



The New Life

By A. Hinchliff

Paul's letter to the Colossians shows his concern for all members of the body of Christ. As far as we know he had never visited the church in Colosse. Other men who ministered with him had ministered there, and laid a foundation. His concern for the Colossians is especially manifested in Colossians 3:1. "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God."

When Paul speaks of being risen with Christ, he is speaking of the change that should be in our walk after we have been baptized in water. We see this from what he says in Colossians 2:12. "Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead." We are buried with Him in baptism wherein also we are risen with Him. The purpose of being baptized in water is to bury the old man. A new life, or being risen with Him, takes place through "faith in the operation of God."

Some people think that you join the church by being baptized. That has nothing to do with it. Its purpose is to bury the old carnal man. Put him down under the water, and leave him buried. It is the new man that we want to see rise again. Colossians 2:13 "And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;" What a wonderful experience to be able to enter into.

Colossians 3:2 "Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth."

He speaks of many things that are earthly; many things that are carnal. Many people don't like to hear you speak about these things. They feel you should always speak about love, but never want to talk about judgment. In the creation of God there is both negative and positive. Many feel you should never minister on the negative. I thank God that He does minister to us negatively, and He tells us when we are not walking right. He convicts us of sin. There is a place called Hell. There is a place of judgment. We must pay attention to that.

When I went to school and was taught Physics and Chemistry, they told us that the whole creation was made up of negative and positive ions. Both are necessary, and that is the way God created things. I looked in the dictionary to see what an ion was, and it said that it is a very small particle. I don't know whether an ion is a part of an atom or made up of many atoms. An atom is so small you can't see it yet we are told that an atom consists of a nucleus with satellites orbiting around that nucleus. It is tremendous the things that God has put into His creation. In His creation are things both negative and positive, and we need both. Go to your car and disconnect the negative terminal on the battery and see how well it runs. You couldn't even start it. God's creation doesn't work without negative and positive. Our Spiritual life doesn't work without the negative and the positive. We have to have that convicting power of the Spirit of God to draw us close to Him and to help us to

walk in the ways of the Lord.

Paul says that we should mortify our members which are upon the earth. Mortify means "to put to death." I am thankful for the things that we have been taught along this line, and I hope that we can all hear and remember them.

Paul lists the things we are to put to death.

1. Fornication. I am sure we all know what that is. In the day that I grew up it was something that was never mentioned, but today the youngest school child knows all about it. I was ignorant of many things. However, fornication is premarital sex and it is sin.

2. Uncleanness. (Dirty mindedness) He is referring to uncleanness in our walk; uncleanness in our speech. Some people can't utter three words without using the Lord's name in vain.

3. Inordinate affection. That is affection that goes beyond proper limits. When affection goes beyond proper limits it is not right, and God is not pleased with it.

4. Evil concupiscence. A strong evil desire, especially sexual desire or lust.

5. Covetousness which is idolatry. Covetousness is the lust for other peoples possessions.

Colossians 3:6 "For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience: In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them." These are things that belong to the carnal earthly realm. In our baptism when we have been buried with Christ we long to rise above those things and live in a new realm. Notice that Paul

said, "For which things sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience." I have no desire to be a partaker of the wrath of God. I want nothing to do with it at all. I pray that we will all walk so we will escape the wrath of God.

Colossians 3:8 "But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him." He says here to put off all these earthly things.

The idea that the Holy Spirit would like to get across here is that we put off all these things just like we put off a dirty garment. We put off the dirty garment and we are rid of the dirt. That is what God wants us to do with these things. These are things that will require action on our part. If we have trouble with our temper we need to work on it a bit. Ask God to help you with that. Put it off. Wrath is when you become very angry. Some of us get very upset with things. Malice is ill will with a desire to harm another. Blasphemy is the way we speak about and use the things of God. Filthy communication out of your mouth. This type of speech should never be heard from any Christian. We must be careful of the stories we tell that they do not discredit our Lord.

