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YOUTH'S THREE GREAT CHOICES

By Arthur L. Vess

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PREFACE

This book is intended especially for youth, but it should be read by their parents and teaches as well, in order that they may know how to council with, and advise their children and young people under their care and instruction.

It should also be of special help to ministers; to enable them to know how to instruct and lead their young people, publicly and in their personal counseling. Many, or most of the truths in this book have been gleaned from observing and counseling with our precious young people. Then, too, ministers often have problems in their own lives and ministry which try and trouble them. Many suggestions in this book should help them in their own needs, and in the problems of those whose souls are charged to their care and account.

In fact, the home and church are inseparable if either or both are to do their part in the great choices, conduct and building of character. We are all "Workers together with God" who created us for His own glory and our greatest good.

Kindest Christian Greetings from the unworthy writer to our homes, churches, schools and all who may read these pages.

A. L. V.

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INTRODUCTION

Few realize the great problems facing the youth of our day. From infancy to their grown up years, they face problems and temptations unknown in our earlier days. But along with these great problems, they also face greater opportunities than we older ones ever knew or realized in our younger years.

Just recently, we have felt urged and called to write this book for the defense, inspiration, and instruction of our modern youth.

Along with the fond memories of our own childhood and youth, the many years of experience which we have had in dealing with our precious young people has given us an intelligent and tender understanding and interest in them. Added to a number of years teaching in our public schools, we have spent a major portion of our life in teaching and counseling our young people in our church schools, besides connection in the pastorate and evangelism. It has been our serious and wonderful privilege and responsibility to stand at the cross-roads of many young people who are now making major contributions to the cause of Christ, in the various fields of Christian service, as well as in other honorable fields of service.

A heart understanding and fellowship with young lives has made unlimited contributions to my own limited life, and left fond memories of our contacts with them. We trust that a number of them will read these lines, and continue to live honorable, noble lives for God and others.

Young people are not usually our problems, but our opportunities to live on and better through their lives of conscientious devotion to God and others. They have their problems, but let us help them solve them, and save their lives for time and eternity.

Now young people, come in, and let us sit down together and discuss your problems with a tender, experienced, sympathetic spiritual understanding.

After you have read this book, if you still have unsolved problems and uncertain life choices to make, feel free to write us, with a self-addressed, stamped, envelope, and we shall do our best to be a father unto you, in the most tender and understanding manner. Your letters will be kept strictly confidential.

All right, here we stand, facing your future life which depends on the Three Great Choices which compose the theme of this book, and the theme of your lives. These Three Choices are: I. Your God. II. Your Life Work. III. Your Life Companion. These choices are all tied up together, and each dependent, one on the other. They are in the right order: Your God, Your Life Work, And Your Life Companion.

* * * * *

01 -- YOUR GOD

Your God understands you completely, and knows all your past, present and future. He also knows your ability, temperament, qualities and possibilities, the trials and triumphs ahead. He has a special place for you in His work. He created you in His own image for a special place here, and hereafter. Your highest calling is fellowship with God in all His love, wisdom and grace.

"Thou hast made us in thy likeness, and our souls are restless until they rest in Thee," said Augustine of the Fourth Century. God has made all things for us, that He might make us for Himself. "He that dwelleth in the secret place of the Most High, shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty."

Yes, God has created, in every heart, a full and complete longing for God, in all His intimate love and understanding. He understands us better than all others, including ourselves.

When the writer of these lines was an infant, about 18 months old, he realized and sensed that there was a great God hovering over him, but he felt so unworthy and unfit to be in His presence. He had good, honorable parents. When they would sing the old hymns and songs, with stammering infant tongue, he would try to sing the songs, longing to know the God who inspired them.

If our PARENTS only realized the innate desires for God and righteousness in the hearts and minds of their little children, they would take less time feeding and clothing their bodies, and take more time feeding their little hungry hearts and minds. When Jesus' disciples tried to push aside the little children who longed to know and love Him, Jesus pushed aside his disciples and took them up into His arms and blessed them and said, "Suffer - permit - the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of heaven." They never forgot that Divine hug, close to the heart of Jesus, close to the heart of God. All children still long to know God, and to know that He loves them.

On another occasion, Jesus rebuked his ambitious disciples by saying, "Except ye be converted and become as little children, ye cannot enter the kingdom of heaven." This is why it is so easy to win children to Christ. They are so close to God, and so simple and childlike in their sincere longing for God. Almost all of our children could be won to Christ, if some one loved them and loved God enough to bring them to Jesus, in a simple, child-like, tender, heavenly manner. They must be won before that longing to know God is crowded and crushed out of their little lives by subtle, satanic suggestions and snares.

Most great men and women who have done most for God and others, have been won to God through Christ in their early years. Few ever find God after their teens or early twenties.

When the writer was a small child of four years, he said to his mother, "Mama, if I'll always be a good boy, won't I get to heaven when I die?". She replied, "No, Arthur, you will have to be born again before you can get to heaven," and just kept on with her house work. If she had understood my heart hunger, she would have stopped her work and invited me to bow at her knees and find God, which I would have gladly done. (Parents, take time to answer the anxious questions of your little children, and lead them to Jesus Christ; and then bring them up in the way that they should go.)

My young friends, let us see what Jesus says about WHEN you should seek and find God. "Seek ye FIRST the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these THINGS shall be added unto you." Most people seek food and clothing and all other things, first, then expect God to save them later in life, after it is forever too late. God can give us material things without our consent, but he cannot save our souls and feed us on the bread and water of eternal life without our consent and full co-operation.

Then let us notice a number of reasons why we should "seek first the kingdom of God" and His salvation. Here they are:

First, we should seek God and His righteousness first because nothing else can satisfy the heart but God. You can run after the sinful things of the world and try to have a big time, but you are never happy until you yield your heart and life to God, and let the God who made you for Himself live in your heart. God is the source and substance of every good thing. When you have GOD, you have everything. He is the Fountain from which all true joy and pleasures flow. When you have God, you are happy without any thing else. When you have every thing else without God, you are poor, miserable, and blind, helpless, naked, and hopeless. "What shall it profit a man if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul"? What will he give in exchange for his soul? When you have God, you have all there is already. You do not have to seek and run after it, and never find it.

Next, Seek God and His salvation before you form the wrong habits, and get tied down to sinful pleasures which wreck your life, kill your body, blight your mind and damn your soul. Before cigarettes, whiskey, and other destructive things make you their slave and blight and wreck your soul, mind and body. Heart trouble, cancer, and other deadly diseases are sweeping our nation and world because of these terrible habits. God can break you loose from them if you yield your all to Him, but few ever get loose and get to God after they get tied down to these things. God saved me just before I got tied to all these sinful habits. He saved me FROM so much FOR so much. He can do the same for you now.

Then, Seek God first and lay a foundation for a useful life which will honor you and your parents, and make you a blessing instead of a curse to many others. Only those who live for OTHERS are appreciated, while they live, and are remembered and honored by OTHERS after they are dead.

A boy grew up in our community and gave his heart to God when he was a lad, and afterward served God and others in almost every field of Christian life and service, as well as other useful occupations. After some years, a godly older man in the community said to him, "You are the only boy in our community who ever amounted to any thing.@"

My young friends, give your hearts and lives to God before you lead others away from home, God and salvation, and into all kinds of disgraceful, sinful ways. ALL OF US influence OTHERS, and are influenced by others. It will be so much more wonderful to live a Godly, useful life here, and have your friends and others meet and greet you in heaven, and tell you how you led them to Christ and to heaven, than to have to meet them in hell and have them curse and abuse you through all eternity for leading them to the wrong life and to destruction.

