessed to give than it is to receive. Maturity is governed by being desirous to give rather than receive. The rewards and joys cannot be enumerated, both in this life and life after death.

Consider now, some practical things that might help us to be a soul winner for Jesus. Each of us is to be a soul winner. Each one will go either to Heaven or Hell based upon our own actions and decisions. IF we really believe our neighbors are lost and IF we believe we are lost if we do not teach the lost, we will be a soul winner. It was shocking to hear a

woman in the mission field state she and her husband would probably faint if they had to knock doors or approach strangers to teach them the gospel. They are supported well and have been for many years. They have mastered the language of the country, and their children speak it fluently, yet they must not realize, those they have come to love dearly, are lost. They have all the tools but are not reaching the people. How sad! Our job at home and abroad is to save souls.

I would like to share some of the glorious memories of our lives where souls were brought to Christ and try with mere words to give the joys received in having a small part in this teaching. There was Koh, a Korean student in Abilene, then Don, Junior and Juanita Hilliard, Phyllis and John Blanchard, Howard Honea and scores of others that are our "children in the Lord" today. We have enjoyed watching them grow. We cry within when we have done all we know to do and yet they go back to the world. "My cup runneth over" well describes the feeling of being a part of a person's growth and fruit bearing, for these blessings roll on and on.

I was brought to my knees last week as I resolved to call upon the mother of a very dear friend of mine who was lonely. "There is someone I can teach," I thought, "when my husband was busy with someone else." I would do that "this week" but before two nights had passed, my phone rang, and she had been found dead. TOO LATE! TOO LATE! Lord, why did I not think of her sooner? How much comfort it would have been to her sweet little Christian daughter and family IF, I, IF I HAD ONLY . . . forgive me Father. PLEASE DO NOT EVER LET THIS HAPPEN TO ME AGAIN! Help us Lord to see the harvest and seek, SEEK the lost, even that one, lonely and lost, out there.

Did they use their homes in the first century church of Christ? Were women involved? You be the judge! But tell the Lord about it if you think you have a good reason why you cannot do it today. God bless you. May you reap many blessings by using your home and talents for soul saving, bearing fruit for the Master.

Chapter Five

The Shepherd's Staff

Of all the workers in the Lord's kingdom those precious dedicated women, wives of the elders are the most treasured. She is the unseen, unconsulted and most cooperative of all women. For with her the husband can fulfill his God given role, or she can break him. She is the silent and unknowing partner in the greatest leadership of all times. She is the backbone of his work, not always understanding, but always willing to help in any way. The church can run more smoothly when her husband can operate knowing he can depend on her to keep his confidence, to give him courage and to give counsel when he desires. We often pray for the elders, but neglect the heart of that man, his helpmeet.

The following things that we are going to say are not popular and are not often discussed either from the pulpit or in the classrooms. But I believe with all my heart that the stunting of growth, the problems in the family and/or the Lord's church prospering depends a great deal upon the helpmeet, the elder's wife. Some of the things that will be said may seem harsh, but please give them your heart's consideration for it is from

God's word. Let us clean the Lord's body of politics and undesirable elements. You and I, as women, have that kind of power and influence.

When a congregation is ready to ask men to serve as their elders or bishops, the preacher is usually asked to preach a series of sermons on the qualifications of those particular men that hold the exalted, God ordained, position. Many of the things inferred in his sermons pertain to the wife of the prospective man. In reality that man may be qualified or may be disqualified by his wife. Yet, rarely is her role a topic of long discussion. Let us consider in this lesson the awesome responsibility of the wife of an elder.

I Timothy 3:1-7 is the main text for our lesson. "If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work . . ." It is a noble and high calling for a man to be chosen for his humility, his ability to lead and above all his example in his home, his community, and in the church. The wife of an elder is called upon to make many sacrifices. Her desire for her husband to serve as an elder is important, but the desire must be for the right purpose. When that little wife says, "My husband is striving to serve our Lord as an elder . . ." with humility and with a burden of love, she is a woman of great price. Her price is far above rubies . . . Prov. 31:10.

However, there is another problem that plagues the church today. The elder's wife can be a crown of thorns. If she is a social climber and the prestige pusher of her husband as an elder, the desire for the office reminds one of a political race, running from house to house trying to get enough votes to have a majority. Is this not a problem in some areas? Have you not seen it over the years? Most of us have.

Have you ever heard this comment, "Well, if they do not make him an elder, as hard as we have worked for him to become one, we will go where we are appreciated . . ." And, have you ever seen a couple that wanted the office badly enough to pout for months or even years because they were not accepted? Christian Sisters, what IS your motive for your

husband being an elder? If it is prestige, power, social or political, take a good look at yourself and forget it. Do God a favor, the local church a favor and run from it. Once one gets into an office like this, it is next to impossible to get him out. PLEASE let us examine our motives and not be guilty of desiring the office of eldership for our husbands for the wrong motive.

Desire is a great thing and is the first rule for becoming an elder. The wife, that is serving by working side by side with her husband, serving the congregation and helping the saints to grow spiritually in preparation for Heaven, is one that desires to work and serve, not to elevate self. Mt. 20: 26-27:

“ . . . but whoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; and whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant.”

Work is the key to this divine role. Desire plus work makes the best team and without the desire for her husband and her willingness to serve, the wife can make or break his role as elder. Work in this passage is used as servant, not a master or boss.

When an elder is asked to resign for any reason, some times it is the wife that keeps him from bowing out. This is not always true, but often it is. There was a deacon that was planning marriage, his second. Both he and his wife-to-be had lost their mates in death. Two people came to him and said, “ . . . since you will have two wives . . . ” The deacon left the office, not because he felt he had two wives, for God had taken his first wife in death. This was lack of understanding of the scriptures, but if two people felt that he was hanging onto the job when they felt he was not qualified, he would step out. And this has not hindered his serving his Lord. Instead, it has given him opportunities to teach more home Bible studies and work with delinquent members. There is a place for all of us to work, if we really desire it.

Whether one feels disqualified or not is not the issue. Let us not keep the fire of division burning, but let us stiffen our

lower lip and become peacemakers, pace setters of good works! How we handle these situations separate the child from the adult. To be the trouble maker will be our damnation, unless we repent!

In verse 2, we find, "*The bishop must be blameless*" (without reproach ASV). Certainly this means his wife also. ". . . *vigilant* (temperate), *sober*, *of good behavior*, *given to hospitality*, *apt to teach* . . ." The adjective we want to discuss is vigilant. Vigilant, according to Webster, is to be "*alert, watch for danger, avoid danger or to be watchful* . . ." As the watchful eyes of our military watch for the safety and best interest of our country, so is the elder watching for the safety and best interest of the congregation he serves and also refers to the elder's wife. She can give much support to him in fulfilling the work he is called to do, if she is watchful and helpful.

Sober is used here as sound mind. An elder's wife must be able to reason, to know her Bible and have a level head with old time "horse sense". She needs to know how and when to speak and when not to speak. "Flying off the handle" or "popping off" is not being sober minded. Sober, discreet, serious, solemn, calm, realistic . . . WHAT ADJECTIVES to describe the elder and his wife! Can you imagine the chaos if the beloved shepherd of the flock grew angry, "flew off the handle" and began to swing his staff at the poor sheep? Can you see them scatter in all directions? The massacre in Guyana is a prime example of misguided and power hungry leadership. That man lead 900 sheep to the slaughter.

An elder's wife should be able to influence younger and older women to greater heights. It should be the desire of every young woman to follow in the elder's wife's footsteps. Her example of sobriety and calmness, discretion and realism could be strength and encouragement to both her husband and the congregation. Never, NEVER, underestimate her influence! Let us ask ourselves, "What is our motive for this God-given responsibility?"

Lest one should think we are picking on the elders' wives, let us hasten to say, there is not one thing required of them that is not required of all of us. BUT, as leaders, so many are watching them for examples to lead their families and for strength. If an elder and his wife fail, they usually discourage the weak.

Read I Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:7-9. Consider the inferred qualifications of the wife in this lesson, but reserve hospitality for the next lesson. When we face ourselves honestly, we surely will find ourselves lacking, so this could be a good time to set goals for more growth, a stronger faith and service to King Jesus by helping that husband to become an elder. This is a big responsibility to fill; a giant task to undertake.