Colossians 3:9 Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:"

Romans 6:1 "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?" Shall we? Paul has been writing about the grace of God. How wonderful the grace of God is and how thankful we are for God's grace. Should we keep on sinning so God can show more grace? He says, "God forbid." We should say the same thing. "How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?"

Romans 6:3 "Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death." When we are baptized we are buried into His death. We become a partaker of His death. Romans 6:4 "Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life." There is no excuse for the person who has been born again and has been baptized to be walking in sin. It should be something that is behind them. I'm not

saying that the devil won't cause us to stumble sometimes but, to be deliberately walking in sin is absolutely not pleasing to God. If we examine ourselves and see that we are walking in sin we need to repent with all our hearts. We should walk in the newness of life that God has made available for us. Romans 6:5 "For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:" We long for the fullness of that resurrection.

After a person has been buried in baptism there should be a beginning of that flow of resurrection life. There should be a turning around. The term, "born again" is used rather loosely in our day. If there is no change in a persons life I doubt very much if there has been a birth. A birth will bring about a new life. If we have been planted together in the likeness of His death we shall be also in the likeness of His resurrection.

Romans 6:6 "Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is freed from sin." Our King James version says "is crucified." Other translators say "was crucified." We must pray that God will help us to enter into His death. He that is dead is freed from sin. Romans 6:8 "Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him: Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him. For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God. Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord;" Likewise - Just as Christ entered into death and then entered into life. What does it mean "to reckon?" It means to count it as if it had happened. Romans 6:12 "Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof." Every one of us have a responsibility. There has to be a difference between the church and the world. Romans 6:13 "Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God." It is very necessary that we all get our priorities right and start living for the proper master. We can choose. The word "let" is very important. "Let not sin reign." Don't yield yourselves to unrighteousness and to sin. We must "yield ourselves to God," in order that we can be led by the

Spirit and walk in the ways that are according to the things that He teaches and leads us in.

Romans 6:14 For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace. What then? Shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid." 1

We are not under a law. If we are led by the Spirit we live in a realm where the law can't touch us. The law doesn't say anything to you when you are walking in the Spirit, but as soon as you begin to walk in the carnal the first thing the law says is "thou shalt not." The law convicts you. We can either yield to the spirit of conviction and make things right, or we can cause our conscience to become dead.

Romans 6:16 "Know ye not, that to whom ye "yield" yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?" We pray that God will help us. We can "yield" ourselves to obey sin unto death or to obedience unto righteousness and life.

Romans 6:17 "But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness." We pray that God will help us to choose the proper master.

Romans 6:19 "I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness." Notice the change that God expects here; no longer walking in sin.

Romans 6:20 "For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness. What "fruit" had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death." Paul is talking about the fruit of the Spirit here. (Gal. 5:22,23). There is no fruit of the Spirit in that type of life. All that is manifested is the works of the flesh and the end is death. If we don't walk right there is judgment. Don't let yourself be fooled.

Romans 6:22 "But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your "fruit" unto holiness, and the end everlasting life."

Romans 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." We used to memorize this verse to deal with the sinner who was out on the street but Paul is saying these things here to deal with

the Christian that is not walking right. "The wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life."

Colossians 3:9 "Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; And have put on the new man, which is **renewed in knowledge** after the image of him that created him."

The new man is renewed in knowledge. Romans 12:2 "And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed **by the renewing of your mind**, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." When you walk with God you have to continually change your mind about many things. When we walked an unholy life that was far from God, and then became a Christian, we found that we had to change our mind about many things. Some people haven't made a very good job of changing their mind. It is very important to not be conformed to this world. Don't let the world squeeze you into its mold but be you **transformed by the renewing of your mind** that you may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God. This is the same thing that Paul talks about in Colossians. We put on the new man which is renewed in knowledge. Our knowledge changes when we are born again. We gain a new knowledge. We learn to walk in a new way which is "renewed in knowledge after the image of Him that created him." From the N.I. V. Col. 3:9-10. "Do not lie to each other since you have taken off your old self (Just like that dirty garment) with it's practices and have put on the new self which is being **renewed in knowledge**

in the image of its creator." That is wonderful.

