

The Christian Home

Foreword

The Christian home is the very hub, center, and circumference of the growth of the United States of America. Our country was founded upon the home unit in which father, mother, and the children gathered around the Word of God and kneeled in prayer.

Now through sinister influences, this beautiful scene of holiness has been broken up with dire results to society.

In this volume, the author has presented a formula and a program which, if carried out will restore the family to the place of fellowship with one another and with God. May its precepts find a ready acceptance in every heart. May the formula given be adopted in many families. May the blessed Lord, through the ministry of the messages in this book, transform many homes and enrich many lives.

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Opportunity

Dear Lord I do not ask
That Thou should'st give me some high work of
Thine,
Some noble calling or some wondrous task.
Give me a little hand to hold in mine,
Give me a little child to point the way
Over the strange, sweet path that leads to Thee:
Give me a little voice to teach to pray;
Give me two shining eyes Thy face to see.
The only crown I ask, dear Lord, to wear
Is this; That I may teach a little child.
I do not ask that I may ever stand
Among the wise, the worthy, or the great:
I only ask that softly, hand in hand,
A child and I may enter at the gate.

THE CHRISTIAN HOME

“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.” (Gen. 1:1) We watch as God moves out upon His creation to prepare it for what He has in mind, and we hear God speak, “Let us make man in our image.” O lo, in spotless beauty, the first man steps forth from the hand of his Creator.

Again God speaks, *“It is not good that the man should be alone.”* God said those words, but tens of thousands of men have agreed with God through the ages—it is not good to be alone. *“I will make him an help meet for him,”* God said.

Notice this is to be a “help meet,” not a mere “help-eat.” It is to be a suitable companion, an answering mate. The cow could call, and his mate would answer; the lion could roar, and his mate would answer; the dog could bark, and his mate would answer; Adam could call, but the empty echo of his own voice could not satisfy that longing for companionship. So God decreed a help meet for Adam.

But might there be among the animal creation a suitable companion? God will let Adam decide. We can see Adam as he takes his stand on a little knoll and names the animals as they pass by. When the last animal had passed, it was evident that Adam had not found a companion that would

answer to his heart. So God put Adam into a deep sleep, took a rib from him, made a woman, brought her to the man, and God Himself performed the first wedding ceremony. The decree went forth. *“What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.”* (Matt. 19:6)

The home that God ordained is the nearest thing to heaven on earth. We wish to speak of the woman in the home, order in the home, starting a new home, enemies of the home, and fruit of the home.

THE WOMAN IN THE HOME

Paul mentions four things about the woman in the home. “I will therefore that the younger women marry, bear children, guide the house, give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully.” (I Tim. 5:14)

I. The Younger Women Marry

It is perfectly natural, right, and proper that young people look forward to a home of their own. But it is a very critical time and a mistake here may mean a ruined life. Therefore marriage should be entered into with extreme caution.

There are three avenues of approach to the marriage relation. First, the spiritual; second, the mental; and third, the physical.

The Spiritual

“Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers.” (II. Cor. 6:14) A Christian should never marry an unbeliever.

The Mental

The couple should have the same interests as much as possible. Husband and wife should be able to talk things over together. The wife should

be interested in the husband's work; that is the way they make a living.

One day while holding meetings in California, we went to visit in a home that seemed to be breaking up. A young man woman of different nationalities had married. Their different backgrounds, different interests, and different ways of doing things caused much friction.

A friend of mine married a fine girl. They got along very well, but he decided later to be a doctor. As time passed, he lost interest in his wife and married a nurse. I do not know if perhaps his wife had taken interest in his line of work, it might have saved the home.

Physical Affinity

There should also be a physical affinity; that is, they should like the looks of each other. In the animal realm, among the pheasant family, for instance, the male bird must attract his mate with his beautiful plumage. But in the human realm it is the direct opposite; the female or the girl must attract her mate. There are two ways of attraction; God's way and the Devil's way.

God's Way

It is always well and proper that a woman keep herself clean and neat, but the Bible says she is not

to seek to attract her mate merely by *“outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.”* (I Peter 3:4) And I might well add, a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of any good man of great price as well.

God has ordained that a woman wear *“modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety.”* (I Tim. 2:9)

The Devil's Way

The Bible tells us of the girl *“which forsaketh the guide of her youth”*—modesty. Girls, wear decent clothing. Shame on those mothers who send their daughters out with scanty clothing and bodies exposed. Oh yes, the world may do it, but we are told to *“be not conformed to this world.”*

Remember, the clothes you wear reflect your character. Solomon looked out of his window one day and saw a *“woman with the attire of an harlot.”* When you see women today walking down the street in the attire of a harlot, you are not looking at a godly woman.