Chapter Six

A Time With Angels

“ . . . given to hospitality . . . ” is just three simple words that make or disqualify many elders. The visiting preacher stays in a motel. We take guests *out* to eat. We watch the new neighbors move in and wonder what they can possibly find to eat at mealtime when everything they own is in big boxes, etc. Where have the days of hospitality gone?

As a child I recall every Saturday was spent in catching the chickens, dressing them, baking the cake, scrubbing the floors, shampooing hair and getting everything ready, because Sunday our home was always open to the preacher and any and all who would come. A distant cousin said of my parents, “Carl Sullivan did not mind paying the bill, and Anna Mae did not mind cooking . . . ” That was true! Mother was the best cook in the country. Our home was always open, humble as it was. Most of the time we had an outdoor toilet, but we never apologized.

Never in the history of our world have women had such an easy time preparing meals. Serving a queen's elegant spread is

a snap, compared to any other age or country, yet we "go out". So what is our problem? I think most of us know why, but just in case, I believe it is all a part of our current trend of selfishness. Our homes are clean and beautiful, and we do not want to mess them up. God has given us lovely homes, why not use them for the glory of God? We are not practicing hospitality.

In this day it is rare to be a guest in the home of one or more elders and blessed is the elder and congregation that have leaders' wives that are sharing generously. The same scripture that says he must have believing children also says he must use hospitality, but he cannot unless his wife is cooperative. Christian Sisters, let us take heed and get involved.

We have condemned Martha too much, I fear. And we are not doing Mary's job either, for we are not obeying this command. Most elders would fire a preacher if his home were no more accessible than theirs. Yet Paul did not have a wife or home as far as we are told, but he, through the inspired words, gave this as a definite qualification.

Some leaders, and members as well, have their own crowd, clique or immediate family circles, that fill their sharing times and are not open to those that need it. It is not always easy to love the unloved, to open your home to the ones that need it the most, but herein lies the difference between mature Christians and those still involved too much with self.

Study the 24th chapter of Genesis about Abraham sending the servant to his homeland to find a wife for his son, Isaac. There is much inferred in this story about hospitality. Rebekah went to the well, and when asked for a drink by the stranger, she gave him drink and then poured the rest into the trough for his camels. After a time of learning about the mission of the stranger, she did not hesitate to ask him into her family's home and assigned two servants to help him bed down his ten camels. This family was surely accustomed to opening their home to those needing it.

Most of us think that IF Joseph and Mary had been at our "inn", we'd have made a bed for them, but that same child said, when He was a man, "*In as much as ye have done it unto the least of these, my brethren, ye have done it unto me . . .*" Matt. 25. We can still have Him as a guest in our homes when we entertain strangers. Of course in times like these we need to use good judgment in inviting strangers, BUT we are talking of newcomers, new converts and those shy people that get lost in the hustle, not people off the streets and highways. It is so easy to have our family or our dearest friends over and forget to be concerned about those that really need our love and fellowship.

It is much nicer to have a grilled cheese or a bologna sandwich with a glass of tea in one's home with newcomers and new converts than to "take them out". Others can see your family and interests that can NEVER be seen in a smoke filled restaurant. The noise is not conducive to really getting to know one another. And the love shown in the preparation, no matter how simple the "fixins", is what is important. Even a very humble home is much more personal than the noise of a restaurant. Your crocheting, that special recipe and the many things that make us know and love one another are there to help us grow closer.

It seems that many showers for the bride-to-be or the mother-to-be are held in the fellowship room of the meeting place of the church. The joys of cleaning house in preparation of sharing the blessings are gone when we fail to get our homes dirty, our furniture rearranged, borrow chairs, etc. and use our homes to glorify God. Most folks in this busy life enjoy a come'n'go shower so there need not be a chair for every guest. And it relieves each to tend to other things, such as one's own family.

In Gen. 18:1-19 we read Abraham was having guests, strangers, three men. When he saw them he RAN to meet them and bowed himself . . . begged them to honor him with their visit and fetched water to wash their tired hot feet under the big shade tree. (1-8) He HASTENED into the tent

and told Sarah to QUICKLY make some bread and cakes. On to the field to fetch a calf himself; he had one of his men butcher it. It was cooked and all was done QUICKLY for the strangers turned out to be God's angels. Have you ever entertained angels . . . unawares?

Heb. 13:2 "*Be not forgetful to entertain strangers; for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.*" Have you ever had this honor and joy? I think we have. Recently D. L. and I were blessed with Charles and Sue Chandler who were moving back to the northeast to labor for our Master. They spent the night with us. We sat at our table until late that night and detained them the next morning, sharing experiences. We gained love, enthusiasm and more know-how in soul winning. It was a taste of Heaven.

Then among many, J. C. and Myrtle Bailey of Canada and India, who are in their late 70's and going strong for the Lord, spent some time in our home. The fun we had together sharing their experiences was a blessing to us. Myrtle showed me how to make loaf bread. We are still laughing for she wrapped the pans of dough in a wool blanket to help them to rise, but she forgot to put a tea towel over them. When we looked in the oven, there were little hairs spouting out of our bread. We had to singe it before we could eat it. A time with His angels is a time of sharing, helping and growing.

When we fail to have missionaries in our homes, we are truly being deprived, and when we are not given opportunities to hear their pleas and their reports, a congregation is not given an opportunity to know how the church fares in other countries, and we fail to be mission minded. To have missionaries in our homes is far more a blessing to us than it is to the missionary family. We fail to give as we should because we are not aware of the needs of the work outside the immediate sphere of the home congregation. So, when the opportunity is open, seize it to learn of the work of our Lord in their lives. You will grow from it and treasure it.

Let us look at other opportunities to open our homes. When I went back to college after about 30 years, my home was

open to the students to come any time. It was dangerous to cook out, for that aroma had a way of finding the hungriest kids. I sent out three times one night for hamburger meat. It brings such pleasant memories now. Some of those kids have gone to their reward already. Some are preaching and some are in mission fields. Some are very fine wives and mothers and are filling needs for others. I hope they remember to open their hearts to others!

When one gets "60ish", what junior high kids would want to be with you? It seems they all do, if you care enough to show it to them. We have bunking parties (slumber only there is no slumber), roast weiners and marshmallows, make cookies and candy, have devotionals, talk about goals in life and how we can be better workers. At our hobo party in the fall they planned their monthly activity and now they just finished honoring their parents with a Sweetheart Banquet. It was an overwhelming success. Their parties are not all social. Many are planned with others in mind. They are close to each other and we see them growing closer to God.

We have had our problems. We do have rules and they are expected to follow them. If they do not obey those rules, their parents are expected to back us else they will not be a part of the group activities. We have called in parents and they always back us in the training of their children. For this I am thankful.

The last bunking party they had, my house looked as if a cyclone had gone through it until the bed rolls were all cleared out and the last girl gone. The only major problem was the kitchen. The so called candy had been cooked and cooked, but it turned out to be running continually. Down the drain it went! And the cookies, they called them, looked more like silly putty, and they went into the garbage. Several of my best pans had been burned so badly, I thought I would never get them clean. They will never look the same again, BUT there again are memories. We never cease to laugh when I use one of those pans and have a guest, explaining the

"Why". Girls, you have never lived until you have lived in your own home!

Study I Peter 4:9 and Matt. 25:31-46. Discuss how we may grow to love enough to get dirty, get involved and use our blessing of a home and furnishings to serve the one that gave them to us and to His glory. Elders' wives, seriously consider your roles and be more thoughtful of your role in helping your husband-elder? "*. . . In as much as you have done it unto the least of one of these . . .*" Where do you fit in here? God and you know, and so do the congregation's weaker members!

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Chapter Seven

Satan's Sandwich

Our study today is to detect our weaknesses and correct them. In Gal. 5:19-21 we learn that those diseased with envy, murder, drunkenness, revelings, or such like; "*. . . of the which I tell you, as I have also told you in times past, that they which do such things SHALL NOT INHERIT THE KINGDOM OF GOD.*" Where is the hate, "under the table" thefts (known as white collar stealing) being taught? Are our examples before our friends or loved ones to do these things or not to do them? Jesus said, "*. . . We are with Him or we are against Him.*"

More murders and hard crimes are being committed now by young people, both by girls and boys, than ever before in the history of our nation. Abraham Lincoln stated, "The hand that rocks the cradle, rules the world." Eze. 16:44 tells us "*. . . As is the mother, so is her daughter.*" We wield more influence on our children than anyone else in their lives. Somewhere the American mother is not doing her part by teaching, training and disciplining the children and neither is the father. Since this study is directed to the women, let

us encourage each of you mothers to spend much time with your children, while they are at your knees, to train them. This is the MOST IMPORTANT CHURCH WORK YOU HAVE TO DO. Those formative years are too important to put anything else ahead of this. It must have top priority.