"Where there is neither Greek, nor Jew, circumcision, nor uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, bond or free, but Christ is all and in all." This does away with racism. There are no different races in Christ. Praise God for that.

Col. 3:12. "Put on therefore," (There are the things that we are to put on like a clean garment, when we set our affection on things above.) "as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercy, (that is an old expression that we don't use any more that means tenderheartedness) kindness, humbleness of mind, (We can all think of people who are far from humble. Just think of the opposite and try to emulate that.) meekness and longsuffering. Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do you." This is the positive side of our life. "And above all things put on love which is the bond of perfectness. Love is the bond that ties the body of Christ together. "And "let" the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful." "Let" means that we are to allow the peace of God to rule in our hearts. It is a very disturbing thing when people deliberately do things that destroy peace and bring discord in the body of Christ. Let the peace of God rule in your hearts to the which also you are called to be one body.

It is a sad thing when people are not thankful. We are a generation that has more as far as the natural is concerned, than any other generation before us, but

there are so many people and especially children and young people who are unthankful. Many of us grew up during the thirties and we had a lot less to be thankful for then. Our lot has changed and we are loaded with natural benefits. I hope that we will never forget to thank God for His blessings materially and Spiritually. We also need to be thankful to one another. We must appreciate the different ministries of the Body.

Colossians 3:16 "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord, and whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him." Can we do everything we do in His Name or would we just as soon He wasn't watching? Let us pray that we will walk as though we have risen with Christ; as though we have put on a new life. The old is taken off but the new is put on. We have so much to thank God for in the things He has done for us and the life He has allowed us to enter into. Pray that God will help us to appreciate it and enter into it with all our hearts. Heavenly Father you know our hearts, and you know our needs, and we pray that You will help us to enter into that life that you are preparing us for. Father, don't let us be snared by the evil one but let us think on those things which are above, those things that belong to the realm of the Spirit. We pray that the fruit of the Spirit will be manifest in our lives. We ask Thee to be with us in Jesus Name.

The Homemaker

Reprinted from March/April, 1979

I am a wife and mother.

Not a perfect wife and mother, but one that fears and loves the Lord. For some time I have wished to write some things especially to the young women, the young wives and mothers, because God has put a special love and concern in my heart for you. I pray that these words will help you to be a more blessed wife and mother.

You may think the time to think about marriage and about being a good wife is when your "knight in shining armor" arrives on the scene. But I don't believe it is. Once Bro. Holt instructed the young women to start making up their lists of desirable qualities in a

young man, and then we were to present that list to the Lord.

I took Bro. Holt at his word. And here is a list of what I wanted in a man.

1. A man who loves and serves the Lord in the same manner I love and serve the Lord (in the church).

2. Some one who really loves me, understands me, wants me, respects me.

3. Someone who can support me.

4. Someone who is especially kind.

5. Someone whom my parents approved, and that they could bless our marriage.

You know I sized up a lot of young men. And I prayed to God about several, asking Him if this one or that one

would be right. But God in His own time and way brought me just the right man. I loved that man so much I hardly dared to ask God's approval, or take that list and see if he measured up. He did! and more. When God chooses and gives, He gives generously.

Although I loved that man dearly, there came a time of self-examination. Was I up to taking on the role of a Wife? Did I really love this man enough to make a commitment to him of " 'til death do us part?" Was I really willing to submit and give up my individuality? I was in a real panic when it became clear that I wasn't up to it all. Now I realized I really needed God's help.

