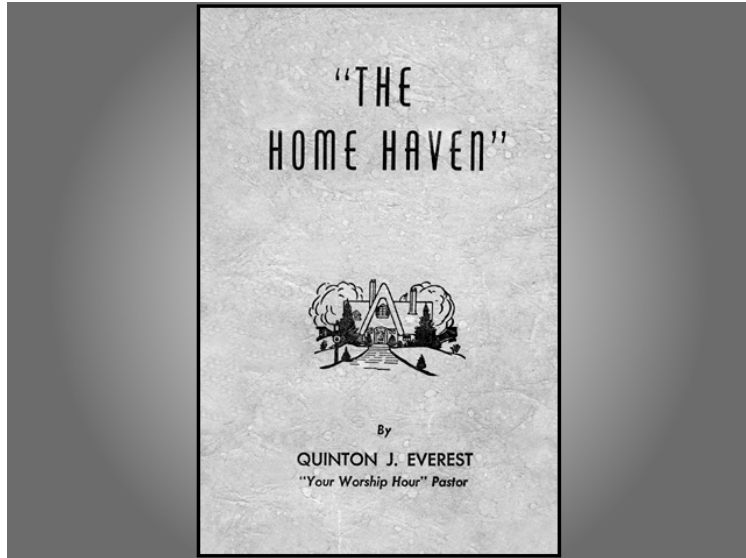


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**THE HOME HAVEN
By Quinton J. Everest**



Messages For May 9 -- Through June 27, 1948

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A MESSAGE TO YOU

Dear Worship Hour Friend:

Greetings in Jesus' name! Once again we consider it our privilege to present God's message to the many thousands who tune in to the Worship Hour broadcasts each Sunday.

The sermons contained in this book are those which we delivered during the months of May and June. We are grateful to God for His seal upon the preached word. It is our prayer that not only individual lives will be saved and ennobled but that homes will be spiritually enriched. If you as a listener consider that the Worship Hour broadcasts are worth-while and if you desire their continuation, we are asking a special interest in your prayers that God will provide all that is needed to sustain them.

Our needs continue to be great, but we are also conscious of the fact that we have a great God, and we are trusting in Him to carry us through to real victory.

May God's richest blessings be your portion, and may the messages of this book be spiritual refreshment and strength to your life.

Your Worship Hour Pastor,
Quinton J. Everest

* * * * *

01 -- THE HOME HAVEN

Daily we are reminded that we are living in a world of increasing wickedness. The hardness of the hardhearted seems to be increasing. The selfishness of the selfish abounds. The greed of the greedy becomes more pronounced. The wicked are becoming more wicked. Crime, divorce, adultery, drunkenness, dishonesty, parental and juvenile delinquency, disobedience and disrespect for all authority -- these and much more have become putrefying sores from which few seem to desire healing.

We have the FBI, highly organized police forces, multiplied laws, courts, judges, juries, prisons, penitentiaries, and electric chairs, but wickedness continues to abound.

We have higher education, modernized travel, intricate but efficient machinery, beautifully-designed and well-built buildings; we know how to make soil more productive the beauty of the flower is increased, and yet our greatest problems remain unsolved. We have tried to cope with the situation through the government, through our schools, our libraries, our hospitals, our modern factories, our art galleries, and our social centers, but all of this merely Spells failure. We must start with the home. That is where God started, and it is the only point, place, organization, and citadel from which we can work that will give the desired results.

All of life which is beautiful and useful has started in the home. The source of all valued activity can be traced to the hallowed walls of home. The roots of state and civil government can be traced to the home haven. The whole school scheme began in the home. I doubt if any finer school work has ever been done than that which was produced within the haven of home. It was in the little corner library of the home where great mental powers and moral characters were produced. Such characters will never be produced from the cheap, shallow, sexy magazines and papers of our day. I am truly grateful for the skilled brain and hand in the hospitals of our day, but the earliest hospital was in the home, and in many respects, the true home atmosphere can never be superseded for the comfort and recovery of the afflicted. Even our greatest manufacturing plants owe their existence to simple home beginnings. It is also interesting to note that even the beginnings of army and navy can be traced directly to the hearth-fire. The modern social club originally was a home affair, but it certainly has become a far-wandering prodigal, both in character and in location. Surely we can say that the world owes a great debt to the home. It has been the haven and the beginning of every worth-while form, organization, and advance of life; yet the true home spirit, the true home ideals, and the true home sanctuary were never more in danger of being swept away than at present.

Defined

If the Home Haven be destroyed, what will the people and the nations do? My friends, there is nothing to do. The inevitable result will be sin, judgment, and Hell. Thank God for the homes that are still Heavenly Havens here on this earth. A haven is a place of safety. No greater safety can be given to the rising generation than that of a God-owned, Christ-centered, and Holy Spirit-directed home. Absolutely nothing can replace the home with father and mother living together with their children, tender in their love, pure in their lives, strong in their convictions, simple and orderly in their habits, and unswerving in their devotion to Christ and His Word. They can do infinitely more than presidents, governors, legislators, educators, and clergymen in making a nation strong and secure. We must remember, however, that while it is strengthening to the nation and enriching to the institutions and life of

society, yet the home exerts its first and greatest influence personally. Its sweetness, its wealth, and its fragrance are for those who dwell within its walls. It is the holy of holies where we shut ourselves in from all the world. The world is cold, strength-sapping and full of strife, but here is a haven to which we can come to warm ourselves by love's fires and have strength renewed in love's atmosphere of faith and confidence. Every morning it is the starting point for our errands in the world, and in the evening, it is the returning and re-tiring place for the nourishing of life afresh.

Detailed

The man and woman who have been financially successful may be able to purchase or build a beautiful house on a fine plot of ground in a beautiful location. This is all very fine. It is commendable to see husband and wife working together harmoniously to provide a beautiful and comfortable material haven. Careful, prayerful, and cooperative Christian stewardship in reference to property, money, and all material things will make for a happy and successful home. However, since this is a day of multiplied modern conveniences, many need to be cautioned against making obligations beyond that of the family income. Every family should plan their living within the margin of income, no matter how small it may be. An undue financial strain because of too many monthly payments can soon jeopardize the happiness and security of the home. United prayer and intelligent agreement on these matters will be of untold value.

If a home is to be a happy haven, consideration must also be given to the physical well-being of the occupants. This is too frequently overlooked. However, there is also the possibility of being too careful and becoming a house-plant. There are many today who sleep and work intemperately and who engage in a constant whirl of social activities and then wonder why their nerves are jaded. They are always on edge and seem about nine-tenths "put out" at every one. Husband and wife should see that health is maintained or they are likely to be yelling at each other under the slightest provocation. Children should be properly cared for and supervised in their eating, sleeping, working, and playing. In too many homes, the cat and dog receive more attention than the children. If parents take no interest in their children and permit them to go and do as they please, the harvest is sure to be "wild oats." To be sure, sickness is almost sure to come sometime, but when it does, the home should be the greatest and most loved haven to effect a restoration to health. The home that is Christian will not only find comfort and assistance in consulting a doctor, but they will find many promises in God's Word which will produce faith in Christ as the Healer for our physical diseases. We should remember that God has created these bodies, and He is more interested in their well-being than what we realize. What a wonderful thing good health is -- it brings sunshine, cheerfulness, happiness, and hopefulness into the Home Haven.

Another inescapable factor is the social phase of the home. This is being sadly neglected in numberless American homes. In too many instances, home has

become a place to change clothes, take a bath, and drink a cup of coffee or a bottle of beer. Hurry home from work, then hurry to the dressing chamber, then gulp a cup of coffee, and the remainder of the evening is spent in a club house, dance hall, beer joint, gambling den, movie house, or in some other place far less beneficial and refreshing than a well-planned evening at home where there could be pure air, constructive conversation, inspirational games, music, and a season of Bible Reading and prayer before retiring. All of our present-day recreational facilities, pleasure houses, and resorts will never be able to provide the social atmosphere that should be given by the home. In trying to provide community pastimes in community buildings, schools, and dance centers for our juvenile youth, we are only grabbing the lion by the tail and causing him to become more aggravated and much more difficult to handle.

In many places, I find that pastors and parents are trying to solve the social and juvenile delinquency problem by making a playhouse out of the church. The dance, movies, and questionable social, gathering are brought in. They say it is better to have the young people in the church than out in the world. My friends, this only means that instead of telling our young people to go to the devil, we are bringing the devil to them and are also causing them to lose respect for God, His Word, and His house. The devil is just as diabolical in church as he is in a beer joint or a gambling den. It seems with all, of our higher education and added information, we are being more and more blinded and duped by Satan. Let's keep the church the sanctuary of God. Let us also steer clear of all the worldly allurements and entanglements of Satan, and let's get back to making the home the first, most important, and most interesting social center. We deeply deplore present-day conditions, but never, never will there be a solution until we give careful and prayerful attention to the social phase of the home circle.

Home should also and always be a spiritual haven. Parents should see to it that the whole home atmosphere is spiritually uplifting. There should be the daily Bible reading and prayer and thanks returned at every meal. Why don't you parents establish or re-establish an altar in your home? You cheat yourselves and your children of great blessing, protection, and security if you neglect this valuable institution.

"If every home were an altar,
Where the holiest vows were paid,
And life's best gifts in sacrament
Of purest love were laid;

"If every home were an altar,
Where harsh and angry thought
Were cast -- for kindly one
And true forgiveness sought;

"If every home were an altar,

Where hearts weighed down with care
Could find sustaining strength and grace
In sweet uplift and prayer;

"Then solved would be earth's problems,
Banished sin's curse and blight,
For God's own love would radiate
From every altar light."

Attention should also be given to pictures and mottoes on the walls. Proper, pure, elevating, and interesting matter should be selected. Not every type of music should find its way to the piano. A good, spiritual church where the whole Bible is preached, where the New Birth and the Spirit-filled life are strongly emphasized should be regularly attended. If parents have a love for God, His house, and His Word, there will be little difficulty in keeping the children interested.