A recent Federal Bureau of Investigation report shows children under age 18 committed 44.7% of ALL serious crimes in 1973, up from 42.6% in 1960. In the period 1960-73 those 18 or under that had been arrested for murder increased 255.2%. Rapes increased for the same period by 124.4%. Thirteen of the 1,249 youngsters arrested for murder were under age 10; 212 were boys and girls under 14. And most penologists and sociologists say there seems to be no regret. They did not seem to feel any guilt when they killed. All they thought about, in some cases, was getting the money. Crimes have climbed much higher in the past six years, with girls fast gaining on the boys for hard crimes.

The majority of the murders committed are by someone known by the victim, often by a member of the immediate family. Some of the children being reared today have been taught hatred, jealousy, strife and division. These build the emotions within and keep building until they erupt in uncontrolled actions.

Hatred and/or the thought of killing comes first, followed by the act. ". . . hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies and envyings." This is Satan's sandwich. The top slice is adultery, fornication (verse 19) and the bottom slice is murder (verse 21). The core is the heart of the sandwich. Meat is what makes the hamburger. Hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies and envyings (verse 20) are the meat that cause the more serious crimes. They have come from the heart. Wrath precedes murder. Adultery follows strife. How are our children being influenced in these directions?

First consider the Libbers platform which tries to make us, as women, feel we have no value in the home. Our jobs are menial and subserviant. Have they given the world a

better place to live? Has their scheme helped our world? Has it even made them happy? Our worth is far greater to the child's well being and training than even the men. The Libbers preaching has produced massive divorce and heartache for the entire family, hatred and murder among family and friends, selfishness and self-centered misery. Our world is crumbling because of their destructive teachings.

It just makes sense for husbands; who are the stronger of the two sexes and the one that does not bear the children, to make the living for us. The children are born to us. Our staying home to care for what they bring home and to train the children when they are not home is sound thinking. AND IT IS GOD'S WAY. What bothers some of us is that most of these women that advocate this subversion to the home are single and childless. Their method is suicide to the home and nation, yet they are self-appointed experts, knowing more than our Maker.

Some have turned the world upside-down to give excuses for women to leave home and work in a profession. Young mothers enter the field and frantically search for a baby-sitter, many times never looking at their moral and character convictions. And many of those that stay home send their children to "watch T.V.!", never taking time to train them. So, our children are fed a steady diet of Satan's meat. We have developed a cheap taste, though never satisfied, of bologna which has become fatal in many cases. We have also attained a gusto for imitation spirituality. The fake, imitation and superficial meat of Satan is destroying us. We do not read our labels (the word of God) and are selling self and our posterity for a "mess of pottage."

When husband and wife display strife, angry words, division, jealousy and hatred, the children take this in. The children are then insecure. "*He who hates his brother is called a murderer.*" (John 3:15) This is where "the rubber meets the road". This is where our children learn hatred, strife, etc. We cannot take them lightly. Christian homes are the strength of our nation.

Variance is strife, division, at odds with one another, while emulations means the same as jealousy or envy. Coveting is caused by this trait. Wrath is anger, hot anger, temper and passion. We may not be guilty of murder or fornication or such like, but how many of us commit the same offenses that are classed right alongside and lead to these so called "worse sins". Any one of them will cause us to be lost. And we can be leading our children in the same path. The meat of daily living is overcoming sins and becoming strong in our weaknesses.

Once, when I was wronged greatly, I witnessed many souls being lost because of a jealous preacher. A friend visiting in my home noticed what was happening to those precious souls I had been trying to teach. She said, "Becky, you are a woman and you cannot stand up to that man. God will take care of him, but 'you are too big to be little'." In other words, I must not stoop to fight the man before those "would be Christians". Not a one of the 18 were reached after only one night of the teaching of this man. How terrible, we hear of such things happening, but let us look deep inside self. When one comes into our midst and begins to do a good work and is really being blessed, how do we take it? Is there a tinge or a real tangle of jealousy? Do we encourage them or discourage them? Do we ask to help or secretly rejoice when they fail?

It is not what is outside the Lord's body that hurts it, but what is inside. Yes, the Devil's sandwich is stuffed with poison and destruction of the heart and soul. (Read I Cor. 13, John 13:35, and I John 4:7, 8, 21)

"By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love for one another." (John 13:35)

"And now abideth faith, hope and love, these three; but the greatest of these is love." (I Cor. 13:13)

We have gone through a phase of "Greek quoting" preachers and teachers that tell us the difference between *agape*, *philo*, etc. love; but we do not need to know the meaning and neither does the world. Love is caught more easily than taught

and is very contagious. The world can see it; those candidates for teaching can see it; those new converts can see it and our neighbors and friends that spurn the gospel year after year can see it. We know IF we are obeying this command or not, and above all, God knows it. “. . . he who loveth God loves his brother also.” (John 4:21)

When brothers and sisters in Christ display strife, angry words, division, jealousies and hatred, the babes in Christ see it, and their security in Christ is shaken. Spite, retaliations and jealousies weaken the very foundation of the family of God. We live by our daily decisions and actions, and all suffer when one is stricken with the malignancy and destructive disease of these sins. The church cannot grow and God will not bless it with inward growth. That heart MUST have good soil for it to grow and produce. These slow killers of the soul, kill the work of the church.

TWO KINDS OF WISDOM

“Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show it by his good life, by deeds done in humility that comes from wisdom. But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambitions in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. Such ‘wisdom’ does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, of the devil. For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.

“But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peaceloving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness.”

James 3:13-18

This back-biting, jealousy, etc. is the gong (meaningless sound or noiseless cymbal) that I Cor. 13 is speaking of. Look into any congregation where it is difficult to get good works going, where mission work is a foreign term to the average member and where little is being done, and you will learn quickly that there is loot in the tents (sin in the hearts of

even leaders and wives). When we, as brothers and sisters, learn this lesson, we will bring the world to Christ and Christ to the world. Satan's sandwich will not be digested. We will eat the bread of life, the meat of maturity, drink of the living water and grow and multiply. (John 6:32-35; Heb. 5:11-14; II Pet. 2:1-2; John 4:14 and 7:37-39). The love that radiates is a magnetic power that "*will draw all men and women unto Him*". (John 12:32; II Pet. 3:9) Father help us to be "too big to be little".

FRIENDSHIP

Oh, the comfort, the inexpressible
comfort of feeling safe with a
person having neither to weigh
thoughts nor measure words, but
to pour them all out just as
they are.

Chaff and grain together.

Knowing that a faithful hand will
take and sift them, keep that
which is worth keeping, and then
with the breath of KINDNESS
blow the rest away.

Author Unknown

Chapter Eight

Sin in Our Camp (Heart)

The basis for this lesson is, "Do you want to go to Heaven or Hell?" This is the heart of Christianity and is never an admired subject. We steer away from this subject, but, IF we expect to reach that celestial home of the soul, we must get right with the provider of that Heavenly Home. We choose each day whom we will serve, whether it be the God that gave us salvation and has given us the guide to live by, or Satan and hell.

I firmly believe the elements outside the Lord's body are NOT what hurts and hinders its growth, but what is within. Just as diseases around us do not hurt or harm us until they are brought into our physical bodies, the things that go on in our homes and our lives as Christians are the very reason that we are not growing and turning the world upside down. (Acts 17:6). We could do just that IF we would only choose between serving the Lord or Satan and quit trying to play politics with God and each other. God says you have chosen already when you do that. "*He that is not with me is against me . . .*" (Matt. 12:30) "*You cannot serve two masters . . .*" (Matt. 6:24)

Our text is again Gal. 5:19. "*Now the works of the flesh are manifest (uncovered, laid bare) which are these adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness . . .*" Vines Expository Dictionary of New Testament words explains the greek meaning of these words as follows. Adultery denotes one who has unlawful intercourse with the spouse of another while fornication is illicit sexual intercourse which includes adultery. Uncleanness is impure, unclean, things that defile, common and unholy. Lasciviousness is the absence of restraint, indecency, wantonness and filthy conversation. Verse 21 says, "*. . . of the which I tell you before (I keep telling you, Paul says) as I have told also you in times past, that **THEY WHICH DO SUCH THINGS SHALL NOT INHERIT THE KINGDOM OF GOD.***" Discuss these thoroughly.