Even before the wedding day there came times of adjustment, of "giving in" and compromise. I started asking God for the strength to adjust to my husband's way of life - he was a farmer, and I a city girl. He lived with all his family within a few miles radius (and it was a large family) and I must leave mine. I had a career, and now I must lay it aside for a new one.

Young women, you've got to be prepared to bend, and blend. And it isn't easy. But in those difficult times it is so helpful to go to God for aid.

Often I have looked at the circumstances in which He has placed me. I've asked, "Oh why do I have to live here, and in this community?" But you know God knew just the place He wanted me, and He knew which neighbours would do just the trick of knocking those rough edges of "self" off me, and which others would really build me up. Again and again we've gone in prayer about matters in the family and community that concerned us. We have often been blessed with the love and the understanding that He's given to us, and to them, for one another. It is with joy we see this community coming together, a solid unit in the love of God. But it only happened because we wanted it to happen, and because God helped us.

Young women, when you marry a man, you also marry into his family. You must learn to love and reverence his parents, and acknowledge his brothers and sisters too. That means you must budget your time, so there will be a chance for you to visit, to write, and communicate with, to work and play with both your families. Your families, especially your parents, have put a lot of time and effort into your upbringing. It is only reasonable that your parents and families would expect your honor and respect. Mothers especially need attention. Write your Moms often. Share your time with your Mothers often. You'll never know how much it means to her, and you will be richer by far.

After we were married one of the first things we established was our family altar. Family worship has become such an important part of our daily life that I'd advise every young couple to do it. Our family worship usually takes place early in the morning before the family leaves for school, and we go about our daily chores. It takes many forms - prayer, Bible-reading, Sharon

Star-reading, or other spiritual books, we sing sometimes, we give praise and we also share our problems. We leave time for questions and study and discussion. And the whole family is involved from Dad and Mother down to our baby. It starts our day off on a spiritual note, and often sets the tenor for the whole day. Because our children participate freely, we find it an ideal time to teach them the ways and words of the Lord (Bible verses). This time of sharing spiritual things has given our home a special love and strength, not found in the "world".

As I said before, when I married I had to leave a career, and take on a new role. Just the other day I heard a young wife describe her occupation as "just a homemaker". I was disturbed by her words. We are not "just homemakers". We are HOME MAKERS. We have the most important career in the world that a woman can function. We MAKE homes. Often I've heard the saying, "As the home goes, so goes the nation". Young women, you have the job that can make or break your home. You can actually make or break the church. You can make or break the nation. God has placed in your hands the ability and power, that no government or ruling power can duplicate, or supplement, or detract from. And if you are worried about your ability to become a good homemaker, ask God to help you. No task is too trivial for Him to help, no problem too hard. I remember a sister in our church kneeling down before she started to make her first batch of bread. She makes the loveliest, lightest bread I know; because God helps her.

You know, girls, right now you should be preparing yourself for the most important task you'll ever do. Many times I've thought back to how my mother did things. My grandmother's example as a "good and peaceable woman" has made a deep impression on my life. And there have been times the older women of the church have shared their experiences and taught me much about homemaking.

It's never too early for a girl to start learning the skills that make a good homemaker. These skills are just as important as all the arithmetic, writing and reading she'll ever learn in school. Her homemaking skills will MAKE the home; her scholastic skills will trim and enrich the home. I have a nine-year

old daughter who has already a recipe collection, and knows how to put many of them to use. And I wouldn't be a bit surprised she'll make an excellent cook, because she delights in learning about cooking and healthful nutrition. Mothers, your attitude toward homemaking will brush off on your daughter. Either she'll love it because you did, or hate it because you taught her to hate it.

Girls, you might think Mom is real old fashioned. But just give me the benefit of the doubt this once. She really has a lot of wisdom; you'll be so happy you learned all you could from her when you were at home.