All the few who do find God in after years always say, "Oh, I am so sorry that I did not give my heart to God earlier, before I wasted my life and led others astray and down to hell." But you never heard any one say, "I am sorry that I gave my heart to God when I was young." God and His Righteousness are worth more than all else. Then why not seek and find Him first, right NOW, if you do not know Him

Seek God before you get tied down to earthly interests and riches, and die like the rich fool, and WAKE UP IN HELL, where there is "weeping, wailing, and gnashing of teeth." "How hardly shall they who have riches enter the kingdom of heaven." Rich men and millionaires are the most miserable people in the world. You cannot have more than your share, while millions are hungry and starving, and be happy and contented. Others can murder you and rob you of your riches, but they cannot murder your soul or rob you of all "true riches" of peace and joy and eternal life, without your consent. There is one thing worse than dying a lost rich man, and that is dying poor in every way.

Seek God first and His salvation, before you grieve Him away, and your heart gets so hard that He cannot talk to you any more. "My Spirit shall not always strive with man." "He that being often reprov'd and hardeneth his heart and stiffeneth his neck, shall SUDDENLY BE destroyed, and that without remedy." When you shake your head and say no to God, he will soon say no to you FOREVER. "No man can come to me except the FATHER who sent me DRAW him." Children and young people are so much harder now than they were a few years ago. They have so many more opportunities than many of us had when we were young. When we get "past feeling" and God speaks to us no more, we are lost forever, and will regret, for all eternity, that we did not get right with God in our younger years.

Then, may we say to your young hearts, you should get right with God before you die in your younger years. Many of my young friends and playmates died in their childhood or younger years.

Young and Grover, my nearest neighbors, both died when just boys, one of them a backslider, and the other never saved. Then there was Torence, Dallas, Hugh, and many other boys I grew up with who have been gone from this life for years. They would not listen to God or their playmate. My own brother, McKinley, died at 12 years and went home to heaven. He was one of

the first ones that I won to Jesus Christ in my boyhood days. I shall meet him in heaven some glad day.

There is just one thing worse than dying in our younger years, and that is living a long life in sin, and dragging your own friends and loved ones, and many others, down to eternal sorrow and night. There is EVERY REASON for becoming a Christian at the earliest moment, but NOT ONE REASON for putting it off another day or hour. "Today IS the day of SALVATION," "Before the summer is ended and the harvest is passed and YOU are not saved." A man I once knew ran after riches and then died crying, "The Harvest is passed, the summer is ended, and I am not saved." "He has been in eternity for many years. His family following his example.

Oh, I am so glad that I got saved when I was just a boy. I shall never forget that night in my old country home, when God convicted me of my sins and saved me, after I gave him my all. I had just read a sermon on the Second Coming of Christ and God pulled back the curtains of the future and let me see Christ coming and finding me unprepared, and I know how I would feel if He should come now and find me not ready. I cried in bed and out of bed, and walked around the house, looking up into the sky, begging Jesus not to come until I got ready. I confessed and forsook all my sins, promised God that I would make my past life right with God and others. After I had done all I could do, then I looked up from my bed, where I was then lying and praying, and trusted in Jesus Christ to save me. Immediately, He came into my heart with joy unspeakable and full of glory. My heart rejoiced and my chest heaved with happiness and joy, and I cried out, "Even so, come Lord Jesus. I am now ready."

Young friends, if You do not know Jesus Christ as your Savior, remember that He loved you enough to give His life for you, and will save you from your sins NOW, if you will give them up and trust Him this moment. Do it now. this very hour.

* * *

How To Get Saved

May we tell you how to get saved and know that you are saved. So many hearts that are hungry for God are led astray into false hopes and professions of salvation. Some join a church, make good resolutions, or are baptized with water as a substitute for salvation. Others depend on a once- before, out-of-date profession or experience. It is all right to be baptized and join a spiritual church AFTER you are really saved, but these things cannot save you. You can get into A church without salvation, but you cannot get into the only TRUE Church except by being born into it. "And the Lord added to the church daily such as were saved." Only the Lord can take you into His own church by the "new birth." "Except ye be born of the water (flesh) and spirit, you cannot enter into the kingdom of God. For that which is born of the FLESH is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit." We can only become a human being by the fleshly birth, and we can only become children of God, and partakers of the spiritual life or nature by the spiritual birth. "Marvel not that I say unto you, ye MUST BE BORN AGAIN," said Jesus to Nicodemus, a great church leader. Most church leaders and members of our day need to be born again. We may deceive ourselves and others, but we cannot deceive God.

Then How may we get saved and know that we are saved?

First, we must let God reveal to us by His Spirit that we are LOST, and undone, and need to be saved. "No man can come to me except the Father which sent me DRAW HIM." "My Spirit shall not always strive with man." "Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you." "In the day that ye SEEK me with YOUR WHOLE HEART, I will be found of you." "Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will GIVE YOU REST. Take my yoke upon you and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls, for my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

We must realize that we are lost before we can be saved. "And the publican stood afar off, and would not lift up so much as his eyes to heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying "God be merciful to me a sinner." We must realize how unworthy we are. Then we must realize that the trouble is in our own sinful hearts. After that, we must cry to God, our only hope and helper, and realize that we are sinners and that only through His mercy can we find God. We must confess that we are sinners and hopeless. "God be merciful to me, a sinner." "Grieve not the holy Spirit of God whereby we are sealed unto the day of redemption." Each must realize that he is a poor lost sinner, and come to God and cry for mercy.

There are two parts in our salvation, namely: GOD'S part, and OUR part. God convicts us of our sins and then saves us, after we meet his conditions. Our part is to repent of all our sins, and then trust God to save us. We must yield to God's convicting Spirit before He can save us.

Then there are two parts to our finding God:

First, we must completely Repent of all our sins. "Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." "Repent ye for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." We must repent to escape hell and get to heaven.

Then what do we mean by repentance: 1. Repentance means sorrow and contrition for all our past sins, and life of sin against God and others. Godly sorrow produces repentance. Next, we must confess our sins. "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins." We must confess to God and all others that we have sinned against with our words or deeds. This includes restitution or the carrying back and paying for what we may have stolen or cheated others out of. We must confess the lies that we have told, and the unkind words that we have spoken. Next, we must find in our hearts a hatred for all kinds of sins, and a determination to turn from them and live a godly and different life ever afterward. Naturally, when we hate our sins, we forsake them, and say goodbye to the old crowd, old habits and secret and open sins. God cannot save us from our sins until we forsake our sins.

We cannot expect our friends to forgive us for certain sins unless and until we stop sinning against them. Neither can God forgive us until we quit sinning against Him When we are really sorry, we stop sinning against God and others. "If any man be in Christ Jesus, he is a new creature; old things have PASSED AWAY, and behold ALL THINGS ARE BECOME NEW." We must say goodbye to the old life before we can obtain and live in the new life.

Then after we have been sorry for our old sin life, and hated, confessed and forsaken our sins, we are still helpless before God. There are two reasons why we have to TRUST GOD to save us, namely: First, because we CANNOT SAVE OURSELVES; and secondly, because GOD ONLY CAN SAVE US. Thou shalt call His name Jesus for He shall save His people from their sins. Matt. 1:21.