But I have never done these things, we say. Maybe not. But why has our world degraded into another Sodom and Gomorrah? And why do we have so many divorces and so much infidelity in marriages among our own in the Lord's body? Somewhere we are not teaching that these things are wrong and will send our soul to hell. It is because we have lost our goals and are too interested in our selfish pursuits? There are untold number of illegitimate babies born every year and a million murders (abortions). As women we have the power to influence the world to stop this ungodly trend but why are we failing?

Let us look at our own homes first. Is father the head of the house? Is he being fulfilled as a husband? Are you the wife you should be to him, caring for him and his needs? This is God's plan, not the custom of some tribal men. (Study I Cor. 7 and discuss it thoroughly and with frankness.) Is your home showing happiness to those around you, including your children?

What is brought into your home through television and news media? The soap operas? John's other wife, Mary running around on her husband and it does not look *that* bad because he has been a rat to her. He has it coming. You want to cry for her, she is a pitiful thing, the way that man has

walked on her and battered her around. She is just his property! First thing you know you relate to her and you begin to pick at your husband's faults and inconsiderations, and they become mountains. Good! That's just the way the Libbers and Satan want you to feel! Divorce or unhappiness is yours because of what you let come into your home.

Next thing we hear, "Mama, Daddy, here I am . . . I don't have to take that! This world is too big to have to put up with that . . . " Is your answer, "Yes, baby, poor dear! How did you take it so long???" "*What God has joined together, let no man (that means parents) put asunder!*" Matt. 19:6.

Several years ago the marriage of a young couple went on the rocks and there seemed such a chasm, gulf of hatred and bitterness, there seemed no way it could be mended. But they are back together and making a success because his parents refused to let him think for a moment he was free to re-marry and that he was sending his own soul and hers too to Hell if he did not do everything he could to succeed in this God ordained relationship. It seemed hopeless but youth forgives and the couple are together again and happier than ever. Moving away from the home town helps. We MUST back our children in doing right and never try to cover up their wrongs. Usually we have already done this in our own lives.

We learn as we get older and deal with people that we do more covering of our problems and sins than Achan ever dreamed. You recall in Joshua 7:1-26 God had instructed Israel to consecrate the treasures of Jericho to the Lord's treasury (Jos. 6:18-19), but Achan became greedy and stole a wedge of gold and silver and a Babylonian mantle. He buried them in the ground in his tent. For this sin and disobedience Achan was stoned to death. *Does God mean it when He says, "Confess your faults one to another, and pray for one another, that ye might be healed . . . " (Jas. 5:16) and " . . . they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God . . . "?*

In I Sam. chapter 15 we read in verse 3 Samuel had told Saul to " . . . *destroy all . . . men, sheep, etc. . .* " They

did not obey for they saved Agag, the king, and the best of the sheep. (v. 8-9). God told Samuel he had repented that he had anointed Saul to be king for he had not obeyed (v. 11). In v. 13 Saul said, “. . . *I have performed the commandment of the Lord . . .*” Samuel answered, “*What meaneth then the bleating of the sheep in mine ears and the lowing of the oxen, which I hear?*”

Saul’s “noble rational” would make any of us think it was a justifiable motive and act, for they had done it “. . . to sacrifice unto the Lord . . . ; and the rest we have utterly destroyed.” Note also that Saul blamed the people (v. 15). Consider now Samuel’s answer for it is one we had better ponder over a long time.

“When thou was little in thine own sight, was thou not made the head of the tribes of Israel, and the Lord anointed thee king over Israel. (v. 17) . . . Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the Lord, he hath also rejected thee from being king.”
(v. 22)

We must stay little in our own eyes and not become self important. It takes a lot of courage to say, “I have sinned!” Often when we confess our sins, we say, “I made a mistake!” We just cannot bring ourselves to admit that we are human and that we sin. WHY? Could it be because we are not humble in our own eyes? We want to keep up that image, that self-important position that we try to put ourselves in . . . knowing all the time God knows the truth. He said to confess our faults, sins or trespass (Vines p. 83).

Someone has said if you want the truth, ask a little child. If you have ever taught the pre-school, kindergarten or first grade, you learn a lot that goes on in the homes by that child talking. And Jesus said, “*Except you become as a little child, you cannot enter the kingdom of Heaven.*” Matt. 18:3. Let us examine ourselves and see if we are covering up, hiding

the sins and trespasses of self, our children, or trying to cover up our sins as Saul and Achan did.

Are we also teaching this to our sons and daughters, all for the self important image before man. There is nothing so strengthening as saying humbly and sincerely, "I did you wrong . . . I ask you to forgive me and pray for me, or I fear I have failed to teach my son (or daughter), and they are sinning. Please help me in my problems!" We are made strong in our weakness.

" . . . My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then I am strong."

2 Cor. 12:9

Paul goes on to say in verse 11 that he was a fool in glorying "*. . . for in nothing am I behind the very chiefest apostles, THOUGH I BE NOTHING.*"

There is a cleansing in this confession, and the soul is so clean and the heart so pure from within when this takes place. Otherwise, we carry guilt and then add another sin of lying to cover up the first sin of burying it in our tent (heart). Our children, our friends and our neighbors need to hear us say we have sinned, that we are sorry and that we need their prayers that we may be strong. Children will be like father and mother if this honesty with self is not practiced. Or they will gain complete honesty. We are leading our children down our road. IS it in complete honesty?

God withdrew His blessing of the Israelites when Achan sinned and King Saul was rejected as king for his sin. They sinned again to cover the first one. It is a vicious wheel of digression and moral decay.

In the New Testament (Acts 5) we study of Brother Ananias and his wife, Sister Sapphira. God struck them dead for their sin. It was their choice to do as they pleased. But they decided to make themselves look good, they would lie to the Holy Spirit and say they sold their land for so much.

Now they could have kept all of it if they wanted BUT they wanted the praise of the gift yet coveted a portion. Ananias fell down immediately. We are not told but, if it were today, Sister Sapphira came in later and she was probably out shopping with that money. But their end, their destruction, was disobedience. God had not commanded them to sell and give, but because they wanted to look good to men, they lied, covering another sin of coveting.

The startling death, the first church discipline, of this couple brought fear upon the entire church. The outsiders did not go near them for fear of the power of God. As Christians we must humble ourselves and clear up our sins. If the Lord smote us dead today for our lies and watergates, there would be less lying to one another and more deaths, too. We need to quit playing with God and with our own souls!

Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, etc. are just as unclean today as they were in the first century church. God hates all of these sins. They will send us to hell just as quick today unless we repent.

When we confess our sins to others, I have found that people are more open to me and are more likely to confess their sins (thus it helps all of us) than when I try to convince them I am on a plateau and am not tempted. We all do sin! Salvation is for these feet of clay. God provided for our escape from ourselves. May we be "too big to be little".

Chapter Nine

Let Them Fly

Birds are educational and fun to watch. Last spring redbirds nested in our pyracantha bush at my kitchen window. I loved watching those little specked eggs hatch into ugly naked babies. Only one lived. He soon filled out and flitted from one limb to another for many days, first only short distances, and then he would venture farther. Finally our little redbird was gone, and the nest was empty. Mother bird taught me many lessons of independence and responsibility. I look at that empty nest and long for it to be active again. The place is so quiet it becomes deafening. Already this spring I have seen them at the same bush, but the hard freeze killed the foliage, and there are not enough leaves to make a good hiding place.

Facing an empty nest is not easy for those mothers who have stayed home to teach and train their children. For some it is freedom to do the things they desire, to earn money or become "fulfilled". How sad for the child that was raised by someone other than a mother, because he has been cheated. Many times parents buy gifts to soothe their own consciences,

and the children know it; whether we want to believe it or not. They know they have been cheated.