Results

Such a Home Haven, with Christ at the center, directing all of its affairs and activities will be a place of love. Hard places in life will be made softer, and the rough places smoother, problems less difficult, the questions easier, and the burdens lighter. Selfishness will be banished, and

Christ will be The Head of the house,
The unseen guest at every meal,
And the silent listener to every conversation.

Neither husband, wife, parents, or children should be too selfish and proud to say, "Please forgive me; I am sorry." Some folks should think, not twice, but many times before they speak. Disloyalty will be unknown. Marriage vows that were taken in the presence of God and witnesses will be kept. Sympathetic understanding will be constantly applied. It will be the oil that will take you speedily over the ups and downs along the path of life. Loving obedience will grace this home, and the occupants will find it easier to obey the rules of school, nation, and church. Consistent Christian living will be the endeavor of each one. I ask you, do the members of your family have confidence in your profession and testimony? They may not read the Bible, but they are daily reading your life.

Yes, my friends, it takes more than a house to make a home. It may be either a palace or a cabin, but if it is Christian, it will be the nearest thing on earth to Heaven. May God grant that every one of you will put forth every effort to have a truly Christian home, thus providing for you and yours a haven of love, happiness, and security amid all the wickedness and turmoil of the day.

After the funeral, of an elderly woman who had been left a widow early in life, a neighbor asked the oldest of six sons, "How did she do it?" He took her to his

mother's room and pointed to an old chair and rug. Two dents were plainly seen in the rug where the mother had knelt to pray every day for years. "Prayer is the secret," he said. "It is the thing that brought us through every hard place. We boys were wayward at times, but she never stopped praying. Through her earnest prayers and godly influence, she won all of us boys to her Savior."

May God bless you and grant that each one of you will have such an inheritance and such a Home Haven.

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02 -- COURTSHIP

A definition of "court" is: "to seek the affection of, to solicit the hand of, to woo, to seek in marriage." Courtship therefore signifies the series of attentions in which the affections are sought. It has a deeper meaning than is expressed in "keeping company." More happiness or misery is involved in the procedure and consummation of courtship and marriage than any other thing in human existence. Someone has said, "We should never be in haste, for if we are, we may have to repent at leisure." There are a great many individuals who give less thought to a life companion than they do in selecting an automobile, purchasing office equipment, or buying a home. They want an automobile that is going to be durable, dependable, and that wears well and looks well. They want to buy a home that is well, located, comfortable, and that will stand the wear and tear of storms and weather for years. Material things are carefully and considerately attended to, and they should be, but in many instances, people have the idea that they are falling in love in a moment's time at first sight and then in record-breaking time, marriage is performed, only to discover in a few days or weeks that a grave mistake has been made. There may be a few who continue on quietly, keeping their disappointment a secret and say nothing about it, even though their life may be one of disappointment and misery, but there are countless numbers of others who hasten to the divorce courts for a separation, thus bringing upon themselves, their friends, and upon society in general added disgrace and also breaking the laws of God. In these days, we discover that in all too many instances, marriage is being treated with tragic lightness. Newspapers, magazines, the movies, and in many social realms, the subject of marriage has been made a huge joke. This is leaving the wrong impression upon the youth of the day and is producing tragic results. Many have the idea that, "We'll give it a trial today and terminate it tomorrow if it doesn't work."

In view of the careless atmosphere of the present day and of the snares and pitfalls that are placed in the way, certainly due attention needs to be given to these matters during the days of courtship. Many marriages have gone on the rocks simply because proper consideration and conduct was absent in the very earliest days.

God Intended

In the first place, I want to call your attention to the fact that courtship is God-intended. Every normal human being has a natural sense of incompleteness, a feeling of the need of someone to complement life, someone to discover the hidden possibilities of the soul and make life whole. There is a universal hunger on the part of man and woman for a mate. There is little else that ennobles life as does the love of one individual for another. It quickens the intellect, awakens ambition, and fortifies against temptation. Young people, if you would redouble your strength and usefulness in life, see to it that your life is fortified by a pure, sincere, God-directed love. If you want to climb to the highest of which you are capable, choose a mate that will help and not hinder. This desire for courtship is not exclusive in any one land; it is native to all lands and individuals who are normal. It comes to the king with all of his gilded valuables and decorations and also to the commoner with the barrenness of his floor and the spareness of his fare. Regardless of outward circumstances, there is a desire in the heart for friendship and courtship that springs into action and results in gladness, grace, inspiration, and action. If it is genuine, neither wealth nor luxury can successfully woo it. Neither can poverty, sickness or slander hinder it. It is the desire that God has placed in the heart of man that will never be satisfied until it finds its fulfillment in the proper choice of a mate.

The courtship of genuine love has been badly crowded and pushed around by much that is insincere. In the minds of men, it has been so terribly mixed up with bad things that men constantly confuse them and call the questionable things by the fine name of the genuine. Sacred things and sacred words of life have been so badly, maliciously, and thievishly stolen in these days and used for labels on bad stuff that many are having difficulty in discovering the genuine and discarding the counterfeit. It is highly important that the youth of our day keep their eyes keenly open so as not to get the real thing and their imitations confused. What a sad thing it is that the devil has been allowed to take the sacred things of life home, church, and Heaven -- and pervert them so as to cause men to deal carelessly, irreverently, wickedly, and even immorally with the most lovely, sacred, and spiritual things of life. What a wonderful thing it is to be saved, sanctified, anchored in the Word of God, and Spirit-directed so that the sacred and intimate things of life still have for us a depth, height, and breadth of meaning. Only the power of God in the heart and mind of an individual can save us from the cheap, clap-trap, thoughtless, vile; and rotten thinking and acting of the present day. From the standpoint of Scripture, and considering the God-implanted desires of the human heart, we conclude that God intended that there should be a courtship period and that it can be beautiful, beneficial, and exceedingly blessed.

God-Directed

Secondly, we note that this God-intended courtship should be God-directed. What a beautiful thing it is to see it fully Christian. It is a generally known and accepted fact that non-Christian people as a whole encounter more unhappiness in courtship and marriage than those to whom Christ has become a reality. If every

young person would become a Christian and seek divine guidance in his love affairs, we would soon have a transformed world. Rather than this, we seem to be living in a generation of modernistic thought and thoughtlessness where everything seems to be turning to "hip, hurray, and jazz," the jazz spirit, the jazz atmosphere, and ending in jaded nerves, and unless something is done about it, the judgment of eternal fire. If you want a life of heartaches and disappointments that will end in despair, select your courtship companion and your future mate from the cigarette-clouded atmosphere of a dance hall or amid the cursings and revelings of the beer joint or at the playhouse of the devil where lewd pictures are shown and where God-given desires and passions become perverted. The very spirit of the age seems to be to throw off all restraints and run the course of sin. Men have set themselves against God and become slaves to base appetites and gross passions.

The world is going jazz crazy. They tell us that jazz is syncopated music; it is two rhythms, two emotions, and two melodies, if you can call them that-one superimposed on the other. It is very difficult to describe, but if you had a long rope stretched across the room and then would take hold of one end and shake it, you would see it run in waves all the way across the room. Then if you could superimpose another series of waves upon the first one, that would be a jazz motion. You have a bump, a hump, and a thump -- that's the thing that makes confusion. That pretty well describes the lives of a great many people today. They are superimposing a perverted life upon the desire for a normal life, which causes them to miss the true rhythm of living, and as a result, into our ears comes the expression of a medley of demons, all scrambled into noise and confusion. May God grant that there shall come to our young people a deliverance from the honeyed tones of love that mean only the foulness of an evil lust. Social aspects of riotous and careless living in courtship days need to be avoided.

Someone has illustrated the spirit of the age in the following story. Twenty or thirty years ago when a gentleman asked a lady to marry him, she replied, "You do me a very great honor, sir."

When he said, "When, my dear, will you give me the privilege of calling you my wife?" she answered, "Not for a year or a year and a half."

When they went to the minister to get married, he asked, "Do you take this man for your lawfully wedded husband?" and with a deep sense of God, she replied, "I do."

But today, the boy looks into the girl's face and says, "Kid, will you marry me?" And today she answers, "I'll tell the world I will." He inquires, "When shall it be?" and she responds, "Step on the gas, and let 'er go."

When she stands before the minister, and he says, "Do you take this man to be your lawfully wedded husband, she says, "You said a mouthful, parson." You may think that a bit exaggerated, but I fear that it is not. As a minister, I have had a

great many couples come to my home in the very same attitude, even though it wasn't expressed in the same words. I could tell by looking at them that their lives had already been perverted and ruined by the devil. They had no serious thoughts for the future -- not the slightest idea of trying to make marriage a real success and a union for happiness and blessedness. You knew by their attitude, their flippancy, and frivolity that unless they were arrested by the grace and the power of God, they would soon be entirely disillusioned and destroyed.

This is a grave day for young people, but if they will stop in the midst of the crowd and confusion and listen for the voice of God, they will hear it and be filled with a sense of holiness and happiness instead of the despair and defeat of sin and Satan. God's advice and my advice to you young people is to choose mates who have respect and not contempt for sacred things. Spiritual fitness is the only guarantee for happiness before marriage and is the only thing that will prevent matrimonial disintegration.

"Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?" II Corinthians 6:14.

Girls especially get the foolish idea that they can reform a man by marrying him. Instead of the man being reformed, he oftentimes pulls her down to his standards, and she is soon living in sin with him. If he will not become a Christian and attend Church with you regularly before you are married, it is very doubtful if he will do it afterwards. The best time to make either the young man or the young lady prove themselves is before the wedding ceremony is performed. If the courtship period is God-directed, love will be kept on its proper plane. Undue familiarity will not be tolerated. Moral standards will be maintained. The young person who has been in the habit of making an immoral offering on every wayside altar should be avoided. The youth who has not disciplined his or her desires to conform to the standards of decency, chastity, and high morality is unworthy of your company and fellowship. You will find such an one to be incapable of that persistence of love that you will find so necessary later in life. Some people would have made just as good selection of a life companion if they would have been playing "Blind Man's Bluff" as the one whom they did court and marry. Someone has said, "A courting individual is like a new-born puppy who doesn't have his eyes open yet, but a nine days' exposure to matrimony will render him that service, and then he may raise a howl that will turn a dwelling place into a kennel instead of a home." There may be a bit of pleasantries in that, but there is also much truth in it. To be sure, you need not expect perfection in the one you are courting and expecting to marry, for you will not be able to give that much in return, but the matter should at least be given your very best consideration under the direction of God Almighty. What a wonderful thing it is to see young people praying about these matters and seeking the guidance of God. When there is recognition of God and when there is true love one for the other, no other relationship can be so beautifully, normally, naturally, and eternally complete. Such a courtship period will consummate in the human

institution that is the most ancient and honorable. It is the keystone of human families which become the pillars of society.