"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved." After we realize that we are very moment, pardon and forgive all our sins, make us NEW CREATURES, and ADOPT US into His great HEAVENLY FAMILY.

Then how may we know that we are saved? "The Spirit himself beareth witness with our spirit that we are the children of God." Our own transformed nature, plus the witness of God's Spirit, testify that we are now the children of God. "We know that we have passed from death unto life because we love the brethren," other Christians which we before feared and hated. "He that hath the Son, hath the witness in Himself." "And hereby we KNOW that we KNOW Him, if we keep His commandments." "Beloved. NOW ARE WE THE SONS OF GOD." "And hereby we KNOW that He ABIDETH in us, by His Spirit which He hath given us." Do you think that we can have Christ and His Spirit dwelling in us and not KNOW it? Read the entire book of First John, and watch the word "KNOW." If salvation is the greatest thing in the world, it is the most conscious and knowable thing in the world.

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How To Live The Christian Life

Some who get saved, get discouraged or led away with some temptation, and give up their salvation The same devil who first tried to drag you down to hell, will drag you back into sin and damn your soul if you will listen to him. BUT, please remember, that God will never leave nor forsake you if you keep your heart and life yielded to Him.

After I was saved, the devil would knock all the feeling out of my heart, then tell me that I was not saved. But I would begin to say or sing, "I must tell Jesus" and the devil would flee, and God would bless and keep me. "He is able to keep that which we have committed unto Him against that day."

You must keep in contact with God by living a life of prayer and communion with Him. Read your Bible daily, along with other good books. Be faithful in your attendance of church services, prayer meeting, etc. Be faithful in warning and winning souls to Christ. "Shun the very appearance of evil," and stay away from the wrong crowd. If you do make a mistake or blunder, hurry to Jesus Christ and plead the blood and keep close to Him. Obey God's commands and call for your life and He will never forsake you. Other friends may forsake you, but Jesus who died for you will live with you day by day. "The toils of the road will seem nothing where we come to the end of the way." If you just have to give up, always give up to Jesus; and he will carry you through, whatever others do.

* * *

Examples Of Great Choices

Ruth's Choice

In the Bible we have a record of one of the most wonderful women of all time, whose record and great choice have influenced the multitudes all down through the ages. Doubtless, multiplied thousands throughout the centuries have been named in her honor, "RUTH," this simple but almost sublime name. Had she made the wrong choice and gone back to her native home, old friends, and customs, her name and record would never have been made and known. The book of Ruth would never have been written.

Doubtless, multitudes who have come up to, and have stood at the cross roads of life, between time and eternity, inspired by Ruth's great choice, have turned in the right direction, and are now in heaven, or on the road to that eternal home.

Think of what it would have meant to her and multitudes if, like Orpah, she had turned back to the old crowd and been lost forever.

Let us now listen to her great and sublime testimony and choice: "And Ruth said, 'entreat me not to leave thee, nor return from following after thee: For where thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest I will lodge: And thy people shall be MY people, and THY God shall BE MY God: Where thou diest, I will die, and there will I be buried: The Lord do so unto me, and more also, if ought but DEATH part thee and me..... And when she (Naomi) saw that she was STEADFASTLY DETERMINED to go with her, then she left off speaking unto her."

My, what a CHOICE, and what a RECORD that followed. If she had sold out for some temporal record, pleasure or reward, like most young people today, think of what she would have missed. "Good bye, old world, I'm through; I'll go with GOD whatever others do." Mind God and surely you'll find God Say yes to Him, and He'll say yes to you, Whatever others say, or think or do. "Yes, Yes, I say yes to Thee. Well Hallelujah, He sets ME FREE!"

In the early days of the Holiness Movement, when they were despised, hated, mocked and persecuted on every side, the daughter of a wealthy lawyer chanced to get into a holiness meeting and was marvelously converted. Of course this shocked and alarmed her parents and friends, and they did every thing they could to get her to turn back and save them from the awful reproach, but she could not and would not sell her soul, nor turn back to the worldly way of death.

Finally, her father made a final effort to turn her back by having a special social gathering for her, and all her old friends were invited to attend. When the time for the social gathering came, her parents urged her to stand at the door and meet and greet her old friends. But, instead, she went up stairs and fell on her knees and prayed while the crowd was gathering in. They were humiliated by her absence, and her father went upstairs and pled with her saying, "Mary, all your old friends have come to see you and hear you play the organ; please come down and play just one piece for them." She was quite a musician. The Lord said, "Get up and go down and play." When she sat on

the organ stool and stretched out her hands to play, all was quiet and still, and all eyes and ears turned her way, as she began to play. But instead of some giddy, silly tune, she began to reverently play, "Where He leads me, I will follow: I'll go with Him all the way." And behold, as she played, the Spirit of God seized the hearts of her hearers, and in tears, they fell on their knees and faces, and a great revival broke out, and swept the town and community round about. We once knew a girl who prayed and testified in a public school in Indiana until a revival broke out there.

If more of our Youth would take their stand for God and with God, what would happen in our needy day and generation.

Moses' Choice

All the great persons of Bible times and since have had to make great choices, involving every thing, risking all earthly treasures and pleasures. Temporal and eternal destinies are settled in moments, not days and years. Moses, the greatest character of the Old Testament, faced this great crisis, and made the right choice. In any great choice, there are always two great elements, namely: Negative and positive, "Refusing and Choosing."

"By faith Moses, when he was come to years, (age of responsibility), refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; CHOOSING rather, (instead), to suffer afflictions WITH THE PEOPLE OF GOD, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season, ESTEEMING the REPROACH of CHRIST greater riches than all the treasures of Egypt: For he had respect unto the recompense of reward" hereafter. BY faith he FORSOOK Egypt, (the world) not fearing the wrath of the king: for he ENDURED as seeing Him who is invisible."

Now let us check the great principles and purposes involved in Moses' great choice; -- in his "Refusing" and "Choosing":

Following the example of his Godly parents, he risked every thing, even his life, to make the right choice against sin and for God and heaven.

He REFUSED to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, and later to sit on the throne of Egypt. Doubtless the devil told him that if he would accept this high honor and position, as a Pharaoh, that he could do more for his own people by giving them all the honors and treasures of Egypt, and save them from many Egyptian bondage. Oh, how many sell out for high positions and wealth and gold, in Church and state. In political lines, let us view the choice of the Rich Young Ruler who made the opposite choice:

O how many young people sell out their souls, and all future usefulness and happiness, for some trifling thing worth far less than Pharaoh's throne. But instead of selling himself and his great nation out to the customs and idolatry of Egypt, he led them out of Egyptian bondage, over the hills and plains, and across mountains and seas to "Canaan's fair land." "Oh, you need not look for me, down In Egypt's sands, For I have pitched my tent, far up in Beulah land."

My young friend, what are you selling out for? Some fleeting treasure or pleasure which may never come to you. The devil rarely keeps his promises, but deceives and lies and destroys.

The more you may get of earth's pleasure, the more miserable you are. He promises you everything and gives you nothing, but God promises you and gives you everything.