We begin to train our daughter when she is three years old, or less, to be a wife and mother, keeper of her home. She can climb upon a stool "to help mommie". Oh, what a mess she can make as she cries out, "Let me do it, Mommie!" or "I can do it!" The little muscles are not coordinated, and it is so much easier to do it yourself. But the wise mother has taken time to prepare her daughter to cook, clean house, and be frugal. Soon she can turn the kitchen over to her to make sumptuous meals.

She soon learns to sew as mommie sews, and before long she is making her own clothes with much pride. Mothers who fail to teach homemaking are cheating the husband of her daughter, for she cannot carry her end of the load in marriage. Her clothes must be bought, and she never knows the joy of making her own bread, pies, clothes and curtains. BECAUSE mother would not let her make the mess and try her wings.

When that little bird began to flit from limb to limb, the mother bird was in the distance watching with eagle eyes for its safety but gave it enough room to grow. The children need freedom to learn responsibility and respect, restraint and righteousness. They want and need the eagle eye of the one that should love them more than anyone on this earth to give loving guidance. But, when it is time to let them leave the nest, let them fly. Be prepared to fill that quiet empty room and house with other activities. Study Gen. 24, the love story of Rebecca.

I learn much from my husband who must be the most patient man ever to live. He lets me and our grandchildren work till we are frustrated and perspiration flows as we try to back the hay hauler to load the hay to feed the cows. After what seemed like hours, I never did get one bail of hay on the trailer. When he is ill, I need to know how to do that, but this past winter, we had to make other arrangements when that occasion arose, because I could not do it. Those grandsons also learn the same way. He watches for danger

and stands in eagle eye distance, leaving room to grow. *"Fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."* (KJV) Eph. 6:4

When the strange man arrived at the well where Rebekah watered the animals, she probably never dreamed that being hospitable to him would turn her life so quickly and definitely. She was doing as she was taught. Her brother, mother and family were wanting her to stay for at least ten days before they took her so far away, but the servant insisted. Rebekah was asked if she would go with *"this man"* (Gen. 24:58) and she said she would. The blessing that this mother placed upon her daughter, who was going so far, is quite different from what I hear today from well meaning mothers and family.

"And they blessed Rebekah and said unto her, Thou art our sister, be thou the mother of thousands of millions and let thy seed possess the gate of those which hate them." (v. 60)

Does this sound like the Libs advice to abort if you do not want the child because it is bad to bring an unwanted baby into the world? Little did Rebekah know that her seed would bless us today through Christ Jesus, and that through this life, Jews and Gentiles are blessed through her seed. Gen. 22:17

Let us turn now to the book of Esther. In the first chapter we find the first queen of King Ahasuerus was a women's libber, for she prepared a feast for the women and refused to attend the men's dinner, even against her husband-king's wishes and commands. From the beginning of time women have been made for men, and when mother Eve sinned, she was brought into subjection to her husband. Vashti refused to be under her husband's command. There was drinking, but chapter 1:8 says that it was according to law, none were compelled to drink. At any rate, her refusal sent her out of the king's palace, and another took her place. This study is not discussing the drinking problem, but the childhood training of our children when it is time for the nest to be empty.

Fearing that all women would rise up and cause trouble for families, the princes said, “. . . *Thus shall there arise too much contempt and wrath.*” (1:18). So a decree went out to all his empire “. . . *all the wives shall give to their husbands honour, both to great and small.*” (v. 20) This did please the king, the decree was sent out, and a new queen was chosen for the king. (It will be easy here to divert from the subject at hand . . . be sure to stay with the subject and follow through.) There was a young beautiful Jewess girl that was orphaned and was reared by her cousin, Mordecai. It was through Mordecai’s training that led to the Jews salvation from certain death.

When a new queen was being sought, Mordecai, being an opportunist, sent Esther into the King’s palace, and she was his favorite and given the title of queen or wife. Esther was given the best place in the house for the women. At this point the king did not know she was a Jew. Every day her step-father would walk before the court of the women’s house to inquire of Esther and her progress.

Now the villian comes in, Satan’s angel, Haman. This man was an enemy of the Jews and held the highest seat among the princes (3:1). When he saw Mordecai would not bow to him, he was infuriated. God had given instructions to the Jews to worship no man or thing as He has to us today. This caused Haman to become angry. Soon Haman plotted to kill not only Mordecai, but all the Jews in all the provinces, and they were vast. The king was a fickle and capricious character, and it took little for Haman to get the decree sent to all the provinces to kill ALL Jews, God’s chosen people.

Through the guidance of Mordecai, the step-father, and Esther’s faith, piety, courage, and heroism a feast was prepared for Haman and the king. Her life and the lives of God’s chosen people were hanging in the balance. She used all her resources to bring about the defeat of the decree to kill all Jews, and Haman was hanged on his own gallows. During the climax of this whole episode, Esther was told by her foster

father, “. . . and who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?” (4:14). Through the providence of God, Esther and her step-father became the heroes among the Jewish nation. Afterwards the Jews feasted with joy and had rest from their enemies.

Consider now Esther and Vashti, and compare the daughter you are giving to the world, the wife of that young man. In times of disaster will she be courageous, heroic and live through her problems with triumph, OR would she be selfish and rebellious because of her training, or lack of it, from mother. IF we have prepared them for adulthood and kept watch at an eagle eye's distance, we have no fears of their failure. We will watch from a distance for her to fulfill her God-given role, and ALWAYS encourage that home to stay together. Lack of background training for wifehood and motherhood causes much heartache. The mother that has pampered her children and not allowed them to assume adult responsibility is cheating her children because they are not ready to prepare their own nest.

Let them fly when they have been taught to do so, but not before! Let us go to the New Testament. In Luke 1 Mary, a daughter of Heli of lineage of David, lived in Nazareth. Gabriel, an angel, came to Mary and announced that she was to become the mother of God's son, Jesus Christ. Mary and Joseph were engaged to be married at the time. This was a frightening experience for a young maiden, but she went to the country and the city of Juda where Zacharias and Elisabeth lived. She needed help from an older woman to sort out her future.

Consider her teachings, her faith in God and her immediate acceptance of the task ahead for she said simply, “*May it be to me as you have said . . .*” (NIV-1:38), and study her life while bringing the son of God into this world and as she “. . . *kept these things and pondered them in her heart . . .*” (2:19; 51).

Titus 2:3-5 teaches us to teach the younger women. IF we have done this, we are ready for them to begin their own

nest and fly, using their own wings. But what happens to us? This entire book is based on this one thing. Get busy for the Lord and soar to heights you never dreamed you could. Draw nigh to your husband as you have never been able to do before and build a closer relationship with him and work together for the glory of God. There is no room for the empty nest syndrome. It is Satan's device to take you from the Lord.

Time is yours now that you have not had before. Experience of rearing the children, of frugal living and of even some handwork you have secretly desired for years can be accomplished. Thank God that He uses older women and thank Him for the power and influence we have in Him throughout our entire lives. God needs us, Older Women. We are more valuable to Him now than ever before. When we refuse His teachings, we are allowing the Libbers to take over, and our nation becomes a castaway because we do not take our responsibility seriously. Father help us to teach our sons and daughters how to fly, and then let them fly.

TO MY GROWN UP SON

My hands were busy through the day
I didn't have much time to play
The little games you asked me to,
I didn't have much time for you.

I'd wash your clothes, I'd sew and cook
But when you'd bring your picture book
And ask me please to share your fun
I'd say, "A little later son."

I'd tuck you in all safe at night
and hear your prayers, Turn out the light
Then tiptoe softly to the door,
I wish I'd stayed a minute more.

For life is short, The years rush past
A little boy grows up so fast
No longer is he at your side
His precious secrets to confide.

The picture books are put away
There aren't any games to play
No goodnight kiss, No prayers to hear
That all belongs to yesteryear.

My hands once busy now lie still
The days are long and hard to fill,
I wish I might go back and do
The little things you asked me to.

Author Unknown

Chapter Ten

Stepping Stones or Stumbling Blocks

*Guest author, Mrs. Milton Peebles (Nannie Katherine)

All of us who have passed through the wilderness of High School, have been compelled to read Shakespeare's "As You Like It" and supposedly memorized his famous soliloquy on the "Seven Ages of Man". Now have you ever heard the parody on it, "The Seven Ages of Woman"? Let me list them for you.