Young man, young lady, if you want to be happy, and if you want your life to be a worthwhile blessing in the future, don't fall, in love with merely curly hair, beautiful clothes, money, surface allurements, and mere sex appeal. Again, I say, if your first associations are God-directed, your disappointments will be lessened and your joys heightened.

God-Consummated

Finally, let me say that a God-intended and God-directed courtship period will be consummated with the smile and approval of the Almighty. God will be recognized in the plans that are being made for marriage; the ceremony will be a happy and a sacred hour. In all the phases of life -- materially, physically, morally, and spiritually -- God's unerring hand will, be coveted. Children that are born will be prayed for, prayed with, and properly instructed. Just another family will have been brought into existence which will be a blessing and a benediction to the community-yea, even to the world!

May God bless and help every one of you in these momentous days to keep your hearts, minds, and lives entirely and unreservedly yielded to the Christ of God.

* * * * *

03 -- THE HOME HAVEN THREATENED

"But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, And knew not, until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be," Matthew 24:37-39.

Do you realize, my friends, that one-third of America's homes (not houses, but homes), are not going on the rocks, but are already on the rocks? One out of every three marriages in this supposed-to-be Christian country ends in the divorce courts. Even though this is true, there seems to be very little serious concern and consideration given to this alarming condition. In the last sixty years the population of our country increased only 300 percent. Marriages increased 400 percent, while divorces increased 2,000 percent. The last several years we have been averaging one divorce every two minutes.

A few years ago Walter L. Wang in the Lutheran Church Herald stated that "The United States granted twice as many divorces during the last thirty-five years as all the rest of Christendom combined." Surely this is a black mark on the

present-day American life. The tragedy is that our divorce mills are being fed at an ever-increasing and alarming rate of speed and volume.

In our text Jesus states that one of the signs of the last days will be "eating, drinking, marrying, and giving in marriage." Surely these conditions are upon us today. People get married today; they lust for a change and apply for a divorce tomorrow. The devil has succeeded in popularizing divorce until it is little less than legalized prostitution. He knows the home is important and is therefore making tremendous onslaughts against it. The chief characteristics of the age of Sodom and Gomorrah and that of Noah are upon us again today. God says of their time, "the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth," Genesis 8:21.

Conditions in our schools, factories, movies, and magazine stands testify undeniably and accusingly of the low, vile, sensuous, and lustful imaginations of men. Our homes are being seriously undermined by these forces of man and the devil. Children are made to suffer; the morals of the nation are becoming a rotting, ill-smelling mess. The very fiber and foundation is crumbling because the Home Haven is seriously threatened with the increasing divorce menace.

God's Plan

We have come to the place where we are badly and woefully in need of some clear teaching from God's Word on the subjects of marriage, divorce, and adultery. Men need to be reminded that they cannot violate God's laws without bringing His judgments upon them.

First, let me say that marriage dates back to the beginning of time. It was God's plan to create a human family. This He did by creating Adam and Eve and commanding them to multiply and replenish the earth. Genesis 1:27 says:

"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them."

In Chapter 2, verse 24, we read:

"Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh."

Going over to the New Testament, in Mark's Gospel, Chapter ten, the Pharisees came to Jesus and asked if it was lawful for a man to put away his wife. Some of them were trying to find a loop-hole for a divorce and stated that, "Moses suffered to write a bill of divorcement, and to put her away," verse 4.

Jesus immediately answered their statement by saying, "For the hardness of your heart he wrote you this precept."

Immediately Jesus takes them back, behind their interpretation, and even behind the word of Moses himself and the whole Hebrew economy, to the original and fundamental plan and purpose of God. He takes them to the beginning of creation. He ignores the state of society in which they were then living; He refuses to condone the conditions of Moses' day. He disregards all the excuses and provisions of carnal, sinful men and says, "From the beginning of the creation God made them male and female," Mark 10:6.

You hear volumes of discussion on divorce today, but men do not begin where Jesus did. Very few would have reason for divorce if they would unquestionably accept God's Word. Jesus goes on to say:

"For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother and cleave to his wife; (That is, he leaves the nearest and dearest he has ever known, father and mother, for the nearer and dearer than they) and they twain shall be one flesh: so then they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together let not man put asunder."

This is a very definite statement that humanity is not represented in man, or woman, but in their union. It is by this union that the Divine Purposes are fulfilled. Therefore where the fundamental laws of God are set aside and disobeyed, there is sure to follow a trail of immorality, degradation, and destruction. Any people or nation which forgets the divine ordinance of marriage, and what it means, will come to ruin, in spite of all its strength in other things. It cannot be too impressively stated that right now the professing church of God needs to come back to Christ's teaching on the subject of marriage and divorce. We need to face it squarely, obey and teach God's Word clearly and implicitly. By so doing, she will act in the interest of the human race.

The Apostle Paul in Ephesians 5 also recognizes marriage as an ordinance of God which is to be reverently respected. He speaks of it as a symbol, of the sacred union between Christ and the church in the Covenant of Grace. The original purpose of God; the teaching of Jesus; the teaching of the Apostle and of the Word in general certainly should be sufficient to enlighten those who are willing to be taught.

According to God's Word, the most serious, responsible, and far-reaching contract into which men and women can enter is that of marriage. They take their vows in the sight of God and human witnesses. They bind themselves by oath, which, when taken, is understood to be binding and inviolable. They pledge themselves to constancy, permanency, and mutual purity. According to God's Word, it should be understood that the marriage contract involves children, homes, society, and even the state. Since this is true the man or woman who enters into the marriage relation and then violates it by immoral relations and divorce, has laid his hand on the foundations of the most sacred things in human life and has become a partner in the greatest moral and social crime possible.

It must then be said definitely and distinctly that there is to be no severance of the marriage ties. The mutuality of the contract, the approval and record of society and the declaration of God,

"What God hath joined together, let not man put asunder," makes marriage permanent. There is only one reason for the disannulment of the marriage tie and that is something far more terrible than death; namely) adultery or fornication. The Word of God recognizes but one ground for divorce. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus says:

"Whosoever shall put ,away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery: ,and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery," Matthew 5:32.

In the case of divorce under such circumstances, there can be no scriptural remarriage for the guilty person. This may seem a bit dogmatic to many in these days of looseness and laxness, but it is high time we get back to the Word of God if we want to enjoy the blessings of a Christian nation.

Man's Perversion

In spite of all God's clear and plain teaching on this subject, there are multiplied thousands who are defying God and breaking His laws. They speak of American freedom, laugh at Biblical restraints of marriage, and plunge headlong into the cesspool of unrestrained immorality.

In Jesus' day every kind of impropriety, such as a woman going about with loose hair, spinning in the street, pleasantly talking with men, ill-treating her husband's parents, talking too loudly, and other such nonsensical things were reason enough for divorce. The very question which we considered a moment ago, which the Pharisees put to Jesus, revealed the laxity of that age. There is today a prevailing notion that incompatibility of temperament is sufficient reason for divorce. Lately I have been quite carefully noting the divorce and marriage column in our daily paper.

Averaging it for the past few weeks, there have been practically the same number of divorces as marriages. Nearly all the divorces are secured on the grounds of Cruelty. Surely, cruel, wives, and more especially cruel husbands, have been increasing at a rapid rate the last few years if we are to believe this. Anyone who is half awake and who has an ounce of brains realizes that the stated reason is not the correct one.

If the true facts were revealed, it would be found that as the result of a dance, a game of cards, a drink at the night club, the breaking down of ideals by a rotten movie or wrong associations and relations at the office or factory, have really

started the ball roiling. Some husband or wife began to make comparisons with someone else's husband or wife, and the trouble started, which if not checked, ends in the divorce court.

Filthy fiction in which the marriage relation is treated with amused pity, and where adultery and divorce are excused, if not defended, is contributing to present-day conditions. Such literature is the most pernicious prostitution conceivable of the present-day press.

It is estimated that there are now more than two million divorced persons in the nation. Every four years, at the current rate, a million persons are divorced. The rate is continually increasing.

There was a decided augmentation in divorces during the 1920's, and people said, "Prosperity is to blame for the increase." Then, during the 1930's the divorce rate continued to climb and the "wiseacres" said, "Poverty is feeding the divorce mills." Now we have so-called post-war prosperity, and they are saying, "This is the cause of divorce, moral filth, and stench." We come much nearer the truth -- in fact we hit the nail on the head when we say that "our sins and our neglect of God account for our present-day domestic, political, religious, national, and international troubles. We have sown the wind, and we are reaping the whirlwind. At the present rate of increase in the number of divorces each year, half the marriages will end in the divorce courts in a very few years.

It is the eleventh hour for us to lift our voices of protest against this terrible home-threatening and home-blasting evil. Instead of making it easier to secure a divorce, we need to make it next to impossible. It is time we preachers teach the people that tragedy, heartache, and blasted homes follow divorce. Our churches need to return to the clear truths of the Bible and take a firm stand against this growing, destructive evil. Unless something unusual takes place, many homes that now seem quite safe will in five years be blown to bits by this diabolical divorce evil. If your home is being threatened, I plead with you to hasten to the haven of forgiveness, restoration, unification, love, and joy. Thank God for a Christ Who is able not only to change and transform your life, making you a new creature in Christ, but Who is also able to make your home a little foretaste of Heaven.