A Moses or a Mummy, which? If he had sold out, he might have been buried under a pyramid, but he gave all to God, and led the Hebrew Children out of bondage by God's miraculous power. Yes, he wrote the first five books of the Bible, molded and fashioned his own nation, and multitudes throughout the ages, and he still lives today, in that same old fashioned way. His trials were turned into triumphs. He had the high honor and glorious privilege, with that fearless prophet Elijah, of meeting with Christ on the Mt. of Transfiguration, with greater honor than all the thrones of Egypt or the world. Moses knew that the pleasures of sin could never satisfy.

But look at what he chose instead. "I'll take the way with the Lord's despised few: I'm going through, Jesus, I'm going through." What about you? Marvel not if the world hate you. It hated me before it hated you. @ AWoe unto you when all men speak well of you; for so did your fathers to the FALSE PROPHETS which were before you. @ Check the history of those who have sold out God for the world. Whatever keeps you from yielding to God, and serving God, that is your god, and you are an idol worshiper.

You cannot have more than your share of earthly treasures and be happy and contented. It is what you ARE and NOT what you POSSESS, that makes you miserable or happy.

All our days and treasures of earth will soon be left behind. We gain millions of times more pleasures, here and hereafter, by going God's way to that eternal day.

The trials of life are the things which develop character and gain rewards. God is looking for those who will suffer for Him today. That which humbles self, exalts God. "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me." "They that will live Godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution." We MUST follow Christ to Calvary, if we would follow him to the Resurrection and to the heavenly world. Persecution not only PROVES, but IMPROVES our Christian life and character. If you would find out how much one loves you, find out how much they are willing to suffer for you. The more we suffer for God, the more God blesses us. "These are they who have come up through great tribulation, and have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb." Those who suffer for God here, will be honored most in heaven. When we dodge the reproach, we miss the glory; the cross, we miss the crown.

"If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For ALL that is in the world: The lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father. but is of the world." Then hear the great conclusion: "The world PASSETH AWAY and the lust thereof, BUT he that doeth the will of the Father abideth forever." Well, praise God!! I had rather enjoy God and heaven for all eternity, than to have all the fleeting pleasures, honors and treasures of this world, in Church and state, for only a short time.

When we have God, we have everything, the sources of all blessings and true riches: the riches of grace, peace and joy, the riches of love. "For the kingdom of heaven is not meat and drink, but righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Ghost." Well, "Praise God, from who all blessings flow," that makes the heart glad and the countenance glow.

"By Faith Moses forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured as seeing Him who is invisible" to the natural eye. To be able to look thru and out beyond all earthly treasures and pleasures, and view God and heavenly things is the secret of happiness. While he endured opposition and persecution from Pharaoh and all Egypt, he saw beyond, to the invisible. When he came down from Mt. Sinai with his face shining like an angel, he forgot all about old Pharaoh and his empty throne.

"Now, therefore we are no more pilgrims and strangers, and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God; and are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; In whom the whole building fitly joined together, groweth unto an HOLY TEMPLE in the Lord: In whom YE ARE ALSO builded together for an HABITATION OF GOD THROUGH THE SPIRIT." When God dwells within, we need not fear all that is without. "If God be for us, who can be against us"

"And now unto Him who is able to do exceeding, abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us: Unto Him be glory in the Church, by Jesus Christ, throughout all ages, world without end. Amen." I say Amen? and Amen'

"It pays to serve Jesus. It pays every step of the way" unto eternal day.

That Shocking Surprise

By Arthur L. Vess

On a sunlit hill, in a mansion fair,
Once lived a man, in splendor there;
His estate was large, his mansion grand.
None more honored lived in that land.

His goods increased, his barns were filled,
With corn and wheat, from fields well tilled.
He dreamed of years of ease and repose,
Nor tho't such days would ever close.

With Christ he met one lonely day,
And plead for life which fades not away.
With loving heart, the Master said:
"Give up your wealth, take Me instead."

But grieved at heart, he turned away;
The price too great, he would pay.
And tears he shed. as homeward he trod-
His Christ left out, his gold his god.

His house was furnished with things so fine;
His children were cultured, his wife refined.

He moved in circles of the renown and great,
Like a king on his throne, in royal estate.

His wisdom was sought, by sages wise,
His morals and manners, none could despise.
He loved his wealth and trusted in gold:
For mansions on earth, his heaven he sold.

The Spirit then cried, "Your soul is lost;
Sit down quickly and count the cost."
But thus he answered, ASoul, take thine ease;
My barns are filled, I have no disease.

Cease your murm'rings, quiet your fears;
I have much goods laid up for many years.@
He lay down to sleep in accustomed repose-
Soon racked in pain, in fear he arose.

The angel of death stalked into his room:
And proclaimed aloud, his awful doom:
"You need not pray, you cannot flee-
This night, thy soul is required of thee.@

Then whose shall be thy wealth and gold?
And what shall become of thy poor soul?
He was shocked and awed with great surprise-
With devils in hell, to lift up his eyes.

* * * * *

02 -- YOUR LIFE'S WORK

Next to your surrender to God, comes Your life's work. "I'll live for Him who died for me: How happy then my life shall be." If God has a special mission or call for you, you will never be happy or prosperous without obeying that call. Keep busy and faithful to God in your own home and community, and if God wants you in some special field or service, He will call you in His own time and way. Your call may be like or unlike that of others, but say yes to God, and He will continue to say yes to you, whatever others do.

Every normal child or young person has a desire or longing to be and do something worth while in their life here on earth. When the writer was about six or seven, a county superintendent of Public Education visited our public school, and while speaking said, "Out there before me in that group of children, there may be a great lawyer, preacher, congressman or president wrapped up in one of those little coats." My chest almost heaved, and something in me said, "I hope that I will be one of them."

The nature, character and conduct of the individual, plus the influence, council and example of others about them, have much to do with one's conduct and destiny. Many follow the occupation of their parents or other influential persons.

But those who are called of God, to some special field of service, have special and added privileges and responsibilities in choosing their life work.

Some have very definite and outstanding calls or commissions from God, while others make a more gradual and ordinary approach.

Most of God's outstanding men have had a definite, if not unusual call and commission from God. It requires faith in God and willingness to hear and heed the call. While we may realize our own inability to obey the call, we must also realize God's ability. God never calls us to do anything that we cannot do with His assistance. He does call us to do things we cannot do in order that He may do them through us.

God uses various methods and modes to call different persons, depending on their nature, circumstances, etc. The task is always too great for us without God's help.

He called Noah to build an ark out on dry land. God ONLY sees the future. He can change or reverse natural laws and human circumstances to accomplish His will.

Abraham was called to leave his homeland, and go out into a strange land. "And he went out not knowing where he went. By FAITH he sojourned in the LAND OF PROMISE." By heeding God's call, and venturing out, he became one of God's great heroes whose life and influence lives on today. Abraham was the father of the Faithful. All God's great men have launched out "BY FAITH." -- See Heb 11. We have reviewed Moses' choice to yield to God, now let us review his call.

Moses was called from the back side of the desert by the miraculous, burning bush. When he saw the bush burning, he turned aside to see why the bush was not consumed, when God spoke to him and said, "Moses, Moses," he answered, "Here am I." Then God spoke to him and commanded him to take off his shoes, "For the place whereon thou standest is HOLY GROUND." Oh, how sacred and holy is the place where God Himself calls and commissions His servants. Then God told him that he was sending him to deliver His people from Egyptian bondage. Moses, realizing how terrible the task, pled with God, "Who am I that I should go unto Pharaoh, to challenge him?"