II. Bear Children

“Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord.” (Ps. 127:3) Blessed is the man with a big family. “But,” says someone, “you cannot raise a big family today; it takes too much money.” No, it does not have to if you do not demand all the newest gadgets. The children may have to wear hand-me-downs, but that will not hurt them.

In a large family the children may quarrel sometimes, but pity that little fellow who says something against a little girl who has a bigger brother—he had better have his picture taken if he wants to remember what he looks like.

The most natural thing is for a woman to wish a baby. There is no greater joy or satisfaction that to bear children. What a privilege to be a mother!

As I travel about, I like to watch mothers in the depots or on the train. Over and over will a mother smooth out every wrinkle of the baby's clothes. Then folding the blanket carefully over its tiny form and giving it a few loving pats, she settles down. A moment later, although there has not been a wiggle within that precious bundle, she quietly lifts the corner of the blanket and peeps in. Long and earnestly she gazes at those sleeping eyes, while her own face reflects the extreme joy and delight of her heart. Verily, what a wonderful

thing to be a mother!

But alas, in our day of change and decay when some are without natural affection, there are women who prefer a poodle to a bundle of her own flesh and blood.

III. Guide the House

The natural sphere of the woman is in the home. You cannot expect a baby sitter to bring up the children like the mother can. And you cannot expect a mother to make enough in the business world to make up for what she loses by not taking care of her own children. Perhaps in the matter of health, a woman may have a job, but the natural place for the wife is in the home. Paul told Titus to teach the younger women to be "*keepers at home.*" (Titus 2:5)

Someone said, "Men failed, so women had to get into business and politics." No, it was not men failing any more than it was women failing. It is still true that "The hand that rocks the cradle rules the world. When God wanted a mighty man, Samuel to rule His people Israel, He chose a boy who had a quiet mother of prayer, Hannah. When God wanted a mighty man to stand with the Apostle Paul, He chose a man, Timothy, who had a godly old grandmother and mother, Lois and Eunice.

The Good Wife

The last chapter of Proverbs is the description of a good wife. There are many points, but we will mention only a few.

Verse ten of the chapter says, “*Who can find a virtuous woman? For her price is far above rubies.*” Consider what that says. A ruby is a very rare and precious stone which is worth much money.

I knew a man in Pennsylvania where I lived who could pound out tiny horseshoes which were perfectly shaped. He would make these horseshoes and send them all over the world to noted people as a good luck emblem, and in return he had three rooms of things he had gotten back from those people. He once showed me a small ruby that the ruler of India had sent him. “That little ruby is worth more than a diamond,” he told me. If a man who has a good wife has something that is worth far more than rubies, just think how rich a man is who has a two-hundred pound wife.

The Jealous Husband

Proverbs 31:11 tells us, “*The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her.*” And truly what

agonies surge across the heart of that husband who comes home at night unannounced and peeps in at the window to see if his wife is alone. Verily, *“more bitter than death”* is the *“woman whose heart is snares and nets.”* (Eccl. 7:26)

Pity the poor woman whose husband is not jealous over her. Our God is a jealous God and will not permit His own to flirt with the world. If a husband cares naught who fondles his wife, then she does not hold first place in his heart.

“Men do not despise a thief, if he steal to satisfy his soul when he is hungry; But whose committeth adultery with a woman lacketh understanding: he that doeth it destroyeth his own soul. For jealousy is the rage of a man: therefore he will not spare in the day of vengeance. He will not regard any ransom;” (Prov. 6:30,32,34,35a) In other words, catch someone in a man's in the kitchen and he can be forgiven, but catch someone with a man's wife and *“he will not rest content, though thou givest many gifts.”*

In all of Solomon's seeking he said, *“One man among a thousand have I found; but a woman among all those have I not found.”* (Eccl. 7:28) But Solomon's trouble was with himself. He had too many wives. Had he been content with one loyal wife, he would have found the peace and satisfaction for which his soul was craving.

Prepares Breakfast

Proverbs 31:15 tells us, *“She riseth also while it is yet night, and giveth meath to her household.”* That is, she gets up and prepares breakfast for her family. I used to work in a place where some of the men drove ten or twenty miles to work, starting long before daylight in the winter, the snow sifting across the road and the cold wind blowing. How hard it was for those men whose wives did not even rise to send them off having had breakfast first!

In contrast there is the situation I witnessed in Mansfield, Ohio where I was holding meetings. One morning I left well before daylight to catch a bus. As I stood under a streetlight, the snow piling high, the door across the street opened and a man started out for work. But he was not the only one at the door. His wife was there to bid him farewell and give him a royal send-off. What a wonderful way to start a day's work!

Reward of Achievement

“She layeth her hands to the spindle, and her hands hold the distaff.” (v.19) Here lies the cause of much unrest in modern life.