We pass from childhood into the "Trying Teens", and it is a trying time for the teenager as well as the parent. From these years we arrive at the "Terrible Twenties". Our children are small, and mothers never know what it means to lie down and sleep all night. They are tired of battling colds, viruses, childhood diseases and the everpresent budget. Somehow we women live through this and just as life seems brighter along comes the "Treacherous Thirties". The lovely sweet smile of our babies has turned into a silly giggle, and the voice of mother's little man goes up and down the scale. Our

days are filled with a great running to and fro. Sissy has to be at Girl Scouts or piano lessons, Little League for Bud, and P.T.A. meets tonight. Somewhere there's a place for daddy. His needs have to be met. At this time of life, between the ages of 34-37, more women run away from home and disappear than at any other age. The stronger of us, the Christian woman, will survive and be able to face the "Faltering Forties" with grace and the beauty of holiness. This age should be filled with the aroma of the Rose of Sharon and the "Faltering Forties" can become the "Fragrant Forties" - if we understand and learn to live with the changes in our physical makeup.

Why is it so many marriages break-up at this stage of the game of life? Marriages that have held together for 25 years or more are now floundering. This is really a time for reaching out, for husbands and wives to enjoy each other; instead they find each other total strangers. Mothers have made the mistake of building their lives around their children instead of father. The children are grown now and can take care of themselves. There are no more dull P.T.A. meetings to attend; that cute little cheerleader skirt that bounced up and down the sidelines has been folded and put away in the attic with other keepsakes. All this time father has been so preoccupied trying to keep bills paid, that he has forgotten that his beloved mate needs a kind word. It's odd but true that a woman would rather have a compliment from her husband than a new ten dollar bill, but "hubby" is too busy and too tired to do anything but drop into a chair when he comes home.

Mrs. "A" arises each morning feeling depressed. Mr. "A" left for work early. The house is empty and quiet. The sun is out. It's a lovely day. She turns on the T.V. and watches "As the Stomach Turns". In the show Julie is crying. Out of empathy Mrs. "A" cries, too. Now her head hurts and she remembers that old Sister Jones hurt her feelings, and after all she was only trying to help the old Biddy. Thus she sinks further into her depression and the headache increases. Mrs. "A" used to be the joy of the Ladies Bible Class. Now she has become the chronic complainer. What has happened to the

smile that once was her trademark? She used to be the one that quoted "*A merry countenance doeth good like medicine.*" Proverbs 15:13 or "*See that ye murmur not or complain.*" I Cor. 10:10. Her idol, Mr. "A", now has feet of clay, and she extols his faults to the world. For no reason, she's angry with him. With the least provocation she allows her temper to run loose, and her tongue runs along beside it. What Mrs. "A" doesn't know is that Mother Nature and Father Time are sending out alerts. It's time for her to stop and listen to these signals.

Between the ages of 40 and 50 (sometimes earlier, sometimes later) the female hormones begin to lessen. These are the little stabilizers that kept Mrs. "A's" endocrine system in balance. Now that it does not function as smoothly as it once did, the body structure as a whole begins to fall apart, or as we say the aging process sets in. Mrs. "A" should become aware of all this and realize that this is not the end of the world, but it is a part of God's plan. God has a great work for the Christian woman to do now. Her first 20 years could be said belonged to her, her second 20 year span belonged to her family, the next 20 years belongs to others. Truly these can become the Golden years and with her life companion they can, like Jesus, endure the cross for the joy of the crown.

Yes, Mrs. "A" these are crosses. You should realize that you have now caught up with your husband. The aging process started with him in his late thirties, but you are too busy to notice. Let's look at these alerts and see if we can find a remedy.

One of the first signals is an increase or lowering in body temperatures, commonly known as hot flashes or cold sensations. Wrinkles and spots appear on the face. Teeth and bones alike develop a calcium deficiency and arthritis is prominent. The little cushions of cartilage between the joints are worn and hands are not as nimble as they were. Increased weight causes fatigue, and we do not move as rapidly or as easily. This brings on frustrations and nervous reactions which end in tension, headaches, and sleepless nights. No

wonder we women get up feeling depressed, allowing a negative outlook to permeate our lives. Where joy and love once field our souls envy, malice, and jealousy have enthroned themselves. Envy, malice and jealousy will cause physical diseases just as anxiety and worry cause ulcers. Now this does not have to be your fate - unless you enjoy telling everybody you meet about your ailments. Believe me, they have their problems, too. Try listening to them.

The first thing I would suggest is to see your doctor and get a complete physical. I find that a lot of women can't always talk openly and freely with their doctor. Condition yourself to this and think in terms of your body as a car and the doctor as a mechanic. Tell him about your hot flashes. Ask him why you suffer depression for no reason. Tell him about your feelings of envy and your headaches. Then find some Godly sister in Christ and ask her how she overcame the empty nest syndrome. I am ever grateful to Dessie Hardy, Berdie McAdams, Mama Copeland (Brother Jady Copeland's wife) and many others for the help they gave me. Your doctor may suggest estrogen, but remember estrogen doesn't help everyone. You may be one that it doesn't help, but don't retire within yourself. Get out and get a fresh view of life. Become interested in others. In a month's time you'll have new friends.

Consider your wrinkles as service stripes, a service of love rendered above and beyond the call of duty. Learn to wear your glasses. They give a very professional intellectual appearance. Because our motor facilities tend to slow down, there's no need to let our minds do the same. Your library has a world of books to help you. If it's at all possible go back to school, enroll in classes that will broaden your outlook on life. Work with your hospital auxiliary, or join some club that is working for the benefit of mankind. I have learned to paint china. There is the greatest satisfaction in opening my kiln and finding a beautiful piece of china there. My ego really goes up when a mother-to-be exclaims over the baby cup I've created. There's no way to express the happiness I

experience when a little bride beholds her wedding plate. Maybe that's not your talent, but you have one if you will but hunt for it. I'm deeply grateful to the Lord for sending Sister Mable Garner, my china painting teacher, into my life. She taught me that my brush strokes were copying the mighty works of God.

It's time now for you and your husband to enjoy each other. If you, like too many wives and mothers, have built your life around your children, get reacquainted. He's still that handsome Romeo that swept you off your feet. He needs love and encouragement just like you do. Where women fear rejection, men fear failure. At this stage of the game many men panic. Reassure him that his wrinkles and gray hair are symbols of the sacrifices he has made. Tell him how much you appreciate his love and care. Mark Twain once said a compliment was an aspirin that would last for two or three days. A compliment given will have the same result as a compliment received. Together reach out to others. Pick out a missionary and write letters to them. Adopt some older persons and open your home to them. Offer to keep a young mother's baby while she has an afternoon off. Put on the coffee pot, and invite your neighbors over. Happiness is found in service to others.

Above all tell God about your problems. He made you, and He knows what your problems are. He also has the remedy. It's found in Philippians 4. He'll help you turn your problems into blessings if you will try to help yourself. Spend more time studying your Bible. Take the great apostle Paul and study his personality. You will find he owned a heart of compassion. Study David to find out why he is called a man after God's own heart. God did not intend for you to cling to your children. He numbered your child rearing years for a purpose. Find that purpose. Too soon those "Faltering Forties" pass into "Fiery Fifties". If you have adjusted to God's pattern for you, you'll find yourself a better person. The menopause is past, you have a second wind so to speak. You are able to do more and to help others more. This is the

true path to love and happiness. Then when the "Sobering Sixties" walk in your door and you realize that God only gave you three score and ten years, the fears that possess many will not affect you. These were all laid aside during the Forties. You'll remember with gladness that Solomon said - Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain; but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised, Proverbs 31:30. My own mother Mrs. C. C. McQuiddy of East Texas used to tell me when any woman who was past forty wasn't beautiful, it was her own fault. That's true because when physical beauty fades, an inner beauty lingers on. It's that rosy glow that lingers in the evening sky. It's the thing that brings you joy when the phone rings and someone says, "Granny, I have another birthday now. I was born into God's family today." The Faltering Forties? No, the Fragrant Flowering Forties. Those years that make us Stepping Stones or Stumbling Blocks.

Chapter Eleven

A Time to Die

Brother Randy Becton has written a book entitled, WE ARE ALL TERMINAL. Randy has been a victim of vicious cancer for several years. Because of the prayers of saints and his own determination to live to help his lovely young wife to rear their family for the Lord, he is living and working to help others to face that dreaded disease. He looks at death from the Christian's realistic view. Death is difficult for anyone to face, but for a Christian it is just "going home".