The sacredness of fatherhood, motherhood, and childhood meet in the divine institution of marriage. Whenever this sacred relationship is violated and set aside by divorce, there are disastrous results in the individual life, in the home, in society, in the nation, and in the universe of God. The results in every way are indeed heartbreaking. There is no more heartbreaking announcement in the newspaper than that which declares that in the granting of a divorce, the charge of the children has been given to one parent. Such children have been given the splendid opportunity of growing up in the world to be criminals, moral perverts, and God-haters. Therein, my friends, lies the destruction of the family after the divine pattern, and the present-day, increasing sin that leads to it is indeed terrible.

The Penalty

Oh, that the youth and the fathers and mothers of America could realize that the greatness of a people and a nation depends upon the purity and strength of the people. In every nation where the marriage relation is violated with impunity, the virus of death will surely and certainly do its work. The lurid lights flashing from Greece, Rome, France, and others are a testimony to this. God's Word is true when it says: "Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people," Proverbs 14:34.

Finality, let me say that not only are there social and physical disorders of every kind where the divorce evil prevails, But this sin, if not confessed,. shuts the gate of God's Heaven. Revelation 21:8 -- "But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death."

And again it is written: "For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie."

The picture is surely dark, but I want to say in closing that there is forgiveness for those who have been caught by the snares of Satan. Bartered virtue can never be recovered, but with God there is forgiveness. The penalty of this terrible sin has been paid in the broken body of Christ on Calvary. Jesus Himself while here on earth forgave those who were guilty and, my friend, He will forgive you if you will let Him. I am also glad to tell. you that there is not only forgiveness, but God can give you power to overcome in time of temptation.

Young people, I admonish you to live clean and If you are not a Christian -- accept Christ. Choose Christian companions. God's Word forbids your marrying an unbeliever.

Parents, see that your home is genuinely Christian and give your children the very best influence and example possible. Let us unite our interest, our efforts, and our prayers for the preservation of America's Home Haven.

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04 -- THE HOME HAVEN THREATENED (CONTINUED)

"If the foundations be destroyed," Psalm 11:3.

For my text, I am taking a few words from Psalm 11:3 which state "If the foundations be destroyed."

The Psalmist continues by asking, "what can the righteous do?"

Today, we do well to ask the question, "If the foundations be destroyed, what will happen to America?" Here is one foundation stone which, if not properly preserved, will cause the whole house of humanity to crumble and tumble. This foundation stone is the home. Last Sunday, I mentioned the fact that the home is being seriously threatened by divorce. Today I am calling your attention to a few other things that seriously threaten the American home.

Drunkenness

One of the outstanding battering rams which is causing home disintegration is drunkenness. Looking at America with her homes, churches, schools, business, government, vast land areas, wealth and material possessions, and then looking at her rapidly mounting sin of drunkenness, we wonder just how long God will put up with such indifference and defying attitudes and acts. Righteousness exalted Israel, and sin destroyed her. Righteousness also exalted America, and if she is ever destroyed, it will be due to her sin.

The same sins that had a prominent part in ruining Israel and many other nations are playing the leading role in the destruction of America: namely, liquor and luxury. The whole structure of American life is seriously endangered by the legalized and practically unrestricted liquor traffic of the present hour. Through more than 410,000 retail outlets, this traffic is pouring into its millions of victims over 2,000,000, 000 gallons of alcoholic drinks a year at the rate of 5,000,000 gallons of intoxicants every 24 hours. It is estimated that probably the greater proportion of the 410,000 retail liquor taxpayers are proprietors of taverns. That means two taverns to every church organization, three for every public school, and one tavern for every 75 families. Surely this is a sad commentary on the freedom-loving people of this great nation. Even though God has clearly and emphatically warned men of this life-wrecking, home-destroying, nation-degrading evil; yet they continue their protest by increased indulgence.

There isn't a thing good you can say about liquor and its accompanying results. It degrades men, robs them of purity, dulls the intellect, perverts the passions, robs them of the highest possible blessings and joys and sends them to untimely graves. It robs children of food and clothing, deprives them of the proper education, ruins their bodies, and makes a veritable Hell of what should be a happy home. It causes parents to be unkind and cruel to their children. It causes children to disobey and disregard the parents. It breaks the bond of love that should exist between husband and wife. Many homes are not only being threatened but blasted to destruction by this terrible evil. Remember, my friend, it can destroy your home and drag you into the gutter, but it can never pull you out. It will take the grace and power of God to do that. In the past, this home-destroying fluid was only found in the dark, ill-famed saloon in the back alley and in houses of ill fame. Now it is nicely

bottled and found on the food shelves of our grocery stores and with the medical supplies in drug stores, and so on. It is like putting the white robes and wings of a holy angel on the devil, but even though he appears as an angel of light, he is still the same black-hearted, deceitful-minded, and soul-destroying devil. It makes no difference what the label is and where you find it; it makes no difference who drinks it -- it is the same damnable stuff that will dash your home on the rocks of ruin and destruction. It is financially, socially, physically, nationally, and spiritually destroying.

My friend, listening to me there by your radio, if you are bound and your home is being threatened by this terrible evil, I am glad to tell you that through the power of God and the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ, there is forgiveness and deliverance. There is only one remedy for sin and drunkenness -- not reformation, information, confirmation, or suppression, but the regenerating power of the Lord Jesus Christ which is realized by our faith in Him and in His shed blood.

My prayer is that God will awaken the ignorant, sleeping, spineless mothers and dads in this fair land. With liquor-crazed mothers and dads, what can we expect of the children? We can't blame them when they have not been trained in any higher motive than self-gratification. The failure of parents to serve God faithfully and to abstain from these ruinous things of life are bringing us a terrible harvest of blasted lives, and destroyed homes. The records show that drinking is the chief home-wrecker. Much of the philandering, cheating, two-timing and flirtation among married people begins with an innocent drink of liquor. Almost before you realize it, decency has been thrown to the wind, and the home is destroyed. My friend, if you have been caught in the present liquor whirl, I plead with you to come to Christ -- He can save you; He can deliver you from this evil, and if your home is not entirely destroyed, He can save it for you.

Movies

Still further, we have an invention which has become a tremendous power in destroying the moral fiber of the American homes. The things which should be a blessing to humanity are being captured by Satan and used as monster machines of destruction. This is becoming alarmingly and increasingly true of the moving picture machine. It is not the machine itself, but the way it is used that makes it a machine of moral, mental, and spiritual destruction. It has been scientifically investigated and proved by impartial authorities that motion pictures have become an important contributing factor to moral disaster, juvenile delinquency, and home-disintegration.

Over the national broadcasting network, J. Edgar Hoover said, "Another trend which is again manifesting itself is the tendency on the part of some motion picture producers to return to the formula which glorifies the criminal, and ridicules the law-enforcement officer. This, combined with the gross distortion of historical facts indulged in by certain segments of the motion picture industry should receive the

serious thought of the mothers and fathers of this nation. You know how much damage such pictures can do in warping the impressionable minds of our American youth. Whenever any force seeks to glorify gangsterism and prostitute history, then it is time for those interested in law and order and real freedom to let themselves be heard."

Surely, my friends, it is time for us insofar as possible, to determine with the Psalmist, "I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes." Psalm 101:3. The Christian who deliberately looks on vile scenes in pictures in modern temples of folly is taking fire into his bosom, and his spiritual garments are sure to be scorched. It is impossible to fill the mind with lewd scenes, arouse sex passion, and inflame the imagination and still be just as good and pure in heart, mind, and life as before. I am broad-minded enough to know that this marvelous invention can be used, and in various ways is being used to a distinct advantage for the education, advancement, and blessing of humanity, but we need to remember that just as we do not go to the garbage can to secure food in order to provide an appetizing meal; so we cannot delve into the visual, moral filth of the present day if we desire to have strong, moral, and spiritual homes. Lot committed a fatal blunder when he moved his family to wicked Sodom. Every person who purposely places himself under the influence of painted characters, immoral scenes, and among those who use lewd talk, who spend money they do not earn, drink wine, and who laugh at the Bible, is committing a blunder that may rob him of health, happiness, and righteousness in this life and of Heaven in the life hereafter.

Gambling

A third factor in present home disintegration is the fact that the sanctity, unity, and devotion of many homes is being destroyed by the spirit and practice of gambling. It is practiced all the way from the soda fountain punch-board to gambling house syndicates. Sometime ago a gambler in one of our large cities was charged by the federal government of evading payment of \$2,000,000.00 in income tax. With that as the government's share, surely the sum total of income was indeed fabulous.

Perhaps you have not seriously considered the gambling menace and the origin of the majority of gamblers. They are not taught in the gambling dens. A "greener" seldom enters such a place because he knows he will be fleeced out of everything he possesses in short order. He has learned somewhere else before he sets foot inside such a place. When he has played in the home and has become proficient enough to win prizes among his friends, the next step is to seek the gambling roam. I shall never forget the sad confession of a mother who told me how she had taught her children to play cards in the home so that they would not frequent the places of vice and crime, but now in sobbing tones of regret, she told me that every one of her children was grown and living in terrible sin which started with the innocent card game in her own home.

Surely there is a place for the right kind of games in the home, and parents need to provide proper and adequate social pastimes for their children, but oh! that parents of America would realize the tragic effects of what has been called "the devil's Bible." In my 21 years of pastoral experience, I have yet to find the home where Bible reading and family prayer had the proper place where the card game was a part of the social life. People who engage in this are very seldom, if ever, found to be faithful in the mid-week prayer meeting and in the Sunday evening evangelistic service. They can appear a bit religious for an hour and a half on Sunday morning, but for the rest of the day and the following week, their profession of religion evaporates like the morning cloud.

John Philip Quin, the converted gambler, said, "The card-playing home is the kindergarten for the gambling saloon." A number of years ago, the Civil Federation of Chicago interviewed 3,000 professional gamblers, all of whom, with but few exceptions, said they learned to play cards in the home. You may still be saying that you can't see any harm in this and that you are going to allow your boy and girl to play in the home so that they will not want to go away from home to play. That may be nice-sounding philosophy, but history and experience have proved it unquestionably false. Gambling is a passion, and you might as well say that you are going to give your son a little whiskey in the home so that he will not want any when outside of the home. By allowing and practicing these things, you are permitting the devil to use a tried and unusually efficient method to effect home disintegration.