Nothing can bring joy and contentment like the reward of achievement. I remember as a lad pouring water into barrels of ashes and with the dark lye that trickled out below my mother made soap. That was hard work once a year, but she took so much more interest in that soap than if she had paid a dime for it at the store.

She also took great pleasure in the straight rows of beans and lettuce and radishes running out either side of the big path down the center of the garden. My mother took great pride in her prints of butter (though I hated to churn and pump water to cool the milk.) My mother would carefully watch for the first hen to set in early spring so that she could make fried chicken for father's birthday.

In the day in which we live now, the can opener reigns supreme, and the old life of home provision is lost.

“Favor is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised.” We who have found such a wife say again, “She is worth her weight in gold.”

Industrious

“She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness.” (v. 27) I feel

sorry for some men who work hard all week only to come home and give their check to a wife who does not know the value of money.

Socks may be cheap, but mend them anyway. Sew that button back on the shirt. Prepare meals. Do not eat the bread of idleness. Do not listen to those who would tell you to use this or that kind of prepared food so that you can get out of the stuffy kitchen. The kitchen is your kingdom; you are queen in the kitchen. Preparing good, wholesome food for your household should delight your heart.

I often feel sorry as I stand in a large ten-cent store in a big city for the husbands of the many women sitting and eating expensive ice cream dishes. Many of those husbands are probably working hard to make a living as their wives waste away the money. Is it any wonder that some people are never able to get ahead if they are always eating the bread of idleness?

Worthy of Praise

“Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also and he praiseth her.” (v. 28) Men, note this. We are to praise our wife. Find something good to say. Maybe the beans are burned today, but praise the good potatoes.

“Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates.” (v. 31) When I lived in Pennsylvania I knew of a large family who lived in a very poor house. I was amazed at all of the children. They were always nice and neat and clean. They did not have much, but that woman's works praised her in the streets.

“The Great Woman”

When the prophet Elisha went to Shunem he was entertained in the home of what the Bible calls “a great woman.” She was a real homemaker who loved her husband. She loved the Lord and suggested a spare bedroom be built for the man of God. She sought no political career, not even the honor of being “spoken for to the king,” but said “I dwell among mine own people.”(II Kings 4) Verily, this is what God calls a great woman.

IV. Chaste

“Give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully.” (I Tim. 5:14) A good wife will be chaste. She will think about her actions and how things will seem to those looking on. For example, there is no need for that door-to-door salesman to come inside while your husband is not at home.

Always be on the guard against even the appearance of evil.

ORDER IN THE HOME

If you were driving down the street and a little policeman were standing there and he told you to turn the corner, you would turn—not because he is bigger than you, but because it is a matter of position or order. Heaven is a place of order, and God has ordained the order for the home. The husband is the head of the home.

Husband the Head

Back in the Garden of Eden, God said to Eve, “*I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.*” (Gen. 3:16)

As I travel about the country, I am convinced that much of the trouble—the heartaches, the divorce, and sorrow in the homes of our land—lies right there. Wives are not willing to take their God-given place in the home. Surely they would be far happier if they followed God's way.

The command comes into the New Testament absolutely unchanged. “*Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.*” (Eph. 5:22) The word submit means “*answering not again*” (Titus 2:9). Wives, quit that arguing,

debating, snapping, and quarreling with your husband. The only thing these will accomplish is the disrespect of your husband. The love and respect of your husband should be worth a million dollars to you.

“A continual dropping in a very rainy day and a contentious woman are alike.” The nagging, sharp tongue can work disaster and dampen the love of a husband. The same is true of a husband using sharp language toward his wife.

Long Hair

“But is a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for her hair is given her for a covering.” (1 Cor. 11:15) Long hair is a sign of the woman's subjection to her husband. When God invests something with a sign it is well that mortal man take heed and act accordingly.

When Samson lost his hair, he lost his sign of separation to God and the Lord departed from him. And so it seems that when women started cutting their hair, go into politics, and take the “obey” out of the wedding vows, that it was the beginning of a tremendous drop in the level of society.

Welcome

Wife, when your husband comes home after work, he has every right to expect a loving wife, a royal welcome, and things at home to be as they should.

Sometime ago while I was holding meetings in Florida, I took a walk in the evening before the service. A car come down the street and turn in and park at a house just ahead of me. I observed commotion in the house as the man walked to the door. Mother was hurrying to get the little baby to the door to meet Daddy. Verily, there is no place on earth so near Heaven as the home that God ordained.

The husband is the head of the home, but he is also commanded, *“Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;”* (Eph. 5:25)

The Jealous Husband

Do you know how much our Lord loves the church? No wife who has a husband who loves her as Christ loves the church need fear to obey him. The church is our Lord's bride, and He is so jealous of His bride that He will not permit her to flirt with the world. And if you flirt with the world, you are rated a spiritual adulterer (James 4:4).