To be totally prepared for the death of a mate, child or anyone near and dear to us is almost impossible, but we must be strengthened by it, knowing who has control of the life after this one.

"To every thing there is a season, and the time to every purpose under heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted: . . . " Ecc. 3:1-3 (KJV)

In the rest of the chapter of Ecc. 3 we learn that man is to work and to enjoy his work for it is a gift of God and that man breathes and dies just like the beast. BUT unlike the

beast (v. 21-22) *“the spirit of man goeth upward and the spirit of the beast goeth downward to the earth . . . for who shall bring him back to see what shall be after him?”*

Whatever we own, call ours, is left behind. We have done with His Blessings everything we can do with them. Those who inherit these blessings will be accountable for the use or misuse of them, for we shall not need anything at all where we are going. Only those things that we have done for His glory will be given to our Heaven-account when we arrive. Man is to die. Everyone is to die. *“For it is appointed unto men once to die, and after this the judgment:”* Heb. 9:27. And we shall all someday meet on that judgment day with our Savior and will be judged to determine where we will spend that eternal home.

“Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them . . . ” Rev. 14:13. These things will be the determining factor on that judgment day, and we make that decision *now* where it will be spent. We know there is a Heaven and a Hell, a life after we leave this temporary abode. Before Jesus was resurrected from the tomb, he prophesied of the future for the apostles. He told them he was going to leave them. Peter wanted to go with Him, and Jesus told him he could not. Listen to His sweet words to Peter and even to us today:

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. There are many rooms in my Father’s house; otherwise, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going.” (John 14:1-4)

“Thomas said to him, ‘Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?’ Jesus answered, ‘I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me . . . ’ ” (John 14:5-6)

We KNOW we can live in a mansion built and prepared just for us by our Maker and Savior. Yet it is so difficult for us to turn loose of this life that is of clay, filled with troubles and trials, sickness and sin. It seems to be beyond our wildest imagination to conceive. Yet, it is right there in those scriptures, the faith that gives us hope and assurance, and that same faith will carry us through those trying times and adjustment periods IF we will use it.

Some women go into deep depression and never come out. This is certainly not good for them or anyone else. Sometimes it is guilt. A chaplain in a hospital in Abilene, Texas, told me of this problem. He said, "Guilt and grief are a hair apart!" Explaining that once in another city an elderly woman lay in the hospital for several years with rarely a visit from her children who were near by. The night she died, her son had to be strapped into a wheel chair with force while he was screaming, "Why did you let my mother die!" Of course this is not always the case. When we love that one and care for him, there is no room for guilt.

Let us examine the floral contributions and the costs of burial. Sometimes at this time of grief and possible guilt, we let our guilt press us to spend ridiculous amounts to bury the remains of our loved one? When in the Far East, we saw food and flowers at the gravesites. Most were cremated! This was odd to me to see food, but when one thinks of it sanely we can but see that the flowers nor food are enjoyed or appreciated by the loved one. It cannot really soothe the conscience. One woman told me she had missed only two days going to the grave of her husband in the two years he had been dead. She told of going to the cemetery and talking to him. Ladies, we MUST go on living!

We must prepare now for the time we might be the survivor to gain strength and faith for every step of the way. The odds are much larger that you, the wife, will be the widow since women outlive men by several years.

Never apologize for tears and sorrow because this is normal AND needed for the adjustment time. But when it becomes a

perennial pastime, folks then dread to see us coming their way. God nor your loved one wants this to happen to you. You must go on living.

Enclosed are some things that we feel might be helpful in case you are widowed and need to know how to handle the business affairs. This list should be kept with important papers such as insurance, etc. This list is revised from one given me by the Rural Letter Carrier Auxiliary Group. I thought it worth sharing with you. Having gone through this ordeal once, I know how valuable this would have been if I had had access to it in 1955.

1. Notify your husband's immediate supervisor. Advise time and place of memorial service for the deceased.
2. Contact the following:
 - a. The Union if there is one.
 - b. Local banks and/or credit unions.
 - c. Social Security Administration nearest you.
 - d. Insurance companies.
 - e. Internal Revenue and State Income Tax Department.
 - f. Safety Deposit Box
 - g. Change deceased's name on all important papers to survivor's name.
3. Have mortuary obtain ten copies of the death certificate.
4. Have marriage license available for social security, etc.
5. A WILL IS A NECESSITY WHICH ELIMINATES COSTLY PROCEDURES AND DELAYING NEEDED INCOME.
6. Survivorship annuity sources must be applied for.

In case of the deceased being a veteran, burial expenses are allotted for him. If the cause of death is due to job-related injury, and if federal employee, Office of Federal Employees should be contacted. It is possible a burial expense is allotted for this in the husband's business minus what the VA gives.

CONTACT	WHAT NEEDED	COMMENTS
Association (union) Provident Guild	Death Certificate	

or your head
office

Veteran's
Association

Discharge papers
Death certificate
Contact veteran's ser-
vice officer in
your area.

Some funeral di-
rectors notify the
V.A. for you.

Local Bank

Best to have a
joint account (Mr.
and/or Mrs.)

Social Security

Knowledge of spouse's
income for immediate
of the deceased by all
persons, companies,
etc. for the past 12
months. Deceased S.S.
number and S.S. num-
ber of all children if
applying for benefits
for them. Your birth
certificate. Your chil-
dren's birth certificates,
Your marriage certifi-
cate, Death certificate,
Your own earnings.

Wife must be 60
to qualify for cer-
tain annuities.
Children are
usually covered.

Insurance
Company

Death certificate - one
for each policy. The
insurance policy.

Contact either the
agent or the com-
pany. It is a good
idea to make a
copy of the policy
and keep until the
benefits are paid.
Send it registered,
return receipt.

Safety Deposit Box	Itemized list of contents	Lawyer or clerk of court must accompany you to the box.
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For comfort and an example of what faith in God means while facing death can do, read the following letter from a missionary husband who wrote so touchingly of his dying wife. Harold and Bettye Paden spent many years in Italy. A short time before her death, Harold wrote many of his and Bettye's friends to tell them of her condition. This letter has been a treasure of mine every since for it shows faith in face of death.

"To our dearest on earth,

Bettye and I have caught many ships together going to and from our mission work in Italy over the past 17 years. Soon she will be making her final voyage without me, yet not alone, for the Pilot of that ship is our Traveling companion, Christ. It is a deep and comforting solace to know He will not abandon nor forsake His faithful servant.

Pathological diagnosis reveals an adenocarcinoma malignancy and doctors count her time on earth by months. Bettye was hospitalized this last time around the first of December. She barely survived exploratory surgery for the second time and was in intensive care for 5 days.

I told Bettye, today, her condition. I prayed God to help me to break the grim news to her gently and mildly, for such news is without clemency or mercy. Her first thoughts were, as it has been for 20 years, for her family, especially Janine. I have also now informed the children. Pray for me that Divine Wisdom will 'possess my soul' and that I will be an example as a Christian father. The Lord must strengthen me daily. But pray above all for Bettye, as she must 'be tried by fire' through pain and suffering. 'Pray the Lord to find a way' for her! She thought of Alma Gatewood and said 'Otis

had it easier than you - it came suddenly.' Yet there is no easy way!

But again, a kind and foreseeing Father has conditioned my Bettye for this final test. She was not attached to things in this world, neither asked for new clothes nor comforts. Here she suffered many a winter's storm with an ill-fed and ill-clad post-war Italian people just to witness for Christ where there was none. I recall midwinter, 1949, when her feet were frost bitten because we had no heat at Frascati; when her teeth decayed when she was carrying 'Hoppy' because there was no milk after the war; when she slept on straw mattresses without ever complaining; when she washed our clothes by hand for years; and later cried because the old washing machine wouldn't work nor could be repaired; when she walked miles to teach a ladies' Bible class, when the sad news of her grandparents' death reached Italy (they had raised Bettye from the time she was three); when she braved a journey over 9,000 miles with three pre-school children all alone; when she continued to teach her little Italian children in her kindergarten for months even though she already had fever; ad infinitum. Yet she never complained once. Maybe this was the way a loving Father prepares His chosen one. I would to God that I could take that boat with her and were it not for my responsibilities to the Kingdom on earth and to my family, I would like to.