Moses had to say goodbye to all the honors and pleasures of this world in order to obey God. Listen: "By FAITH Moses refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, CHOOSING INSTEAD to SUFFER AFFLICTION with the PEOPLE OF GOD, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season." Those called and commissioned of God must part from all conflicting earthly interests, plans and ambitions before they can wholly follow God. Moses had to say goodbye to the throne and live in the wilderness, but GOD was with him. We must say no to the world before we can say yes to God. When we have God, we have every thing, the source of every thing we need. What prompted and enabled him to REFUSE and then CHOOSE the way of afflictions.

Pharaoh and his throne soon perished, but Moses lives on with Christ today. It is better to live forever, than to be buried under a pyramid. "I have made my choice forever"; I'll take the narrow way that leads to eternal day."

Next, we see how Joseph, the dreamer, became Israel's redeemer, by being willing to become a slave and a prisoner. Great men and saints are made in the furnace of affliction.

Then comes Elijah, that great and fearless prophet, who was fed by ravens and from the starving widow's meal barrel. Without fear, he marched right into the face of old Ahab, his civil and religious leader, and denied his charges against himself, and threw the charges right back into Ahab's own face where they belonged. Then he challenged Ahab and all his false prophets. The "MAJORITY" did not win out. God's great independent man, Elijah, mocked the multitude of false prophets right to their faces, and then built an altar to the true God, and prayed right out in the open at the time of the evening sacrifice, "Lord GOD OF ABRAHAM and Israel, let it be known THIS DAY that THOU ART GOD in Israel, and that I AM THY SERVANT, and that I have done ALL THINGS , AT THY WORD. Hear me, O Lord, hear me, that this people may KNOW that THOU ART THE LORD GOD, and that thou hast turned their hearts back again." "THEN THE FIRE OF GOD FELL and consumed the sacrifice,

If more of our older and younger preachers would challenge the Jezebels and Ahabs of our day, the fire would fall on our altars and sacrifices as in the past. Only those who are willing to stand alone with and for God are worthy of His and our confidence and trust. God's great independent men have molded history, in Church and State.

Later Elijah challenged and rebuked Ahab, called Elisha to take his place, and went soaring into the heavens, while his mantle and double portion fell on Elisha. In the days of Jesus Christ, on the Mount of Transfiguration, Elijah met with Moses and Jesus Christ in a special conference concerning Christ's death and resurrection. I imagine that he forgot all about his battles and abuses from old Ahab and Jezebel on this occasion. He might have remembered about the race he ran away from Jezebel, when tired and worn out, and how God prepared him a special meal which lasted forty days and nights.

Well, young friends, if you are not willing to go the whole way of the cross and wait for your reward at the Resurrection of the Just, you are not fit nor prepared to preach the Gospel of Christ in the face of a frowning world, and a back-sliding church. But take courage, Jesus Christ will soon be here, and we shall follow old Elijah and the Son of God and Man up above the tree tops, where old fashioned "True Holiness" will be popular forever. "The God that answers by FIRE, LET HIM BE GOD." Elijah did not have any furnished parsonage or stipulated salary, but God miraculously provided for his life and health.

Elisha, Elijah's successor, was found plowing 12 yoke of oxen when Elijah passed by and cast his mantle on him. He sacrificed two of his oxen and followed old Elijah until his mantle and double portion fell on him.. Then he went out from the plow handles to challenge men and devils for God and truth. Back through the centuries, God has chosen men and women from all the common walks of life to preach to the masses, "the common people." Divine wisdom, power and might are God's greatest defenses and the devil's greatest foes. Human talent, and wit and wisdom

are good in their place, when under the anointing, but do not take the place of God's great power and glory, fresh from the heart of God. Our great preachers and evangelists have had to depend on God for their wisdom and power, every day and hour.

The great Apostle Paul received his life and commission from Jesus Christ on the Road to Damascus, where God found His man, and His man found God. After his miraculous conversion, he took his post graduate course in the Arabian Desert where he unlearned all his past bias and hatred for Jesus Christ and true Holiness. He returned and went up and down the world proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ, "With the power of the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven." Reversing his former notions, he challenged all types of men and devils, and declared Jesus Christ to be the Son of God. He challenged kings and rulers, traveled on land and sea, prayed the lightening and thunder down on the jail house, made three great missionary journeys, stood before kings and governors, defending himself and his stand for God through Jesus Christ. He was miraculously delivered from mobs, rolling seas, and stone piles, while he wrote over half the books of the New Testament, challenging every false doctrine, then and now; proclaiming the power of the Resurrected Christ to save souls from sin and hell. He went through many great afflictions which demonstrates his love and loyalty to God through Jesus Christ who marvelously and miraculously delivered him from death and destruction. In our language he must have had the "persecution complex" when he testified: "In labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft; of the Jews five times I received forty stripes save one. Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice suffered shipwreck, at night and day have I been in the deep (sea). In journeyings, in PERILS of waters, in perils of robbers, in PERILS by MINE OWN COUNTRYMEN, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in PERILS by the sea, in PERILS by FALSE BRETHREN; in weariness and painfulness, in watchings often. in hunger and thirst, in fastings oft, in cold, and nakedness.

Besides those things which were without, that which cometh upon me daily, every day, the care of all the churches. Who is weak and I am not weak? If I must glory, I will glory in mine infirmities." Later he said, "I will glory in mine infirmities that the POWER OF CHRIST MAY REST UPON ME. Therefore I TAKE PLEASURE in reproaches, in necessities, in persecution, in distress for Christ's sake: for when I am WEAK, then am I STRONG." No wonder he lives on today. How many of us have gone thru such trials? The apostle Paul did not have the "persecution complex", as his enemies said, but he was persecution conscious and God-conscious.

Young friends, you may not have to go through all that Paul went through, but you will have the same devil to battle with, and the more you fight him, the more he will fight back, but God will bless you. But PRAISE GOD, "He is able to keep that which we have committed unto Him against that day." Again persecution not only proves, but IMPROVES our love and loyalty to God. It gives God an opportunity to prove his love and power for and in us, in delivering us from our foes.

We have given you this glimpse of the great prophets and preachers of the Gospel to inspire and inform you that God is able to bless you and make you a blessing, if you heed the call and give God your all.

* * *

How To Recognize Your Call

Now for a few suggestions as to how you may recognize and obey the call of God to His great harvest field which is white unto harvest. "The harvest is great, the labourers are few" and the time is short.

1. First, be sure of your right relationship to God; that your life is completely yielded to God, and that His Spirit dwells within your heart. It is easier to understand God when we are close to Him. If you drift back away from God, your call will become unreal and indefinite. Many who once felt the call, and have backslidden, do not feel it nor God much any more.

If you have drifted away from God and decide to come back to God, you will likely meet the call of God as one of the conditions of His acceptance of you.

2. You must be willing to go or stay, if God is to have His way. Many good Christians have a battle over heeding the call because they do not feel able for the task. None of us are able, but God is able to make us able. The One who calls you, has all wisdom and power. Let Him do it through you. Our weakness gives God an opportunity to manifest and demonstrate his strength and power, in and through us.

3. The devil may tell you that you will be wasting your life in the service of God; but remember that God's call is the highest honor that can come to any soul. When the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, calls you for His ambassador, this is the greatest honor known to man, though we are all unworthy.