The Dance

Another thing that absolutely cannot be tolerated if America's homes are to be spiritual and a moral bulwark is the modern-day dance. It is a power that is death to modesty, that turns morality into immorality and substitutes disease for health, remorse for happiness, and Hell for Heaven. The devil is unquestionably using it as a disintegrating, deteriorating influence upon the home. Any pleasure which causes the husband to neglect his wife, the wife her husband, or the children their parents is sure to bring domestic difficulty and unhappiness. Home should be more than a place to eat and sleep, and it should be remembered that smoking, gambling, dancing parents and children do not produce happy homes. Much more could be and should be said on this subject, but time will not permit. "Let me say that if America continues to crucify Christ in her homes by indulging in present, prevailing sins, we will have nothing but heartaches, evil, sin, suffering, and destroyed homes. Instead of turning the home over to Satan and permitting him to make it Hell's hatchery for evil, let's turn it over to God and permit Him to make it a mighty training camp for righteousness.) Let us remember that not only a towering, impregnable army, an unconquerable navy, or even a mighty fleet of commercial ships, carrying commerce and flag to every part of the world will make us great. Homes with family altars, high ideals, lofty characters, and holy ambitions are the secret of continued greatness.

May God grant that every one of you will give attention to these matters and that you will make God and His Word the foundation for your home, your life, your happiness, and your future estate.

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05 -- SHUT-INS

"The Lord shut him in," Genesis 7:16.

In the series of messages which I am now bringing on the home, I felt led of the Lord to set aside this Sunday for our shut-ins. We have discovered that wherever our broadcasts are reaching throughout the United States and Canada, we have a great congregation of shut-ins. Some have been confined to their homes for life. They have no hope of ever living normally as those of us who have health and strength. Others have been smitten with disease, and for just a portion of their lives, they are shut-ins. Still others are invalids because of old age and can no longer run the race with the swift or fight the battle with the strong; their strength has been spent in the stress and strain of life which has made it necessary for them to fall out of the ranks of activity. Then we also have a great host of listeners who are not shut in their homes but who are within the walls of hospitals, orphanages, sanatariums, and prisons. Even though I feel unworthy of this unusual ministry, yet it is indeed heartwarming when I think that God has given us the privilege of ministering His Word in song and sermon to these who otherwise would receive little or no help spiritually. If able-bodied and normal individuals could just know how much these sane, sound, spiritual, religious broadcasts mean to the shut-ins of our land, I am sure there would be more desire to pray and give in order that this ministry might go on unhindered. To you who are shut in, I want you to know that we are interested in you -- we love you -- we are praying for you. It is our prayer that God's sustaining grace will be your portion in such a manner that normally long weary days and many times sleepless nights will be seasons of fellowship with the Heavenly Father and refreshment and strength to your own soul.

Turning to the book of God, we discover that Noah and his family were shut-ins for approximately a year. It must have been a comfort to them to know that the shutting of the door was not accidental; the Lord had done it. We can say of every individual who is a shut-in that the Lord has at least permitted this experience, and we need to remember that what the Lord does or what He permits can never be unkindness, however hard or difficult it may seem to be. Especially to the Christian is it of infinite comfort to know that whatever God permits is for our enrichment, our advancement, and perhaps our increased usefulness.

Shut Out

So far as Noah and his family were concerned, to be shut in the ark meant that there were some things also that were shut out. The world's unprecedented

storm, descending rains, open fountains, wild torrents, and terrific destruction were all without. Not one man outside of the ark survived that terrible, devastating cataclysmic event. So far as the occupants within were concerned, there was perfect safety. God had instructed Noah to put one window in the ark, and that was in the top. Whenever it became dismal within, there was always one way to look, and that was up. My friend, that is always the best way to look. If the way seems hard, if the storm seems to beat mercilessly against your little bark, just look up -- up into the face of the Heavenly Father, and while the wild tempests are sweeping about, they can never come in the door, and God's hands will reach down to strengthen and sustain. The ark in which you are enclosed can be a chamber of peace floating quietly, securely in the midst of the terrible storms and ruin of the old world.

Wickedness was also shut out; it had become so prolific that it was a constant, nauseating stench in the nostrils of God Almighty. We are living in a world today where there is little regard for God. Men neglect Him, despise Him, curse His name, ridicule His Book, persecute His people, and deny the efficaciousness of the precious blood of Christ. The thought-life, heart-life, disposition, and action of great masses of people have become anti-God, anti-Bible, and anti-Christian, which has made their very natures hard, rough, and raspy. To be shut in with God means that all of this ultra-modernism, hard-hearted wickedness, and unfriendliness of the world is shut out.

The world's ruin was also shut out from the presence of Noah. If the ark would have had windows in the side, Noah would have witnessed many of his acquaintances floundering in the judgment waters, screaming and crying for admittance to the ark, but God shut out all of these terrible, heart-rending scenes. Many of you by being shut in, by having to suffer some things certainly do not have a pleasant path, but on the other hand, I am sure there is some comfort in knowing that much of the wickedness and flagrant sinning of the old world has been shut out of your presence. If you know Christ, if He is your personal Savior, you are dwelling under the shadow of His wings, and you are missing many of the struggles that come to others in life. Things may seem a bit hard at times, and I am sure that you have your depressing moments, and it seems there is so little that you can do about your situation, but just remember that the ark was guided by an unseen hand over the trackless waters of the deluge. It had no rudder, pilot, sail, or chart; yet it struck no rock and was not overwhelmed in the wild billows and moved on in a correct course. An interested and unerring God took the occupants safely to the shores of a new world. Thus, my dear friends, God is caring for you and will bring your ark safely to the shores of a better, more beautiful, and more beneficent land.

Shut In

While there are some things that are shut out from your lives, yet I am sure there is a greater blessedness to consider -- that is, that you are shut in with God.

What could be ,more wonderful, more strengthening, and comforting than just to know we are shut in with God? The song writer says:

"Alone with God, the world forbidden,
Alone with God, O blest retreat.
Alone with God and in Him hidden,
To hold with Him communion sweet."

When you can't talk to anyone else, you can talk to God and have sweet communion and fellowship with Him. When no one else understands your pain and your discomfort, He understands, and He can comfort. His sweetness, His preciousness, His love, and His kindness can so fill and saturate your being that your life will become a perpetual benediction to those who come within the door of your confining sanctuary. How many times have I felt that holy awe, that sacred presence, that penetrating power of the Holy One as I stepped within the room of a long-suffering, pain-pierced invalid.

The Lord's shutting in Noah and his family meant that they were saved, and on a number of occasions, shut-ins have told me that they were sure they would never have become Christians were it not for the fact that God had permitted them to have this unusual experience. Therefore, with such an experience, it is not strange that many of the quiet rooms where Christ's disciples were shut in are places of great joy. Faith triumphs over pain; the darkness brings out the stars of promise, and they shine in radiant beauty. Because of the infirmities, it seems that the power of Christ rests in unusual measure upon these suffering ones, and they are enabled to rejoice in their very tribulations. They possess joys rich and deep. It is not merely the rippling surface happiness of many who are outside, who seldom have pain, and are free to go where they will and to do as they desire. These shut-ins have a heart joy which does not depend upon external things, and therefore is unaffected by external experiences. Under the billows of trial and suffering, this joy flows on as a mighty river, unwasting and unembittered.

Multitudes of times have I also been made to marvel at the patience and peace of these individuals. The most infidel minds must acknowledge that they have been brought into living communion with Christ; they are never heard to complain; they believe in the love of God, submit themselves to His will and take pain from His hand as confidently and sweetly as they take medicine from their trusted physician. Their countenance shines with the radiance that has its source in a God-inhabited heart. The resulting and indwelling peace, the experience and the overflowing joy finds expression in words and songs of praise. Surely, even the angels of Heaven must look down from their chambers of glory with rejoicing because of what Christ has accomplished in the hearts of these confined souls. To be shut in means that you can have sweet and constant fellowship with the Father. Surely this is an unusual privilege. In visiting many shut-ins, they have told me with beaming faces that constantly they have wonderful fellowship with the Lord. They are not alone, but He is with them; He talks to them, and they talk to Him, and

together they are journeying through life in a fellowship and a communion that cannot be superseded or experienced in any other sphere.

Many times we also feel that when individuals are laid aside by illness and shut away in quiet sick rooms that their work ceases, and their usefulness is at an end. Instead of being helpers, they are a burden. We would say that they require attention, watching, and nursing; they may have to be carried from chair to bed and from room to room, up and down stairs -- they are no longer privileged to have part in the household duties or perform any active service for the Master. On first thought, we would say that they are no longer useful -- their old-time work has had to be taken up by others, yet I know that we make a great mistake when we suppose that many are no longer of any service. A great ministry is being performed even in their suffering. In many instances, it is impossible to measure the influence and service of a patient, rejoicing Christian sufferer who is day after day confined to his home. Out from that shut-in room there pours forth a spiritual warmth of love which diffuses itself through the entire household, leaving a benediction that is immeasurable.

A certain Christian was for years a sufferer. Much of the time pain was excruciating -- almost unbearable, but as the weeks went by, there was continually the putting forth of new spiritual beauties in the character. The life seemed to be like a lovely rosebush, and pain was the summer warmth that caused the buds to burst into full, rich beauty and fragrance. Constantly there were new features of Christ-likeness appearing; there was little or no opportunity for active service; yet that which was accomplished by the ministry of pain far surpassed that which could have been accomplished in the same time with busy hands and painless health. Through suffering, hearts of parents and friends were drawn out in sympathy; they were tendered and drawn closer to God. Through the testimony of the suffering one, many were admonished to accept Christ as their Savior and found Him to be their all: sufficiency. The suffering one was patient -- no murmuring, and an unclouded faith. Thus, there was a perpetual preaching of sermons without words. It was by the power of the love and grace of God that this one became an untold blessing to everyone who entered the room and looked upon the radiancy.