I've heard women say that homemaking is boring, unfulfilling, drudgery. Some even say they have nothing to do at home! But homemaking needn't be that way. If you make homemaking your specialty in life, you'll find it exciting, rewarding, and it will fill every waking moment. If you set your mind to it and ask God for His help, homemaking will become a delight, instead of a disaster.

Before children arrive, make it your concern to specialize in getting your "homemaking-act" together. Maybe you haven't cared for a house or apartment all by yourself before, or cooked three meals a day, or whatever. Now's the time to learn, to perfect those skills. Specialize in your husband before all the "little distractions" appear.

Learn what his tastes are in every imaginable area, and cater to them. .

Learn his moods. Try to go with the same current so you can either complement or supplement them, whatever he needs. You know you have a lot of influence over your husband's emotions and even over his health. I have read that a husband who leaves home for work, with the memory of a sweet kiss on his lips, placed there by a loving wife, has a more accident-free day, is a better worker, and is home earlier. He even lives longer. That's because if a man is at peace at home, with a loving and submissive wife, and with a home in order, he doesn't have near the worries or stress another man in different circumstances has.

I want you to know you also can control, with God's help, the mood of the day. If your husband wakes all rumpled and ruffled, you can turn on all your kindness and understanding. If he growls, don't growl back. Turn

around and give him his favorite breakfast, served in a peaceful and unhurried manner. This might mean setting the alarm fifteen minutes early for you. It may mean biting your tongue. You may have to be cheerful when you don't feel at all cheerful. But it's all worth it. You MAKE his day.

Learn to understand him. Find out about his background, his job, his friends. It may mean even stepping mentally into his shoes sometimes. Try picturing just what stresses he experiences all day. Try understanding what is so intriguing and exciting about his job. If you are never interested in what he is doing, then how can you expect him to be interested in your day, your joys and problems, your accomplishments, and even your failures?

In this time of adjusting to your dear husband, and "learning" him, you might run across days when you've really tried, and just nothing works the way you'd hoped or dreamed. "Why" you'll moan, "I tried so hard." The toast burned again. He wasn't satisfied with how you ironed his shirt. Every time you opened your mouth it seemed you said the wrong thing. And then you looked across the table, and it wasn't "a knight in shining armor" just a man, who seemed to do nothing but criticize and complain. This isn't the time to jump on him with both barrels open, or to bewail your fate. It's time to go and pray, quietly, by yourself. Ask God for help. Recognize that YOU alone can't carry the load.

Now this might sound like a fairy tale, but it is 100 per cent true, and I've experienced it. If you invite God into your marriage, and ask for His help. He'll help! First of all, if you really mean business, He'll restore your calm and you won't burn the toast. He'll give you a better understanding of your job as a homemaker. He'll give you a love in your heart like you never knew before, so you aren't touchy. He'll put that rose tint back into your glasses so that plain man will turn back into the "knight in shining armor" and more. Remember how I said God was generous. When asked in real sincerity, He will so do something in your husband's heart. Your husband will actually become more understanding and less critical, more loving; and he won't even realize how or why, possibly.

Now there are times when it's necessary to speak frankly with your hus

band about problems. But pray first. Carefully choose your time to speak. Speak calmly, and quietly. If you can speak quietly, and keep the tenor of your voice low during a "discussion", it's unlikely the discussion will become an argument, or worse. How can anyone, especially a husband, know what bothers you, or pleasures you, unless you tell him. By the same token tell him what makes you happy. What are your likes in a matter. How have you done things before, e.g. celebrated your birthdays. He's no mind reader, and he needs your help.

Next, men are very susceptible to sincere praise. They just blossom out all over, when you praise them. Don't wait to do it just in public when you're boasting to your friends what a great man you caught. Do it right at home, at the appropriate moment. Remember, you are the most important person in his life. A pat on the back from you is so important. You are his mirror, and he will become what you reflect.