If you miss the call of God, your life will be a miserable failure. No one is ever happy and successful outside of the will of God. You must be "Ready to go, ready to stay, ready to do His will."

4. At times your call may be more real than at others. One of my students came to me and said that she was having a battle over whether she was called to be a missionary. I said, "Georgia, how do you feel when you pray about the call?" With tears in her eyes, she said, "I just can't pray unless I am ready and willing to go." I replied, "This is the sure evidence that you are called of God as His missionary."

5. You cannot always listen to your friends and loved ones, unless they live close to God, and are willing to give you up and let you go. Even your Christian friends do not always sense your call. You are the only one to whom God can make it personal and real.

My father wanted me to be a business man; my mother wanted me to be a public school teacher; I wanted to be a lawyer; but God wanted me to be a preacher of the everlasting gospel. I minded and obeyed God, and had all of our dreams fulfilled. My father's dream was fulfilled in that I am a business man, representing the greatest business Firm and business Corporation in the World. It deals in the most valuable and priceless merchandise in this old world, even precious immortal souls. "What shall it profit a man, IF he shall gain the WHOLE WORLD and lose his own soul" and other souls charged to his account? Mother's dreams were fulfilled in my being a

teacher not only in public schools, but many years in Christian schools, training ministers, missionaries and Christian laity for winning souls to Christ. Then my dream of being a lawyer has also been fulfilled in a wonderful way. You say, "How?" Well I have the privilege of representing and pleading for souls at the great throne of Mercy and Grace where all must be tried and pardoned or condemned forever. Well, praise God, it pays to serve Jesus, whatever the cost, in whatever field God may honor and call you. "The harvest is great, the labourers are few" and the time is short, and the reward is eternal.

6. Another indication that you are called to some special field of labour will be that other godly, consecrated people may often recognize your call. Others should be careful not to call others, but should encourage them in every way.

7. Another indication of your call will often be that you have special gifts and talents which help qualify you for such service for God and others. However, this may not always be evident at first. God can give you your talents after your first or second birth, or even later on. Just keep committed and indifferent to every thing but the will of God. "All things work together for good to them that love the LORD and WHO ARE CALLED according to HIS PURPOSE." Do not give up because the devil abuses, accuses and tries to discourage and defeat you. The devil always denies every thing that God says. His accusations and abuses may be an indication that God has called you into His harvest field. All of us seem to fail at times, but if we are true to God, we never fail. "Love never fails." The devil always tells us that we are a great success or failure.

If you have special gifts and talents, qualifying you for your call, be careful not to depend on these, instead of on God. In first Corinthians 13:1-3, we have a record of those who demonstrate their gifts. "Though I speak with the tongues of men and angels, and have not love, I am become as a sounding brass and clanking symbol." The demonstrations of all our human talents are empty and worse than vain without God; but glorious and great, when used of God to His glory and the salvation of souls, and not to our own gain, honor, and promotion.

8. Providential openings and calls for our service may also be an evidence that we are called. However, some times God's servants are cut off from their God-called appointments by men and devils.

The great Apostle Paul said, "I would have come unto you, but satan hath hindered me." There may be times when those to whom you minister may evidence your call by their willing response to your messages and services. However, there are also times when those to whom God sends you, may be dominated by the devil, and oppose what God calls you to preach and do. Backslidden, worldly minded churches will not encourage or tolerate your sound preaching. " For the time will (has) come when men will not ENDURE SOUND DOCTRINE, but will heap to themselves teachers with itching ears." Keep prayed up and obey God, and He will make the way clear, if not always easy.

Let us ill remember that our reward is at the resurrection of the just, "For he had respect unto the recompense of reward." Human praise and honor may be short and empty, but we can succeed without either. We all need God and others, but if God be with you and for you, who can be against you?

When the writer was a small boy, four years old, he was alone over on the brow of the hill, when a holy atmosphere settled down all around him, and he could see multitudes of upturned faces, gazing at him with hungry hearts for the words of life. Too, he could feel the words of truth and life flowing out of his heart, like he has felt many times since, while pouring out the gospel to hungry souls in churches, camp meetings, class rooms, conventions and through the printed pages. This was his definite call to ministry, never to be forgotten or ignored. Yours may not be like his on the outside, but it will be the same on the inside when the Holy Ghost speaks to you in terms recorded in your own conscience and heart.

"Woe is me if I preach not the gospel of Jesus Christ, @ The power of God unto salvation"; but there is a more blessed response than the woe, and that is the joy of being workers together with God in the greatest task known to humanity. If you want to live on after you are dead, LIVE for GOD and OTHERS.

O heed the call one and all,
Whether it be great or small
Let nothing come in between,
For the harvest fields to glean.

When earthly things are all past
With a stormy deadly blast,
Then eternal things will rise,
AS OUR EVERLASTING PRIZE.

The calling to God's work should not be temporary or occasional. Some times under a stirring missionary message, one may feel the powerful impulse of the speaker, creating a desire to pour one's life into the missionary work, particularly the field being discussed and presented. One may be moved by the appeal and need of the field in particular or general, and long to go to that field of service, yet when the appeal dies down, that feeling or temporary impression may die out. God may use such appeals to awaken and call an individual to that great harvest field, but that temporary appeal alone is not sufficient evidence of the call.

As one walks and talks with God in the secret chamber, the call may become more real and personal when all other voices but the voice of the Spirit are still, if God is in it all. The call must become a permanent and a real part of one's life if it is a special, Divine call of God.

If one does not have a sure and certain call from God, when he or she gets on the trying battle field, the inspiration may die out and leave one in discouragement and despair. Another one of my students, in a class in History of Missions, stated that to see the need was sufficient for the call to foreign mission work. Later he went to the foreign field, but soon returned home again. The call must be definite and permanent, with God's sanction and approval.

God can use the most limited and helpless when they are wholly given up to Him. He has all wisdom and power, and can impart it to those yielded to Him. Some one has said, "The world has yet to see what God can do with one who is wholly and completely given up to Him."

The ends of the world are upon us. Any thing can happen any day. Never has there been a time when our young people have so little to look forward to so far as this old world is concerned. The only place of sure service and permanent reward is in the service and kingdom of God and for poor, lost souls.

When the undertaker takes over, and our loved ones and friends look on us, the greatest comfort that can come to them will be that we have given our lives for God and others. All earthly honor and gain is vain and empty, and soon gone.

Doubtless, Jesus Christ is soon coming. Let us "Occupy till He comes," and be faithful to that everlasting kingdom which will ride out over all earthly kingdoms which soon must perish. Those who live for God and others can and will live on, here and in the eternal ages, stretching out ahead of each of us.

"Christ has no hands but our hands
To do His work today;
He has no feet but our feet
To lead men in His way;
He has no tongues but our tongues
To tell men how He died;
He has no help but our help
To bring them to His side."

-- Annie Johnson Flint

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03 -- THE CHOICE OF YOUR LIFE COMPANION

The choice of your life's companion will determine how well your other two choices will work out in the end. When two persons are combined in one flesh, it is very vital and important that they have a kindred and harmonious relationship, with common spirits, goals and destinations. You will need God to help you choose the man or woman who will fit into your life and love, live and work together with you in all kinds of weather. This is why you must first have God's grace, plus His plan, for your life. Only God knows your nature, calling and destiny well enough to select your life companion for you. Your life companion is half of your life. Young friend, you'd better pray, night and day, lest you miss the way.