My friend, if it is your lot to be a shut-in, what a wonderful thing to be shut in with God. In one of the parables of Jesus, we read that the door was shut, and it excluded some who came too late to be admitted. The same door also shut in with Christ those who had entered inside. I say again, no condition can be more suggestive of blessedness than to be shut in with the Master. Your sick room need not be a prison but a Bethel where Christ comes to meet with you and to bless you. May God grant that this will be your experience and your portion.

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"A child left to himself." Proverbs 29:15.

The words of my text pretty well describe the condition of children and youth today. They are left to themselves. Parents are failing in their responsibility. Life has become exceedingly complex and hurried. Proper precepts, principles, and practices are too often ineffectively and faultily emphasized and displayed. The greatest problem confronting America at the present time is not the condition that exists between Russia and ourselves. It is not the problem of restoring a defeated Japan and Germany and providing food for the starving millions of earth. Our greatest problem is to produce a generation of boys and girls, young people, men and women, who know God experientially, who love Him, who have respect for His law, who reverence His house, and who will live righteously and conscientiously before Him. This is the only solution for the problems of the hour and especially problem children as we are thinking of it today. We here in this country, from the White House on down recognize that something must be done for our boys and girls. Physical, mental, and social education and direction are being given much attention, but as I have said on these broadcasts so many times before and must say it again today, we are neglecting the most vital and potent means for the curing of juvenile delinquency and for the strengthening and ennobling of individual and national life. Nothing short of spiritual rebirth, the regenerating power of the Holy Spirit in the lives of our boys and girls, our youth, and also our fathers and mothers will solve our problems.

I have been a pastor for twenty years, and I have seen children grow up in all kinds of homes with varied kinds of instruction, and a great many of them with no instruction at all, and I am thoroughly convinced that heredity has very little to do with the ultimate character and conduct of an individual. In dealing with the juvenile delinquency problem, our courts have repeatedly proved that hereditary characteristics are not transmitted from generation to generation. It has been very interesting to note that children who have been taken from homes of prostitution, drunkenness, thievery, and many such things and placed in homes where Christ is honored and glorified, and where there is an atmosphere of love, purity, and holiness are growing up to noble manhood and womanhood and making splendid progress in their adopted Home Haven.

Created

This forces me to the conclusion that problem children are not born such, but they are created such. It is said that the son of the late Calvin Coolidge was approached at his work in the shed by a young man who casually remarked, "Believe me, if I had a car and my father was president of the United States, you wouldn't catch me doing this kind of work."

Young Coolidge is reported to have looked up and replied, "You would if Calvin Coolidge was your father." Right there is the hitch, and today and next Sunday in these broadcasts, I am going to have to lay the blame for our present

juvenile delinquency problem right in the laps of you fathers and mothers who have failed in the responsibilities and duties that have fallen to you as the result of parenthood. To be sure, there are a few exceptions to this, but I want to say they are very few.

A certain man and his wife were not privileged to have children in their home. They adopted twin girls and brought them up around the family altar and gave every bit of attention and consideration that would help them to be pure, noble, and worth-while Christians. The one grew up to be a mighty fine Christian girl and was used of God in a mighty way to advance His cause. The other one turned against her parents, against the Bible, against God, against society, became a terror on wheels, and came to an awful end, but I say again, such cases are the exception. God says, "Train up a child in the way he should go; and (even) when he is old, he will not depart from it," Proverbs 22:6.

This verse contains a divine promise which every person responsible for the training of a child is invited to embrace. We can safely trust it and expect God to verify His Word. Let me say, however, that parents can only trust this verse and see it work if they will do their part in living consistently, faithfully, and in teaching God's Word regularly and rightly to their children.

Converted

As Your Worship Hour Pastor, I could each week speak to you endlessly on the crimes, vandalism, immorality, thievery, and treachery of present-day youth. I could quote ,from newspaper articles, report to you the tragedies of the court scenes and the eventual electric chair, and if you are reading your newspaper and listening to your radio and news reports, you know all of these things are going on. The thing I desire to place before you today concerning our problem children is that God has provided a cure. If the proper course is pursued, these problem children can become promising citizens and stalwart Christians in the community and in the national economy. The experience of history has unquestionably proved this. God also affirms this when He says, "Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them," Ecclesiastes 12:1.

For a child to become a Christian, to really be genuinely converted means that the whole inner man is awakened. He has a new, gripping life purpose, a new mental keenness, and a new power to sway others. The new birth as taught and emphasized by Jesus in the third chapter of John's Gospel is indispensable to correct, elevating, and ennobling mental conceptions and thinking. Regardless of men's mental abilities, they absolutely do not think right until their hearts are in the right attitude toward God. To be sure, we need to pray that our children will be converted in order that they might be saved and get to Heaven, but we must also remember that the life of a child as well as that of an adult will never be what God

intended until there is that spiritual rebirth resulting in the awakening of mental powers and consistency in conduct,

Conversion must be followed by home training: this is the center and source of the power that molds the child. The he, me may be very simple; poverty's mark may be plainly seen and felt. The most effective power for molding the life of the child remains in the home. The world's great instructors are obliged to bare their heads and bow in reverence to the home; it underlies and outstrips the best they can do. It is also a power in countless instances to completely undercut and undermine practically everything else that the school and the Sunday School. can do. What is done in the home goes deep and stays in the mind and the heart clear to the end. The children are utterly open and soft to impression and never so soft and open afterwards. If father and mother are minding their business and not running around to all kinds of clubs, beer gardens, and social gatherings, they have the training of the child more than pastor, teacher, librarian, or any friend can have. Even if they neglect the sacred trust and enter the child in the street school for all or any part of the time, still what they don't do is more than what anyone else can do, and their shiftless, planless, "not-doing" is a potent factor molding the child more than any other that may come in later.

When 50% of all school children are outside the guiding influence of the church, and when our public schools and colleges are prohibited from teaching the Bible, how are our children going to gain a knowledge of Christ, religion, morality, and character if they do not get it in the home? Where are we going to obtain our future leaders if religious training is eliminated from the curriculum? Without character, intelligence is a mockery. Character is necessary to direct intelligence, and you can't have proper character unless the life is anchored in the Lord Jesus Christ. To save our present civilization from complete destruction, we must have intelligence that is anchored in upright character and character that is grown from the spiritual experience of the new birth and the sanctified heart. I realize that inadequate recreational facilities; the dance; beer gardens; gambling devices; obscene literature; advertisements suggesting the use of alcohol, cigarettes, and other sophisticated vices, lack of properly staffed courts -- all of these things are augmenting, encouraging, and glorifying juvenile delinquency, but it will never be solved until we get back to the grass roots of failure. This failure is the delinquency on the part of fathers, mothers, and leaders of our land to lead our children to Christ, to His forgiveness, to His cleansing, and to His constant abiding presence in their hearts. When children come to know God, and when there is a godly atmosphere in the home, they will have a desire to please Him and will almost unconsciously be taking steps and making decisions in the light of God's Word, thus coming rapidly to the maturing Christian life.

The child who is thus converted and trained will be obedient. He has given up his sinful course, has submitted to God, and therefore is willing to submit to the authority of home, school, and nation. He is not a problem to the state, simply because he is no longer a problem to God. Unquestionably God-conscious and

God-directed children, young people, and adults make the best citizens. There is the buoyant spirit, the keen mind, a thoughtful tongue, a cheery hopefulness, and an earnest purpose.

In addition to all this, parents should see to it that there are home interests which will take the attention of their children. We can't expect them to be saved and live Christian lives with no goal in view. There are many clean; upright things and many goals which can be placed before children to keep their interest, thus giving them a right start in life. I am thoroughly convinced that we would have very few problem children in our nation today if all these matters were given serious consideration and if parents would assume their God-given responsibility and carry it out in the fear of God.

Unquestionably, present-day home conditions are responsible for the increase in problem children; therefore, the only solution is to see to it that our homes are what they should be. The devil realizes this and consequently is making the home his special object of attack. Foundations must be laid deeply and safeguarded in every possible way from the subtle workings of the devil. Without the Christian home, proper child training is impossible. Strong, righteous, holy characters will not be produced, and our whole national fiber will continue to weaken.

In conclusion, I want to say that while no other institution can supersede the home in child training, there are other institutions which will be able to, and which do, supplement it. The church, the Sunday School, the day school, and other Christian and secular institutions can be utilized in assisting the home in the task which primarily belongs to it: namely the training and rearing of children. May God bless and help you parents to realize your responsibility and to fulfill it in the fear of God, and may God grant that each one of you children and young people will be responsive and receptive to God's Holy Word and to all the ennobling influences that are brought to bear upon your lives.

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07 -- PROBLEM PARENTS

"And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up." Deuteronomy 6:5-7.

The greatest present-day problem is not juvenile delinquency but parental delinquency. In the majority of cases, when a boy or girl has gone wrong, back of their deeds and their living, you will find parents who have been unwise, who have lived wrongly, and who have taught erroneously.

A few months ago, after a Sunday evening service, an officer came to the church of which I am pastor and asked for the privilege of talking to me for a short while. He was making his beat in the section assigned to him. The juveniles of the community were more than what he was able to cope with, and he sought my advice for a solution. I told him that I felt there was no solution unless we could go to the fathers and mothers of these boys and girls and help them to realize that they had a responsibility, both to God and their children. He then told me that just a few nights previous, he had broken up a gang in the community. He took the leader of the gang to an ice cream parlor, bought him a malted milk, talked to him, and tried to gain his confidence, and this is what the boy said. "This evening, brother and I came home from school and found sister in the house. Father and mother were already out of work and had left home. Sister made us a little supper, and then we started out for the evening to have a good time. In the course of the evening, we went by a beer joint. Looking in the window, we saw father and mother sitting at the table in a drunken condition, still sipping more of that liquid damnation. Brother and I had nothing to stay at home for and nothing to live for at home; so we went out and accumulated a gang to have a good time."