Let a wife who has a husband who is jealous

over her rejoice and welcome and appreciate it, and never let another man touch her.

The Loving Husband

Husband, when you come home at night, remember your wife has been in the house all day and she is weary. Maybe she dropped a bottle of milk this morning and had to clean up an awful mess. Maybe she tried so hard to make you a nice cake and it did not come out right, and she is feeling blue.

Do not come home growling like an old bear. Do not just come in and grunt a little. The Bible says for you to “live joyfully” with your wife (Eccl. 9:9). Play with her; tease her, if she likes that sort of thing. Make her glad you came home.

Children Obey

“Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.” (Eph. 6:1) As I travel around, I am amazed to see how many parents have this in reverse. How hard some parents work trying to obey their children! But children are to obey their parents.

Father is the head of the home; mother submitting to her husband; and the children

obeying both parents. In other words, father states the proposition, mother seconds the motion, and woe unto the little one who does not vote in the affirmative.

Use the Paddle

Parents are to require obedience. *“Withhold not correction from the child: for if thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not surely die. Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from hell.”* (Prov. 23:13,14) If you do not spank that little child when he needs it, he may go to hell and it will be your fault.

“Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him.” (Prov. 22:15) That little child comes into your home with a stubborn, rebellious nature, and it is up to papa and mama to break that stubborn will. He must be taught to submit to the laws of the parents, the laws of the land, and the laws of God.

Honor Parents

A time comes when the child grows up and starts a unit of society of his own and no longer must obey his father and his mother. But to honor Father and Mother is a command that is binding

from the cradle to the grave. That old father and mother have a perfect right to look forward to spending their sunset years in the home of son or daughter.

When our Lord was on earth, people sometimes played a trick on the old folks. A man might say to his old mother or father, “Corban,” which would mean that he was going to take the money that would have been used to care for his parents and give it to the temple. But our Lord called them hypocrites for making the commandment of God void by their traditions, for God commanded them to honor father and mother.

STARTING A NEW HOME

A family which had several boys always had trouble with the youngest son at the dinner table. He would come to the table with his hair on end, his face dirty, and a water line around his wrist. He never would wash above that water line unless his parents sent him back to clean up. He heard about this fault of his often, but he never could keep up the habit on his own—in a few days he was back to coming in the same old condition.

Years passed. One evening he came to the table with his hair wet and lying flat, his face washed, and the water line on his wrists gone. As he sat down to eat supper, no one said a word. Finally, his father laid down his knife and fork and said, "Well, who is she?"

That was it! Father and Mother could scold through the years, but it did no good. But one day that young man saw a girl, and one look at that girl did more to clean him up than all the scolding of his parents during the years. It is amazing what a girl can do to a boy.

I do not blame a girl for wanting a boy. One of the most wonderful creatures in all the word is a boy. They are almost as a wonderful as a girl. But listen girls! Some boys are no good and it would be better if you never had a date in all your life

than to go out with some boys. Keep your standards high, and if a boy's standards are not as high as yours, away with him!

If that fellow drops you off at your home some evening and your mother looks him over and shakes her head—you be careful. That mother of yours can tell more about that fellow in five minutes than you can in a whole month.

The Girl Worth While

Girls, it is nice to be able to play the piano and do fancy crafts, but those are not the main things of life. A dutiful daughter who can cook and bake and clean and keep house is the girl worth while. Girls, get up and prepare breakfast; learn the household duties from your mother as you help her work about the house.

There was once a very interesting advertisement in the newspaper that read: "Send ten cents and we will tell you girls how to keep your hands clean." The dime rolled in and the answers rolled back: "Soak your hands in dish water three times a day while your mother sits in the easy chair." (That would no doubt work for boys too.)

Advice to Boys

I have said much to girls, but this is for the boys: There are some girls that do not even know how to use a can opener. That girl is of no use in the kitchen. You should never ask a girl to marry you who you have only seen in her Sunday church clothes. Try this: Take the girl to her home one evening and while you are leaving, forget something. Leave something small laying on a chair or somewhere and go home.

The next morning—preferably early—go back. Knock on the door and keep your eyes open. If that girl is at home in dirty, sloppy clothes with her hair standing on end, get whatever it was that you came back for and leave. But if she comes to door in neat clothing with evidence that she has been helping her mother with the housework, she may be a good pick for a wife. That is the kind of girl you want.

ENEMIES OF THE HOME

1. Unfaithfulness

There are many enemies of the home, one of which is unfaithfulness. God takes that one woman and one man and binds their hearts in the closest union known to man—one flesh, a union so close and so sacred that to violate that union and that inner circle is to merit the highest penalty known to man—sure death.