Then what are some of the things which must be considered in choosing your life's companion?

1. First, you should be a CHRISTIAN, and then choose a Christian companion, if Christ is to protect and direct your life, with all its future problems and work. "Be not unequally yoked together with unbelievers" lest you become an unbeliever again, and lose your soul. Sinners and Christians have very few things in common. One cannot serve God, while the other serves the

devil, and get along together. You will have conflicting natures, objectives, interests and worship. This means a **CONSTANT CONFLICT**, instead of peace and harmony.

In our work and ministry, we have contacted many homes where one was a sinner and the other a Christian. It is not only impossible to have proper relations to a sinner-companion, but it is very difficult to maintain your right relationship with God in an everlasting conflict with God's greatest enemy. Better get saved good, then select a **CHRISTIAN COMPANION**, if you wish to live a happy life in a happy home here, and have a happy home in heaven, after this short life is over.

2. Then, again, next to your life's work, comes your life's companion. This is true in the secular, but especially in Christian work. A minister should never marry one who is not willing to give her life to supporting him in the ministry. Divided interests and occupations hinders, and often mars, the life of both companions.

However, if the wife is willing to be a keeper at home, and cooperate with her husband, she does not need to have a special call for his occupation. There should be a **MUTUAL** understanding. Husband and wife should not keep anything from each other, but love, live and work together for God and others. Where the husband loves, the wife respects, and vice versa. The greatest tragedy of our day is that the hand that **SHOULD** rock the cradle often wrecks the cradle. Young lady, if you are not willing to settle down and keep the home fires burning, you may help keep the hell fires burning before it is over with. Too much money of your own makes it hard for you to be as submissive to your husband as you should be.

There can be only one head of the home, if there is to be peace instead of war. We cannot have more than one head of the home, any more than we can have such in the business world and all other institutions. You may be his counselor, but not his commander. Fine furniture and dresses often bring distresses. Then the common and constant mixture of both sexes, in our public enterprises tends to breed an undue familiarity not good for either sex or companion.

3. Another important thing in choosing your life's companion is their financial standing. Especially, when a poor man marries a rich girl or woman, it will be difficult for him to meet her accustomed demands and keep peace in the home. When you break a custom, you break your neck. Better be sure that the wife is to be willing to step down after the wedding and the honeymoon is over, and live on a lower financial level, and keep the sun of love warm and radiant.

It is not so difficult for a poor girl to marry a wealthier man, for it is easier to step up than down. Both must realize and properly estimate the value of the dollar if "The love of money is not to become the root of all evil." There are many other things more valuable than food and raiment, fine houses and furniture. Lazarus got to heaven from the beggar's den, while Dives went to hell from the palace. "Seek (and put) **FIRST** the **KINGDOM OF GOD**, and His righteousness and all these **THINGS** shall be added unto you."

4. Another important factor in choosing your life companion is your cultural backgrounds. If one has been brought up in a refined, cultural home, while the other lived on the lower level, it may be difficult for them to have common interests and understandings. However, many

adjustments may be made here, if both parties have higher ideals and objectives. If a cultural, refined person marries an ignoramus, one will have to become cultured, or the other an ignoramus, if they are to live on the in the same plane together.

5. Our age level also has much to do with common realms and understandings. If one is too much older than the other, the younger will have to get old fast, especially when one passes the middle-years, and turns over into the older years, and loses the charms and attractions of previous years. The tie that binds may be broken. Usually, the husband should be the older, but if there is not too much difference, it may not matter much. However, an older man can fit into the life of a younger woman far better than an old woman can fit into the life of a young man. It has been said "it is better to be an old man's darling than a young man's slave," but it is better to be "Workers together" in all kinds of weather.

6. The complexion may have some, but not too much significance. An extremely fair complexioned person should marry one of the other extreme, if the features of their children are not to be extreme. Especially two of one extreme complexion should not usually marry each other, "unless the Lord is in it."

7. Then those of extreme stature, one very low and the other very high, might not look like those of the same human family. A giant and a dwarf might not be able to keep pace in their family race. A short man should usually not marry a tall woman unless he "wants to look up" to her. Tall men usually ride out over short men in most of life's races, though they do not always deserve it.

8. Church relationships should be considered in matrimony. It is best for both to belong to the same church, if their family and religious interests are not to be divided. Especially if their church relations are far apart in doctrines, rituals, etc. Above all things a Protestant should NEVER marry a Catholic, unless they want to change over and worship the priest instead of God. It would help if both would get converted before they get married.

When the children grow up and one parent goes to one church, and the other to another, the family is divided and the children may become unbelievers, especially if their parents argue over their religious relations in the home.

In some cases, one may get converted to the true Christian experience after they are married, and have to disagree from their companion for a spiritual atmosphere and sound doctrine. This makes a difficult task, unless the other one becomes converted also. The Christian Companion will have to develop much patience, and be willing to bear whatever reproach comes from the home or opposing church. We must be loyal to God before any church or other human organization, or individual.

9. Those of like or unlike tempers or temperaments should be careful in their selection of life companions. Those of strong wills should not marry another of the same strong will. The times come when some one must yield. The grace of God is an important factor here. Stubbornness should never be practiced in the home. It takes more grace and humility to yield when principle is not violated than it does to contend. Let your companion have the last word. Shooting a stone that cannot be stopped or turned aside, against a wall that cannot be torn down, or shot through, makes

an impossible task -- explosion. There are times when all parents and companions must bear with each other. A sissy husband and a mannish wife make both horrible and offensive. Again, only the grace of God is sufficient. Both must know how to yield or stand to save the home.

Once upon a time it was said that a husband said to his wife, "Wife, when you see me coming home from work with my cap pulled down over my left eye, You'd better watch your steps." His wife replied, "Yes, husband, when you come home and see a knot tied in my apron, You'd better watch your steps." Well, one afternoon the husband came home with his cap pulled down over his left eye, and behold, his wife had a knot tied in her apron. You immediately ask, "Well, what happened?" Well what happens over there at your house when both decided to take over and not yield an inch? An explosion, of course! Your children will never forget it here, and may not hereafter. The "Give and take" method will save more homes than the opposite. Let us decide which way is right, and both go that way, regardless of how much it may reflect on our self-will, judgement and personal interests. Each must be willing to ask forgiveness and reverse his or her attitude and stand, when wrong.

10. The great climax in choosing a life's companion is LOVE. Love that never ends, but always blends. Love must be the foundation of the home, flowing from husband and wife to each other, and to their precious children. Never get married for money or lust, or any other selfish interest. Many of the other differences discussed may be adjusted or overlooked where love reigns until none complains. "Love hides a multitude of sins." All want to be loved, but the stream must keep flowing both ways if the home fires keep burning in radiant love, coming down from above.

Love is PATIENT and KIND. Love knows NEITHER envy nor JEALOUSY. Love is not forward and SELF ASSERTIVE, nor boastful and conceited. She does not behave herself UNBECOMINGLY, nor seek to aggrandize herself, nor blaze out in passionate anger, nor BROOD OVER WRONGS. She finds no pleasure in injustices (or unkindnesses) done to others, but joyfully sides with the truth. SHE KNOWS HOW TO BE SILENT (under pressure). She is full of trust, full of hope, full of patient endurance. Love never fails. "And now there remain, faith, hope and love these three, but the greatest of these is love," B Weymouth. A home without love???? A home with love.