Such scenes are being enacted all over this nation of ours. Parents are failing to accept their God-given responsibility; they live in sin; they pursue pleasures that are forbidden by God. Others give too much time and attention to social and material affairs of life to the neglect of home and parental duties. Different times as I have been driving through the country, I have noticed orchards that were once most promising, but now are all but ruined, simply because proper attention was not given to the trees after they were transplanted. For exactly the same reason, many children and young people are being physically, morally, mentally, and spiritually ruined. They are a problem to the state, to the community, and to God, simply because a father and mother have failed in fulfilling their responsibility. To have a productive orchard, trees must be properly planted, cultivated, pruned, and so on. If the farmer is to have a worthwhile herd of cattle, he must give attention to the breeding, feeding, and housing of the same. Socrates used to say that he wondered how men who were so careful in the training of a colt were so indifferent to the education of their own children. If he were living, I am fearful that he would have very little that is commendable to say of the mother who would rather gad around and delve in all the social functions of the community while a "Baby Sitter" stays home with the baby and permits it to grow up without training. With all of our boasted advances in our present-day civilization, we seem to be finding an increasing number of parents who give infinitely more thought and pains to the raising of cattle, the growing of crops, the building up of business and engaging in questionable and useless rounds of social activities than to the training of their own children. To be sure, these are busy days; something must be crowded out of every earnest, busy life. I don't think any of us can do everything that comes to our hands, but it will be a fatal mistake if any father allows his duties to his home to be crowded out. They should have the first place; anything else had better be neglected than his children.

This reminds me of an article I read the other day by an unknown author. A man who was a breeder of blooded stock had a small boy. In the night the boy was restless and tore about, disturbing the bed covering. The wife said, "John, I think you had better cover up the boy."

"O let him shift for himself. He'll have to learn some time"; then turned over and went off to sleep. Presently the matter was repeated with like results.

After a bit there was a noise out at the barn. Instantly the farmer got up, dressed and went out to find his blooded calf had broken out of the stable. The man put him back in, fed and bedded him well and finally after an hour or so went back into the house and to bed.

In the morning the wife could not keep from turning over and over in her mind why it was that her man could get out in the night and care for his calf when she could not get him interested in covering up his boy.

Finally she happened to think -- the calf had a pedigreed daddy!

Am I the thoroughbred man,
That I want my son to be;
In the days that are now the future,
Do I want him to be like me?
Nature's put my mark on his features,
I am putting my stamp on his soul;
Can I help my boy reach the highlands,
If I strive for a lesser goal?

It's a sobering thought for fathers,
Aye, a sobering thought to me;
As my boy sets sail on life's ocean,
Shall he chart his course by me?
Shall he think the thoughts that I think,
Shall he say the things that I say,
Shall he live the life that I live,
Will these help him on his way?

To our boys is the task of the future,
The world's work we'll soon leave in their care;
As a father, I'll help or I'll hinder
My boy life's burden to bear.
For this law is not to be broken,
'Tis according to nature's plan;
I must be a thoroughbred father,
If I'd sire a thoroughbred man.

Parents, if you are living merely for land and money, stocks and bonds, houses and riches, you need not expect your children to grow up to noble manhood and womanhood. Without a doubt, they will be covetous, greedy, dishonest, and void of a regard for God, His Word, His day, and all things which are sacred.

Lack Of Consistent Living

Fundamentally, our land is filled with problem parents today because they are wrong before and in the sight of God. You can't love things -- =business, pursuits, and pleasures of life more than God without becoming a serious problem. When we have parents who love God with their whole heart, soul, mind, and strength, who love Him enough to put Him first in every phase of their living, who love Him enough that they will take time with His Word, take time to pray, and take time to worship in the house of God, then and then only will we have noble, pure, and spiritually strong sons and daughters. A proper regard for God and His Word, and a love for the same is absolutely fundamental to right living.

Those of you who are building your palaces, amassing your great fortunes, piling up your luxuries, and providing for the satisfaction of every desire, but failing to become a Christian and love God with your whole heart, may one of these days find yourselves sitting amid all of your luxuries and waiting for the staggering steps of a drunken son or be brought to contemplate the downward steps of a wayward daughter. If you have a spark of parenthood left, and your children turn out to be godless and wayward, there will be absolutely nothing that can render you happy. There is no place in all the world where there are greater possibilities of joy or sorrow than in the home circle. Joy and happiness can only be experienced as God is loved supremely.

This brings me to another thought, and that is that if parents will love God as they should and live right before Him, they will also live correctly in the presence of their children. Whatever may be done in the way of governing, teaching, or training, theories are not half so important as the parents' lives. Some of you parents take the attitude that you have fulfilled your responsibility in sending your children to Sunday School and church. That is the most lazy, indolent, indifferent, and ineffective way that you could possibly do it. The Sunday School or church service is not a convention to which you are asked to send your child as a representative delegate. It is a place where the whole family should gather for the worship of God and for spiritual instruction and deepening. You can teach the most beautiful things, but if your children do not see these things in your lives, they will not consider them important enough to be adopted in their own.

In making his pastoral calls, a preacher came to a home where the little boy had his hair clipped very close to his head, but in a very jagged manner. The mother explained that the little fellow got hold of her scissors the day before, and the first thing she knew, he had clipped most of his hair off the top of his head. When asked

why he did it, he replied with an air of victory, "Make my head like papa's head." His father was a bald-headed man. How often we find a boy's head like his father's, not always in outward shape, but also in thought, motive, and decision. The normal way to get rid of drunkards is to quit raising them. The normal way to get rid of liars, thieves, crooked business men, and moral wretches is to quit raising them. The decisions and directions in the life of every young person who steps from the home door into the social, moral, and civil world will be largely determined by what he has been taught, what he has seen, and the desires that have been implanted in his life.

You parents have within you the power to give to America either Christians or criminals. It is within your power to enrich Heaven or populate Hell. Yours is a tremendous responsibility. Parents should also see that they themselves live harmoniously. To love God, to live consistently and harmoniously will have an untold influence on the children. If the parents are given to bickerings and quarrelings, they can expect their children to imitate them. Some homes are as full of sweetness as summer fields are of fragrance: everything seems to be order, beauty, gentleness, and peace, but in others, we find jangling, selfishness, harshness, and disorder. I want to say that this difference is not accidental. There are influences at work in each home which produce exactly the result we see in each. Every home takes its color and tone from its makers. No home life can ever be better than the lives of those who make it. The spirit, the attitude, the desire, the fellowship, or the strife between parents will soon permeate the atmosphere of the entire household.

Lack Of Correct Teaching

Another way in which parents have become a serious problem today is the fact that they do not teach their children correctly. We might say that some do not teach them at all; however, I fear that there is no such thing. We may think that some parents are not teaching their children, but as I have been saying, even the lives they live and the attitudes they manifest are influences in the lives of the child. Children should be taught to fear God, to hate evil, to live righteously, to obey those who have the rule over them. The wise man has told us, "Train up a child in the way he should go." Proverbs 22:6. It means to teach him the difference between right and wrong, to so instruct him that he will: be well-grounded in the principles of righteousness and obedience. We are living in a day when few are teaching and recognizing the difference between wrong and right, sin and righteousness. People are trying to make themselves believe that not only is white, white, but that black is also white.

It is high time that we have parents who know and love God and who will teach their children according to His Word. Teaching builds character and develops true manliness and womanliness in the child, and on this, he can stand as the years come and go. If children are properly taught, they will at an early age come to the realization that the heart is estranged from God and if left to itself will come to a spirit of enmity to God, resulting in wickedness of life, and finally ending in a devil's

Hell. Parents should therefore be Christians and insist on the early conversion of the children. No boy or girl should be allowed to reach the age of ten years without an experimental knowledge of God's grace. The best Christians of the ages have been those who were converted in childhood. Many of the noblest ministers who have served at the altars of God date their conversions to very early life. Parents make a very serious mistake and many times live to regret it when they neglect the salvation of their children while they are young. Many say that their children are too young to know what they are about, but it must be remembered that salvation is not human knowledge but the impartation of a divine life which is to be received, not with the passing of years, but with the operation of the Holy Spirit.

The teaching of parents should then be continued around the family altar. Many wayward sons and daughters have been restrained in their downward course and have been led to God and to live lives of usefulness and holiness through the memory of the morning and evening sacrifice around the home altar. Children who have strayed far away from God and home have called to mind the time when father and mother knelt with them in the daily prayer service and have been stirred by the memory thereof to renounce sin and enter the service of God. Bad books, magazines, and papers that are floating through the land in every direction if allowed in your home will also become as the plagues of Egypt. If your home is to be Christian, corrupt literature must be rooted out, and the minds of your children fed upon those things which are pure, holy, and life-giving. The sabbath should be kept holy in order that its hallowed influences may strengthen every good resolution and enable the young life to resist the snares and temptations that beset its path. Remember, parents, that you owe it not only to your own home to be religious and Christian, but to every other family in your community and in the land. It is our wine-sipping, gambling, tobacco-using, impure-thinking fathers and mothers who are the problem of our land. The God-neglecting, Bible-omitting, sabbath-day desecrating, God-ignoring individuals, even though they may be well-educated who may stand, in one sense of the word, high on the ladder of morals are also individuals that are becoming a serious menace to the foundation of America.

Recently I read an excerpt from the life of one of our congressmen which I feel is worthy of consideration in the conclusion of my message. He said, "I have never doubted my father's piety. He had lived without reproach a Christian life in his own home, but in spite of all teachings and example with which I had been so wonderfully blessed, little doubts would still enter my mind. When my father came to his death-bed, I said to myself, 'Now is the time for me to settle some questions.' I walked up to the bedside of my dying father and said, 'Father, I know two things; you can tell me another, and these things will settle the problems of life.'

My father said, 'What are they, my son?'

I replied, 'I know that you have been an honest man in every phase of your life. Secondly, I know you have practiced the teachings of Christian religion as perfectly as man ever followed his Christ. Now the question you can answer for me

is this: Is this religion all you hoped it would be in the hour of death? Has it, in life and death, proved a reality to you?'

My father looked up, and a smile played over his face. A tear of triumph filled his eye, and he replied, 'My son, I know whom I have trusted and I am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day. Thank God that Christianity was all that I could ask for in life and more than I had hoped it could be in the hour of death. I have lived a happy life and die a triumphant death. Thank God, there is a reality in the religion of Christi"

This Congressman said, "I walked away from the bedside of my dying father, and so help me, God, from that day to this, not a shadow of doubt has ever found a place in my mind."