I was once waiting for a train in Chicago and had passed out some tracts to those standing about. A soldier who I had given a tract to came to speak with me. It ought to have been one of the happiest times of his life for he was on his way to be discharged. He could go back to his wife and his home. But it was a sad time for him—he had just learned that his wife had been spending Saturday nights with another man. “I am just waiting to catch them together,” he told me.

If the neighbors had taken that wife and that other man out and stoned them to death, they would have fulfilled God's command to Moses under the law. But we are “*not under the law, but under grace.*” (Romans 6:14)

Terrible Warning

I do not know to whom I may be talking, but if it is to someone violating some little circle of someone's home life, and you are comforting yourself because you are not under law, but under grace, beware. *"He that despised Moses' law died without mercy"* (Heb. 10:28). In Moses' time they just hit you in the head with a rock and buried you. *"Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, and unholy thing"* (Heb. 10:29). This is a stout warning to those who would try such things.

Live Close Together

Sometimes a husband or a wife may see the strong language that God used concerning adultery or unfaithfulness and conclude that perhaps a husband and wife should live far apart. That is not right. What is absolutely right and good in that little inner circle brings us to the darkest pages of human history when it is violated.

God made men, and He made women, and He placed the sex impulse in each; an impulse that finds satisfaction only in close union with each

other. The expression between husband and wife is perfectly normal and right. It is when this sacred union is violated that things go terribly wrong.

Thus, *“To avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband. Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife unto the husband. The wife hath not power of her own body, but the husband: and likewise also the husband hath not power of his own body, but the wife”* (1 Cor. 7:2-4). When a person marries, their body belongs to another.

So strong are God's warnings against adultery that some have felt that they should shun the whole relation, but *“Marriage is honorable in all, and the bed undefiled:”* (Heb. 13:4)

Since this is true, *“Drefraud ye not one the other, except it be with consent for a time. . .and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency (or lack of control).”* (1 Cor. 7:5)

That is, let husband and wife live close together and have perfect freedom, not sleeping in separate rooms or fearing each other's company, for Satan may tempt one of you with another person.

2. Divorce

Another enemy of the home is divorce. Young people, do not let these easy laws on divorce get you mixed up. God did not make those laws. Never marry until you have the partner God has for you. And when you get that partner, stay put.

Young man, when you take that girl to be your wife, you take her for better or for worse. If she is “worsen” than you thought, you are stuck.

Wife, *“Let not the wife depart from her husband: But and if she depart let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to her husband:”* (1 Cor. 7:11)

Husband, “Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication and shall marry another, committeth adultery.” (Matt. 19:9)

3. The Relatives

The relatives are often a source of discord in a home. We hear so much about the mother-in-law. But mothers-in-law are all right. She is one of the most important creatures in all the world. A mother-in-law is so important that if there were none, you would not have a wife.

But there are always that mother-in-law that is one of the meanest creatures that walks the earth.

I have seen several specimens of this sort that make me boil all over.

The mother has a perfect right to look forward to spending her latter years in the home of her daughter, but however welcome she may be in that house, she is not a member of that little inside circle. She has no right to boss her daughter, her daughter's children, or her daughter's husband. If she will persist in doing so, something must be done.

Once when holding meetings in California, I met a woman who had lived for five years apart from her husband because she thought she must care for her mother. Her mother was so selfish that she did not mind breaking up their home.

Scripture is very clear in this area. A person is not to leave their spouse to care for a parent, but if there must be a separation, a man should, *“leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife:”* (Matt. 19:5)

FRUIT OF THE HOME

God takes that man and that one woman and joins them into one flesh. From this joining, a most wonderful thing takes place as into this union there comes a little bundle of responsibility.

A little pig is fighting for its food two minutes after it is born, but that little baby cannot roll off a pillow on its own. Soon that pig will pass off the scene forever, but in that babe is a life that will be somewhere forever. Even after the sun has burned itself away that life will go on somewhere; either enjoying the smile of its Creator or in shame and sorrow.

When God created man, He said, "*Be fruitful and multiply.*" (Gen. 1:28) God's purpose for marriage is a home with children, and surely, if anyone on earth ought to respond to this command it should be the Christian home. But alas! The streets are full of children turned loose to shift for themselves. To them, the word "home" means only a place to eat and sleep. It is not a peaceful place of love and cheer.

In some homes there are no childish voices to fill the home with laughter; no chubby arms to welcome papa home at night, nor dimpled hand to wave goodbye a morn; no toys to strew the floor; no dainty dress from mother's hand, nor

two bright eyes to thrill her heart.

One of the most unselfish and fruitful forms of Christian service is found right here. But must the childless home go unrewarded? Is there no opportunity for them? Yes, the promise is broad enough.

The Great Reward

If it were definitely known that the little Christ child was born in some miserable den in a heathen country and the Father in Heaven was greatly concerned about its welfare, untold thousands of Christians would sell all they had and strive to rescue that babe.