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Courtship

My young friends, just a few suggestions about your love affairs before you are married, during your happy courtship days.

1. Be careful in all your relationships one to another, so that if you do not get married, you will not fear to look your lover's future wife or husband in the face and tell them how you once treated their companion. If you do not want others to hug and kiss your companion before you marry him or her, then do not do it to others. In these days of low, lax moral standards, better watch your affections and feelings. Listen: "Keep thyself pure" if you want your love to endure.

2. The length of courtships may vary, but they should never be too short or too long. It may be easy to "fall in love," but not so easy to "fall out." If you make a mistake, make the best of it. You may be disappointed in your lover after the marriage, or she may be disappointed in you, but this is too late to change your minds. Take time to get acquainted before marriage. After marriage, correct your errors and faults which try each other, and live for each other.

3. Be sincere, honest and frank with each other before you are married like you must be after you are married. You may court in your "Sunday clothes" and manners before you are married, but it is a seven days a week and a life time proposition AFTER you are married.

If you desire to know any thing about the past moral records of each other, ask the questions before you are married. It will be too late to do any thing about it AFTERWARD. Then be truthful and frank in your replies to the questions, or you will have to live and die a liar after you are married, or, make confessions which may wreck your home. Do not be too intimate in your sex discussions before marriage. It is best not to discuss previous relations after marriage, unless conscience demands it.

4. Your courtships should not be too long, lest you become overfamiliar, and lose your love for each other. If you wait until you are both set in your ways, the after marriage adjustments may be difficult or impossible. Once upon a time two courted until they were about forty before they got married. Later another young man was courting and wondered how long he should wait to get married. He said, "If any one knows how long our courtship should be before marriage our neighbor who courted until he was forty, should know; I'll ask him." Then he went and asked the man how long one should court before they were married, and the older, now, married man answered, "Well, which ever one you do, you will wish that you had done the other." Living in the valley of indecision too long makes it difficult to make a right and final choice. Besides it robs one of a number of the best years of the married life.

Do not fall or jump in, until you are sure that you should; neither wait so long that you do not know what you want to do. Get well acquainted, then get married, or get out before you fall out. Indecision makes life uncertain and insecure.

5. Of course you should be affectionate, but not indulgent in your courtships. In this loose, lax generation, you must be careful in your relations to the opposite sex, before, and after you are married. Then if you show proper respect for each other BEFORE YOU ARE MARRIED, you will have more love, confidence and respect for each other AFTER YOU ARE MARRIED. The right kind of pure love will make it easy and necessary to respect your lover before marriage. The writer loved his wife so much before their marriage until he would not have blighted her character for any thing in the world.

Then if you have questionable or sinful relations with each other before your marriage, then what if you do not get married? How would you feel in the presence of another who might later love and marry your TEMPORARY sweet heart? If your own later lover and life companion asks you about your former courtships, how would you feel, and what would you say? "Keep thyself pure" if you want to be sure and happy as long as life doth endure. "Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God." Live like God wants you to live and you will have nothing to fear here, or

over there. If you do not respect each other before you are married, you cannot love and trust each other after you are married.

6. You need not wait to get rich before you set married, but it is fine to have a place to live after you get married . However, it is better to live in a rented cottage with one you love, than to live in a mansion with one not loved or appreciated. After marriage, both must live together, and each do his or her part to bear the burdens and enjoy the blessings of life. If you cannot reason with and understand each other before marriage, you cannot get along together after you are married. Let each live for the other, and not for self, and your love will last.

7. From the beginning, the husband must be the head of the house, even as Christ is the head of the church, I Tim. 5:22-33. Every husband should love his wife and be the head of the house, if his wife is to respect and work with him. A sissy man and a mannish woman both are repulsive to the other. The devil tries to reverse and destroy every thing that God has done. That's why women are being pushed into leadership in every realm, while men are being pushed aside and left out. World destruction is soon to prove the folly of this.

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Admonitions To Parents

Parents should advise and council their young people relative to the selection of their life's companion, but should not do the choosing for them. They should win and hold the confidence of their children from their childhood up, so that they will come to them for advice and council in all important matters. Above all else, win them to Christ in their childhood, before they get tied tip with the wrong crowd and companions. Except in EXTREME CASES, parents should never "but in" and forbid their children to court or marry certain persons. After they "fall in love," great caution must be used lest your opposition drive your children into the arms of their lovers.

Many, or most parents, often feel that their own children are better and superior to all other young people, but this is imagination, unless they are far superior to their parents??

We should begin in time to advise our children before they are too much in love. Teach them WHAT KIND OF LOVERS that they should seek and marry, BEFORE THEY FALL IN LOVE. Never tease children about their "sweethearts" until they are old enough to get married. They may court or marry too young.

If they decide to marry against your own advice and council, except in very extreme cases, always attend the wedding ceremonies. Then after the wedding take them into your lives and confidence, and make them feel welcome in your hearts and homes. This is the only way to turn them in the right direction for your own child's protection. Never drive your own children out of your homes because they married the "wrong person." Do not indorse their wrong principles or conduct, but seek to win them to Christ.

Soon after they are married, they should be encouraged to move out into their own homes, and run their own affairs. There is not room enough in any home for two families, especially kinsfolk.

Then do not meddle in the affairs of your "in-laws," lest you make them "outlaws." Be very cautious in taking sides, if your children have difficulties in getting along with their companions. It is easy to let your sympathies run away with you and your children. Never make a final decision until you give both sides a chance to state their side of the issue. Let both be present, and do your best to help them understand, love and allow for each other. "Blessed are the peacemakers." Keep them out of the divorce court by all means. Fast and pray for them and lead them to Christ by all means.

Do not meddle in the affairs of your grandchildren. Let your children raise their own children like you did. In extreme cases, you might make kindly suggestions, but never give orders or commands.

Grandma, do not let your SOFT sympathies run away with you in dealing with your GRAND children. Grandparents should never but in when parents are disciplining their children. The great danger has always been in being too easy on children. The grandchildren might not be so GRAND after all, especially if they take after or resemble their grandparents?

We have heard many older people express their appreciation for the strict discipline of their parents in bringing them up; but we NEVER heard any one express their appreciation that their parents were soft, easy and lax on them when children.

"Attend to your own business and let every one's else alone,"and you will have plenty to do.

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04 -- CONCLUSION

Nothing is more wonderful than to have made the right choice, and to have become a true Christian in the early years. This decides and determines how all your other life choices, conduct and relations will turn out, here and hereafter. It saves the terrible risk of losing your own soul, and wasting your life in sin, and the dragging of others down to eternal sorrow where there is no glad tomorrow. How wonderful to live a godly life from your own childhood, and be an honor and blessing to your home and all others.

Then to find the will and plan of God for your life, and live a happy and useful and successful life for God and others, and to lay up treasures in heaven, and meet your record there without fear, how wonderful.

Then added to all this, to marry a godly companion and have a happy home on earth, surpassed only by and in the one in heaven, and have a family reunion in heaven without the loss of

one. Then to leave behind a clean record and influence that will live on after you are gone. Only the life lived for Christ will last and bring an eternal reward, where life is eternal.

Let us live so here that we shall be glad to live that way forever.

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THE END