Fathers and mothers of my radio audience, that is what I am calling upon you to do today. If you will live for God and faithfully serve Him and consistently and regularly teach your children the things pertaining to God and His kingdom, you will not be a problem to God, to your home, to your community, and to the nation, but you will be a blessing and a help. You will not be a liability but an asset. To keep God always in your heart and in the midst and in control, of your home, to honor Him with your substance and in ever-expanding service, to have and to rear children, to love and lead them into the kingdom and into service for Christ, to demonstrate daily the love of God, and to see children well mated and happily married, perpetuating your name and the Christian ideals for which you have lived -- these and such like things will make your home an unparalleled "Happy Haven."

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08 -- THE HEAVENLY HAVEN

**"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."
John 14:2, 3.**

What a wonderful thing it is to see two individuals establish a home with Christ as the foundation. His wisdom and guidance is sought in all phases. His presence happifies every occasion; He brings joy, peace, harmony, and love. With the advent of children, He is recognized again in that they are dedicated to Him, and when they reach the age of accountability, they are taught His Word and brought to the realization that even though they are sinners, yet through Christ, they can be saved, filled with the Holy Spirit, and can live lives gloriously and victoriously over the world, the flesh, and the devil. To see such a family living, planning, and working together under the blessing of God is indeed refreshing and strengthening. Problems have not always been easily solved; misunderstandings may have arisen; financial reverses may have been experienced; sickness may have invaded the home; temptations may have allured, but through it all, Christ has proved to be

adequate. He has been the All-Sufficient One in every time of need. Every father and mother, son and daughter realizes that there is a time coming when each must face the end of life, but if each has lived victoriously, they can die victoriously, and while death will terminate existence in this world, it will also be the gateway into a better land which will be a place of unending fellowship, peace, and joy. Those who live for Christ and serve Him here in this world will find that when they come to the end of life, not even death will be able to separate them. They will enter into the eternal Heaven of God which has been prepared for them who love Him, nevermore to be separated.

A devoted Christian businessman who had been struck by an automobile was hurried to the hospital. He was informed that he had only about two hours in which to live. He had a staunch, implicit faith in the goodness of God and in the future life. To him, death was only a gateway leading into a higher world. He told them that he wanted his family called in: they came, and he gave each one of them a message. To his wife he said -- "To me, you have been the greatest woman in all the world. Through sunshine and shadow, we have walked together. You have been my inspiration in everything I have undertaken. Especially has this been true in reference to my religious life. Many times I have seen the Spirit of God shining in your face. I love you far more than I did the day you became my wife. Now, as you know, the doctor tells me I cannot live. In just a short time, I shall cross the river, but, wife, it is only 'Goodnight.' I shall see you in the morning."

To Mary, he said, "You are our first-born. What a joy you have been to your father. Many times you have reminded me of your mother in her girlhood days. How mother and I rejoiced when you accepted Christ as your Savior. How thankful we have been that you have lived such a fine, consistent, Christian life. Mary, you can never realize how much your father has loved you. The doctor says I cannot live long. I'll be leaving you in just a very short time, but I am only going to say, 'Goodnight, Mary; I'll see you in the morning.'"

He then turned to his oldest son. "Will, your coming into our home has been an unmixed blessing. You have been indeed a manly boy. You have become an exemplary young man. I am indeed grateful to God that you have become a Christian and that you love Him and are faithful in the church. I am especially glad that you have heeded the call which God has given to you to preach the unsearchable riches of Christ. Son, it has been a great joy to see you continue to grow in every Christian grace and virtue. I want you to know that you have your father's love and blessing. Son, the doctor tells me I cannot remain with you, but it is only -- 'Goodnight, Will; I'll see you in the morning.' "

Charlie was the next. He had fallen under evil influences and had previously disappointed his father and mother. The dying father said, "Son, just step aside for a moment. Before I speak to you, I would like to speak to your sister, Grace." He told her that her coming was like the breaking of a new day in the home. She was as a song of gladness and a ray of light. Her presence filled the hearts of the parents

with music. To her, her father said, "When you not so long ago gave your heart to Christ, your father's cup of happiness was full and overflowing. Grace, dear, the doctor tells me I cannot live. I cannot stay with you any longer, but I am only going to say, 'Good-night,' for I'll see you in the morning."

Then for the second time, he spoke to Charlie and called him to his bedside. "Charlie, there was a time when you were a fine, promising boy. Your father and mother believed you would develop into a great and noble man. We gave you all the opportunities that we gave to the other children. If there has been any difference, you, yourself, must admit that the difference has been in your favor. Charlie, we did the very best we could for you, but you have disappointed us. You have followed the broad and the downward way. You have failed to heed our Christ; you have trampled on the warning of God's Holy Word; you have refused to hearken to the call of the Savior, but, Charlie, I have always loved you, and I love you still. God only knows how much I love you. I have done the very best for you. If I were to live still longer, I wouldn't know of another thing to do beyond that which we have been doing. Charlie, the doctor tells me I cannot live, and even now, I feel that my life is ebbing away; so I'll have to say to you, 'Good-bye, Charlie, Good-bye'."

Charlie noticed that there was a difference in what his father said to him and what he said to the other children, and seizing his father's hand, between his sobs, he cried out, "Father, why have you said 'Goodnight' to the others and 'Good-bye' to me?"

"Son, for the simple reason that I shall meet the other members of the family in the morning, but by all the promises that assure of a reunion and give me hope of having them with me again, by those statements of God's Word, I can have no hope of seeing you over there. Charlie, the way you have lived and the attitude you have manifested toward Jesus Christ, all I can say is 'Good-bye, Charlie, Good-bye'."

That boy fell on his knees by his dying father's bed and cried out in the agony of his soul, praying God to forgive his sins and allow him the hope of meeting his father again.

His father said, "Son, do you really mean this? Are you really confessing your sins to God and asking Him to forgive you?"

Charlie answered, "God knows I am. I want to be a Christian. I want Christ to come into my heart, and I want our family to be unbroken in its circle."

"Son, if that is really your desire, God will hear you and save you."

Right there on his knees, by the side of his dying father, Charlie gave his heart to God. A new name was written in Heaven, and his father had only strength and time to say, "Goodnight, Charlie, Goodnight. I am so grateful to God that it is not, 'Goodbye,' and I'll see you in the morning," and he was gone.

Charlie is now a minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and is looking forward to the time when he will hear his sainted father exclaim, "Good Morning, Charlie, I am so glad the night is done, and the day has come. Surely, this is a glad, great hour."

My dear, listening friends -- husbands, wives, fathers, mothers, sons, daughters, loved ones -- you who are bound not only by ties of blood but the stronger cords of love that is sweeter than life, remember the day is ending, the morning is coming, and the question is -- "Will it be 'Good-bye' or 'Good-night'?" I want to tell you that it all depends on your attitude toward Jesus Christ. The whole question is -- "What are you going to do with Jesus -- Who is called the Christ?" If you -- will open your heart and let Him come in, joy unspeakable and full of glory will be yours, and when the end of life comes, the family circle will be unbroken around the throne of God. Right now I am talking to some of you who promised father, mother, or a loved one when they were passing from this stage of action into the next that you would meet them in Heaven, but you haven't made the necessary preparation. You are still unsaved; you are still traveling the road of sin. I plead with you today to pay your vows and to let the wonderful, loving, matchless, forgiving Christ meet the need of your soul.

Death is a hideous monster: it separates loved ones; the child is bereft of father or mother or both. As the leaves are torn from the trees by the rude storms, so are friendships plucked from our lives by death's remorseless hand. There is something inexpressibly sad in the loneliness of old people who have survived the loss of nearly all their friends and who sit almost entirely alone amid the gathering shadows of their life's eventide. Once they were rich in human affection; children sat about their table and grew up in their happy home. Many other true hearts were drawn to them along the years, but one by one, their children are gathered home into God's bosom until all are gone. Other friends are also removed, and at last, husband or wife is called away, and one only survives of the once happy pair. They are lonely and desolate amid the ruin of all earthly gladness and the tender memories of past joys. Were it not for Christ and the hope He gives, these losses along the years would be infinitely sad, and without any possibility of alleviation, but the wonderful grace of God comes with its revelation of after-life and pours on the healing oil. Broken hearts are healed, and the comfortless are comforted. They are reminded that the children and the friends, the husband and the wife who are gone are not lost. It won't be long until hand will clasp hand again, and heart will clasp heart in inseparable reunion. The grave is only a short winter, and after the winter comes spring with its wonderful resurrections in which everything beautiful, that seemed lost, comes again.

Yes, my friend, if you are living for the higher things -- the unseen and the eternal things, the shattering of our life's dreams and the failures of our earthly hopes are only apparent losses. The end of life's night of trials and sorrows has come, and the morning has dawned. Pains and troubles are past; sickness gives

place to health; grief, however bitter, is comforted by the tender comfort of divine love.

For the Christian and his family, death need not be thought of as a calamity or a disaster. It will be the brightest day of his whole life when he is called to go away from earth to Heaven; work will be finished; conflicts will be over; sorrows will be past; death itself will be left behind, and life, in its full, true, rich meaning will really begin. It will be the Haven of Heaven -- a place of peace without molestation; purity and plenty without want; holiness and health without danger of sickness; delightful days without a night; pleasures forever without possibility of pain. It will be fullness of life, love, and liberty in the presence of our loving Lord -- the place where rainbows never fade, suns never set, babies never cry, and mothers never die; there will be no aching hearts, no tear-dimmed eyes, no form wasted by sickness, no cheek grown pale through poverty or care. It will be the glorious and happy home of God and the eternal habitation of the holy people of God. It will be the home of the redeemed sons of God who will enjoy forever the friendly association of an innumerable company of angels, and the society of all the pure and pious of all the ages and out of all the countries of the world.

May God grant that this Heavenly Haven will be your abode and that when the last member of your family circle is swept from this stage of action, that you will be able to gather around the throne of God, eternally to praise, to glorify, and to magnify Him, world without end.

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THE END