Over this country are thousands of little orphan children. The world, the flesh, and the devil are against them, and it stands written by our Lord Himself, "*Whoso shall receive one such little child in MY NAME receiveth Me.*" (Matt. 18:5)

In other words, a Christian home that will take one, two, or a half dozen of these little homeless children and bring them up for Christ will receive the same reward as if they would rescue the Christ child Himself—what an opportunity.

The reward is not all in the future. I have seen the love of God so flood the hearts of foster parents as to almost exceed that for a natural-

born child.

The Bible in the Home

A Christian home should be wholly consecrated to the Lord. *“And these Words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart.”* The parents should carefully study the Word of God themselves. *“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. And thou shalt WRITE them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.”* (Deut. 6:6,7,9)

Christ found illustrations in the sower, in the wheat and tares, in the drag net, and in the leaven. The God of creation and the God of revelation is the same God. The God who made the world and the God who gave the Word are the same; therefore, we can expect to find no conflict between the natural and the spiritual.

The world about us is full of illustrations of Scriptural truths. As parents we should have a thorough knowledge of God's Word and be ever alert to point out events in God's world that will bring Scriptural truths to the minds of our children.

Mottoes

“Write them on the posts of thy house.” A Christian home should have an abundance of good Scripture mottoes on the walls.

“Teach them... when thou liest down.” When my children were small, I would often go in the front room and lie on the floor with my arms spread out. Soon I would have a row of heads down each arm and we would go through the Bible stories over and over. They never tired of them.

“Teach them...when thou sittest in thine house.” You may be sitting in the kitchen and the tea kettle is boiling away. “Children, see that steam coming out of the tea kettle? The Bible says, *‘For what is your life? It is even a vapor, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.’* (James 4:14) Control the steam, and it can drive a train across the country. Leave it alone, and it is worthless. So it is with your life.”

“Teach them...when thou walkest by the way.” A sudden gust of wind takes off a little hat. The little fellow races after it and comes back in triumph, holding it on his head. “Son, do you know where that wind came from?”

“No.”

“Do you know where it goes?”

“No.”

“Well, that's just it. *“The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.”* (John 3:8) That is the perfect time to give the story of Nicodemus and the new birth.

While I was living in Michigan, I had cut down some trees and borrowed a couple of horses and a wagon to haul it to the road. My little boys were in the back end of the wagon and I was driving carefully, trying to miss the stumps and the trees. Suddenly, I heard a yell, and looking back, I noted the trouble. We had just passed beneath the overhanging limb of a big beech tree and there hung a little hat. What did we talk about as we went to retrieve the hat? Absalom, whose head was caught in a great oak and his mule went on its way without him.

Once we found a hollow stump which made a fine little furnace. I built a fire and the little boys put sticks on it. One of them found a branch of dead leaves, which he put on the fire. It burned with such a flash that he fell backward to the ground. It was easy to recall Nebuchadnezar's furnace and how it was so hot that it killed the men who threw the three Hebrews into the fire.

A rooster crows, “Boys, how do you suppose

Peter felt that night he denied the Lord and the cock crew?”

When one little boy tried to open the garage door, it slipped off the track and fell upon him. After the excitement had passed, the children were reminded of the story of God's strong man, Samson, who carried the gate of the city of Gaza away with him. (Judges 16:30)

When my children were helping me dig potatoes, one of them called my attention to the old seed potato which was wet and rotten. It was an easy matter to recall John 12:24 and show how that old potato had to die to bring forth fruit. “Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.”

One day two of my little girls were running for the hen house. One got in and closed the door and the other stood without, yelling and pounding on the door. When I went over, it was easy to recall the ten virgins—half got in and half did not—be always ready to meet the Lord.

If these things are often brought to the attention of children, they will soon begin to notice things also, for all nature is full of spiritual illustrations.

I have forty charts that I teach from, one of which is a chart of “Hades” which depicts an

archway leading into the underworld. Once, while riding along a river in Pennsylvania, we passed a stone archway under a railroad. My little son in the back of the car called out, "There's the road that goes to hell."

Tall weeds in a stream brought to the mind of one of our little ones the place where baby Moses was hidden.

One day as we were looking in the woods and stopped to rest, we lay on a log since the ground was wet. The hardness of our pillow brought to mind of another of our children the time Jacob had a stone for a pillow.

A little dog under the table brought to their minds the Scripture saying that even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall beneath the table.

When I was a little lad, I saw lightning strike a barn. As it was burning, the fire began to run along a wooden fence. The heat was terrific, so the farmer threw a sack over his head and ran to knock the boards off the fence to stop the spreading fire. Since I knew that, in Bible times, men used sackcloth and ashes in times of great sorrow, my child mind supposed he was running in to get some ashes to put on his sack.