Others have taken this "bitter cup" without Christ and have accomplished so little for the glory of God though they lived a long time. Bettye's service has been only 20 years, but she has lived fruitfully in a short time."

Below is a letter I wrote to a friend that lost his wife in the late '60's. You might like to use it and discuss how these two letters could help us to be as nearly prepared for the inevitable death as is possible. For so often we do not show faith to our neighbors and family by our actions. It is so important to discuss this and remove the fear. More than likely you will be preceded in death by your husband and

preparation is necessary for the adjustments. Heaven is a prepared place for a prepared people. Let us glorify God in death. Enclosed is a copy of a letter of consolation to friends in the death of their wife and mother.

“Dear friends,

‘Death’ is always near and it is for sure it is going to reach each of us in one way or another, but how many of us are able to cope with it when it does happen. It comes so quickly and so suddenly no matter how many months or years we have been expecting it, yet it can be beautiful. Sorrows, pain, heartache, joys, blessings, happiness, and every emotion is ours while we are living but when we really begin to live is when we have died. My mind cannot begin to envision what is ahead. I think of loved ones who have gone ahead, such as your sweet mother, and Heaven is much nearer, so real and so coveted. God gives life and He takes it. It tears our hearts to the core and we want to cry, ‘Why Lord, Why Us?’ And then we think of our Father who gave His only Son for us. Our peace, our hope and our aspirations of Heaven are for real and we find ourselves thinking, ‘ . . . to live is Christ, to die is gain . . . ’

Words fail me. When it comes to saying the magic words of comfort, there are none that are mine but His who have made it possible for us to have that hope. I know God will be yours when you need him to gain strength and to hang onto that hope. Please let those of us on the outer fringes of your life help, IF we can.

Our prayers and desires are to be where you need us, to listen when you need it and to love at all times. We do care so much.”

“We share our mutual woes,
Our mutual burdens bear,
And often for each other flows
The sympathizing tear.”

Chapter Twelve

Living While Dead

Life is complicated from birth to death, but is filled with joys, happiness and blessings as well as sorrows, pain and disappointments. While researching for this book, I have found many women still living after thousands of years because of the life they lived while on this earth.

Let us consider some of these influential women. Mary, the lady that formerly had seven demons (Luke 8:2) wiped our master's feet with her own hair and annointed him with expensive oil. Reminisce with the poor widow that gave ALL she had (Mark 12:42). She gave more than those with much to give but made a show of their giving. Her example of sacrificial giving lives today for us (Luke 21:2-4). We influence the next five generations, it is said. Would you desire it said of you for the next 100 or more years that you were a great influence upon those whom you will never know?

When one is remembered with "She killed herself grieving", her life is soon forgotten. But the joys, beauty and overcoming obstacles that are seen in the lives of some won't soon be forgotten. Discipline yourself and prepare your life every step

of the way and you can live for many generations after your death.

Pluto and Socrates are still living. Einstein is still influencing this life and many others. Of course, the greatest one influential person ever to live is our Savior and Lord, King Jesus. None of us can ever compare with His life and He does not expect it. But His is the one example that we all need to emulate. There is a widow named Dorcas and we read of her good works today (Acts 9). Widows have a wonderful place in the Lord's kingdom. Turn now to study from God's Holy Word (I Tim. 5:1-15). Read this in its entirety. Discuss the role of the widows and fit yourself into the one spoken of here, if you are alone.

Widows indeed have filled a role throughout their lives and have served well. They deserve to be cared for and helped by the younger men and women. Sometimes older men cause problems if they help a widow of their own age, so discreet judgment should be used. Older women can go in pairs to social functions and in groups to educational and entertaining functions. So one need not become a hermit.

Younger widows are often looked on with ridicule if they desire to remarry. There is a problem among some who think they should not desire another mate, but they are not familiar with the writings of Paul for his advice was for them to remarry. Hold your head high and consider it lack of understanding upon the part of some. If you did not have this desire, there would be something wrong with your innate fulfillment. This should be taught to older and younger women to consider and encourage. Often friends in the Lord's body have been instrumental in helping a couple to meet, and they find many years of happiness together serving God as Paul wrote Timothy. It is not always necessary to live that empty and lonely life.

In I Cor. 7:39 we are told to "marry only in the Lord". Sometimes in the gnawing loneliness and hunger for a companion one will marry in haste, not considering the end results. There is much discussion on this topic but common

sense will tell us after reading I Cor. 7:1-40 that many problems arise when a couple is divided in their faith. The children are usually the tug-of-war between parents, BUT the thing to consider here is to take time and make sure of your decision. Second marriages can be an improvement over a good first marriage, or it can be a disaster. These considerations will help us to live after death.

Acceptance of our condition will help us to reach out and up to others and away from self. In several places where we have labored we have helped to begin a group of like-conditioned Christian women who met to do good works, ate out periodically and visited in each others homes for fulfillment. They are a tremendous help to other women that loose their husbands during their trying times. Recently overheard in the foyer was this comment, "I plan to call on Mary this week. We must get her to attend some of our meetings and help her to adjust for they helped me so much." This young widow was thinking of others and expressing feelings of gratitude for her help in time of need. One group of ladies took the job of organizing the benevolent room and keeping it tidy. There are always birthday parties for one another and fun nights just for them. There is a danger here of some wanting to make this just social and not service, but with diligence and study this problem can be avoided.

A friend spent many years in the Far and Middle East grading Bible Correspondence Courses for the missionaries. Some missionaries are in constant need of an English speaking secretary to care for correspondence and to fill the needs of the work for the folks back home. Some women can do this work fully supported. A warning! Be sure you have a man or couple that will back you completely. There is danger here, especially for the younger widows, of someone hurting your character if your leader is not one that will back and support your work with his leadership. Many women have served well in foreign countries. You can be particularly helpful to the young missionary couple.

As you begin each day consider these things to make your day for the Lord and one of joy, peace, and fulfillment to self:

1. Ask self, "What can I do for _____ ?" Maybe two or three people come to mind.
2. While I am cooking my lunch, could I prepare a little more for that one unable to cook herself or himself?
3. As I "run to the store" today, is there someone that needs my attention for me to carry them shopping, or possibly call to see if I might pick up something for them?
4. When the telephone rings and I have finished talking, the stage is set; whose day could I brighten by a quick call?
5. When the mailman comes, read your mail and consider how important it is to you, then drop in that chair and write someone that needs your attention or encouragement.
6. When you begin your laundry, ask if there are others who might need your help with their laundry?
7. Most important of all, take time to ask God to show you the doors open to you because He opens so many doors that most of us do not recognize.

Add to this list with discussion in class and try it. You can be a Dorcas, a Phoebe or Mary or a widow that gives all. The happiest people are those that are busy for others. Christ lived every step of His great life, but He died for us. He wants us to live for Him not die. All He asks is that we love, live and work EVERY STEP OF THE WAY. Faith is fulfilled in love which gives us the hope but leaves a tremendous heritage for our posterity.

HOW TO BE PERFECTLY MISERABLE

1. Think about yourself.
2. Talk about yourself.
3. Use "I" as often as possible.
4. Be jealous and envious.

5. Listen greedily to what people say about you.
6. Expect to be appreciated.
7. Be suspicious.
8. Be sensitive to slights.
9. Never forgive a criticism.
10. Look out for a good time for yourself.
11. Shirk your duties if you can.
12. Do as little as possible for others.

Author Unknown

“Wives, in the same way be submissive to your husbands so that, if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without talk by the behavior of their wives, when they see the purity and reverence of your lives. Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as braided hair and the wearing of gold jewelry and fine clothes. Instead, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God’s sight. For this is the way the holy women of the past who put their hope in God used to make themselves beautiful. They were submissive to their own husbands, like Sarah, who obeyed Abraham and called him her master. You are her daughters if you do what is right and do not give way to fear.” 1 Peter 3:1-7 NIV

“Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good. Then they can train the younger women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God.” Titus 2:3-5 NIV

“ . . . It is written; ‘No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him.’ ” 1 Cor. 2:9 NIV

Just as John the Baptist was one that prepared the way for the Lord Luke 1:17 *“to make ready a people prepared for*

the Lord," (NIV) women prepare the world for the Christian home and eternal life.

Never forget John 14:3, "*And if I go to prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You KNOW the WAY to the place where I am going.*" (NIV) Let us prepare and meet Him in that place prepared for us.