Some would have us believe it is useless to teach little children Scripture truths, but I gave my son a nickel to learn John 3:16 as a small child.

Once while busy about his play, he suddenly stopped and, coming over to me, said, "Papa, what does 'erlasting mean?"

Pictures

As Israel neared the Promised Land, God told them to "*Destroy all their pictures*" (Num. 33:52).

Often I find pictures, even in Christian homes, that should be destroyed. If that garage or hardware store gives you a calendar with a silly, half-dressed woman looking out at you, throw it away!

There is power in a picture. Well do I remember as the months and years passed, how as a little boy I would glance at a picture that hung on the wall—a man cutting wheat with a sickle and the words, "To him that soweth righteousness shall be a sure reward."

When my old grandmother died, I went to the sale where they were auctioning her belongings. There were chairs and beds and other articles of furniture strung about the lawn. But over on the south side of the house was a big pile of trash, worthless material they did not know what to do with. Most certainly no one would want that pile of worthless junk. But one man in that crowd had his eye on that pile, and I got the whole thing for

a nickle. On top of that pile was a Bible picture—the finding of the baby Moses. From my boyhood to adult life that picture had hung on Grandmother's wall, and it was very precious to me.

Truly, there is power for good or ill in a picture. Real art—not wild, modern art can be a comfort. How wild is that human heart that delights to pervert the beauties around us!

Songs

Before Israel entered into the Promised Land, God told Moses to teach them “*this song*,” for it shall not be forgotten. (Deut. 31)

How careful I was in the selection of records for our player. You must beware of what you put before children in the form of song. What miserable noise I have to listen to as I eat my meal in a restaurant. It sounds to me like the wail of a lost soul out of Hades. Yet, this is the “music” that some allow their children to listen to in the home.

“Taint going to rain no more, no more.” But why sing that before the children? Has not God promised rain and sunshine until the end of time? Why not rather sing, “Send us, Lord, the sunshine and the rain.” I am amazed at what parents put into the minds of children through television.

My wife was once giving our son his bath, and he began to sing, "Now wash me and I shall be whiter than snow."

When he was a little tot and not allowed to go up the stairs, we once found him toddling up the steps singing, "When the roll is called up yonder, I'll be there."

Once while having trouble with the toys he was playing with, my son began to sing, "Jesus knows all about our troubles."

That little fellow is no longer a "little fellow," but is now a professor in a Christian college, one of the fine schools of our land.

The Goal

The nearest thing to Heaven that there is on earth is the home that God ordained. And may the reader of these pages so order his household that when the roll is called up yonder, his home circle will not be broken.

Happy that father; happy that mother who has been privileged to bring a child into this world upon whose head the Great God of Heaven lays His hand for service.

Happy that father and mother who have so instilled a simple faith into the heart of that child that he will answer back, "I'll go where you want

me to go, dear Lord.”

Jewels

A Roman mother was admiring the priceless jewels of her friend. The gold and silver network, studded with great rubies; a string of lovely pearls; a set of sparkling diamonds all thrilled her heart with joy and wonder. With great pride, the owner pointed to the jewels as her highest possession and asked the mother to show her jewels.

The Roman mother stepped into an adjoining room and soon returned with two bright-eyed children tripping joyously at her side. Stooping to kiss each child, she said, “These are my jewels.”

Daily Bread

As God sustains our physical life by the food we place in our stomach, so our spiritual life is nourished by the Scripture we place in our minds. Thus, it is just as necessary that parents provide daily food for the spiritual life of their children, as to give them food for their physical life.

The following is plan that has been adopted by some households: Secure a Scripture portion for each member of the family a right “Dad” on one, “Mama” on another, and the name of child on one.

Make it the job of one of the children to place them on the plates at some meal when the family is together. Read a page each day. Small children can say a few words after one of the parents; another child can read a verse or two; and the last one can finish the page. One of the children should then be called upon to thank God for the meal. In this way we have been through many books of the New Testament several times.

Remember Lot's Wife

“Hurry! Hurry! Not a moment to spare! Sodom will be destroyed!”

Such was the scene in the home of Father and Mother Lot that sad night. The evening before two messengers had entered the city, and Lot had hastened to entertain them. Before morning the angels had made their errand known. They were sent to warn him that Sodom would be destroyed in a few short hours. The message struck terror to the heart of Father and Mother. What were they to do? In that doomed city lived their daughters who had married men of Sodom.

Lot rushed out into the midnight air. He went straight to his daughter's home nearby. Yes, they were still awake! A bright light shone out of their home. Lot entered, and in great excitement told

them the terrible news. They made light of the warning.

“Well, wifey, what' wrong with the old man? He's gone crazy on religion.”

“Now Father, don't go on so. We have been to a dance and just got home. We are too tired to go with you.”

With great disappointment Father Lot left that house, for he must hurry. He ran to the home of another daughter a few blocks away. As he neared her home, he became frantic with fear. Yes, they were up too! A bright light shone from the window.

Without waiting to announce his coming, he burst into the room. The sight that met his eyes pierced his heart. There were half a dozen tables. Around them sat a merry throng, playing cards and drinking wine. His abrupt entrance startled them. He rushed to his daughter and tried to take her with him. He shouted the warning, but it fell on deaf ears. Half a dozen strong arms grasped him, and he found himself in the street, the door closed behind him. Thoroughly aroused now to his terrible position, he started for home.

Mother Lot had been in great suspense during his absence. Her mind had wandered back to the days when she had a happy home with innocent, frolicking daughters about her. They lived in the open country then, but it was not so now. On a sad

day they had pitched their tent toward Sodom.

She well remembered the day when Father Lot drove his first cattle into the city market. His glowing reports stirred a desire in her heart to see the sights. Next time he went to Sodom, she went too. Life never was the same to her after that visit to the big city. As she now looked back, she remembered how she felt about it at that time, and it almost broke her heart. She had seen the young folks of the city and envied them. She wished her daughters might have their “advantages.” Her girls were just ignorant country girls with bare feet and sun burnt cheeks. Her daughters must get into the “best society”—she was determined!

At length she persuaded Father Lot to move into Sodom. Now she cursed the day when her wishes were granted. They were rich, and their coming made a great stir among the “upper class.” The mayor gave a reception in honor of the Lot girls. How mother Lot's heart burned within her as she saw the happy couples whirling past her on the dance floor—her own girls, oh so awkward! Never again must this happen!

The next day the best dancing master in Sodom was employed to teach the Lot girls the latest and most graceful steps. He was an expert, as could be seen a few weeks later, when Mother

Lot gave a dance party in honor of the birthday of her eldest daughter. Their life was then just one merry round of pleasure. It pierced her heart now as she remembered how it leaped for joy then to see her daughter in the arms of the mayor's son, as they swung around the room. All the most exclusive society was there.

It made her a little uncomfortable, at first, to see her daughters keeping late hours, playing cards, dancing, going to the theaters, sipping wine, and keeping up with all the social events of the community; but, of course, she must not be harsh with them. Young people must have their fun. Her daughters must be included in the social set, so everything must be done to assure their invitation to all the social doings. Now the time has come when she is to reap what she has sown.

As she sat alone, waiting for father to return, she shuddered as she exclaimed, "O, foolish woman that I was! My innocent girls were placed in godless society, and all because I forgot God! For years I have never mentioned the name of God."

At this moment she was startled by the sound of approaching footsteps and hastened to the door to meet father Lot. Where are the girls? No answer was necessary. The ghastly look on Lot's face told the story.

They had no time to wait, for a heavy hand pushed them to the door and into the street, and a stern voice commanded them to hasten. The two younger daughters helped make up the sad procession. When they came to the gate of the city they were given their orders: "Escape for thy life! Look not behind thee."

Mother Lot's heart ached as she trudged on. Oh, her poor daughters! Only a few moments and their flesh will sizzle in the terrible fire from heaven. Well did she know that the burden of blame rested on her shoulders. She should have kept her girls closer at home. But she had been so anxious for their "social advancement." Of course Lot should have been more firm, for he was vexed daily with the unlawful deeds that he saw and heard. But Mother Lot was so determined. She was the stronger party. Why had she been so foolish as to forget God? Why had she allowed the frivolities of the world to claim her attention and ruin her offspring?

Just now they were passing a large shade tree. It brought back the memory of a few years ago as they were moving into Sodom. They had stopped to rest in the shade of this tree. She remembered the beautiful scene as her daughters played in the shade that day. There was the spring where they had quenched their thirst. There was the big root

on which a chubby foot had been bruised. There was the rock on which she was sitting when the little wound was healed by a mother's kiss. Oh, those innocent children! They were soon to be destroyed because mother had forgotten God!

She could stand it no longer. It may be they are coming. She will look—

What is that? It stands so still. Is it Mother Lot? No. It is a pillar of salt!

What a monument erected on those plains! What a warning to parents from that time to this! How the words of Christ ring through the centuries—*“Remember Lot's wife.”* (Luke 17:32) What a story that short verse conveys! What a warning to fathers and mothers who are easing up on son or daughter! Ask yourself father or mother, “Shall I ever suffer the remorse that Lot and his wife suffered? Am I bringing up my children for Christ or for the “best” society?”

Parents, *“love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him”* (I John 2:15). Children, *“Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth”* (Eccl. 12:1).

Seventy-five percent of the crimes and burglaries today are committed by youth under twenty-five years of age. The children of America will rise up in judgment and condemn those

parents who were at “ease in Zion” while they were slipping away from God.

“Remember Lot's wife.”