Show him, tell him often you have confidence in him. I knew a family where the husband had a terrible time to make up his mind about anything. One day hubby was wrestling with another decision. His wife came to him, put an arm around his shoulders, and gently said, "Dear, whatever your decision is, I feel confident it will be a good one." That man grew about a foot taller. And within moments he had the problem worked out. His wife had confidence in him! and he knew he was in control.

Make your man feel special. He is very special, you know. God has made him just for you. And there is only one of you in the whole world. Tell him often how special he is and what makes him special. I've even bought or made small presents at certain occasions just to tell him how special he is to me. Yes, a man likes the special feeling of receiving a flower, a note, a box of your own home-made fudge, to make life special, interesting, exciting. Celebrate things, occasions, seasons, anything that means a lot to your husband. We celebrate Daddy's birthday with a cake, made only once a year, especially for him. We celebrate the day he finally got up courage to ask me for a date. We celebrated when he got the new baler. We celebrate Ground Hog's Day, because to a farmer the coming of spring is very important.

There are other ways of making him feel special, and important. Speak about Daddy only in complimentary terms to family members. Let the children know how much you think of him. They'll start echoing you, and he'll become a special father too. Speak with confidence about him. "Daddy can fix it." When you have confidence in your man, he has confidence in himself, and can meet most any obstacle, and make a success of it.

Once I heard a matron in the church say if she had only one piece of advice to give young wives, it would be: "Never criticize your husband in public, or behind his back. It never helps anyone. If you have a gripe, speak directly to your husband. If it can't be resolved, then you may have to go the elders of your church. But your marital problems are not up for gossip, ever!"

There may be problems that you've spoken about with your husband and you just can't find a solution. Perhaps, you will just have to accept them. Remember, you took that man, "for better or worse." You never took him "to better" or 'make over.' If you find it hard to accept that man, ask God for His help. That help will aid you more than anything.

Once I knew a wife who was just frantic. Her husband was never on time for meals, even breakfasts. She spoke to him, whined, cried, stormed, every imaginable trick she had up her sleeve, because she felt it was a legitimate complaint. Nothing changed, except the resentments got worse. One day she just gave up. "Dear God, help me to accept him the way he is," she prayed. An answer came back "He does always come home, though, doesn't he? You never worried that he was out carousing or into mischief." And somehow a new joy and peace came into her heart. That problem no longer bothered her. Then one day she woke up to the realization her husband had been home and in time for every meal that week. God had helped her to accept the problem, and He had changed the man's heart. Both were happier by far, God is so good, and so generous.

There have been times I have felt really sorry for myself. It seemed every suggestion I made was vetoed. Every conclusion I came to was wrong. I felt it was tough, very tough to be a woman and to often be the one to have

to step back, to submit. Again I have found prayer a great source of help. In recent times before I make a request, I pray first. "Lord if my request is worthy of attention, help my husband to hear what I say. If it is a good suggestion help him to agree. But if it's a poor idea, and he refuses, help me to accept his refusal." When I approached my husband in this frame of mind, I have been amazed how many times before I even put the request into words, he was making the suggestion himself. And I was overjoyed!

Reading this you may think we are supposed to be mindless women, ruled by tyrannical men. That is not so. God has set a beautiful order. Man is the head of the home. Woman is the helpmeet. I was fortunate to grow up in a Godly home, where His order was well established. I had such confidence in my father, and my mother set such a good example. This order came to me as the natural way of things. My Father could have said black and white, and I would have believed him, I trusted him so. I came to believe that even if he ruled out my wishes, it was right. I knew God gave him knowledge and wisdom I didn't have. It wasn't just an ordinary knowledge and wisdom, but from God. My parents example was indelibly written on my heart, and easily transferred to my husband, and our marriage.

There have been times I've known my thinking was perfectly logical, according to the worlds standards. I could back my answer with all kinds of facts and figures. And still in my husband's eyes the decision was wrong. Because I have such strong faith in my husband, I let the matter rest. Again it was proven the infallibility of the God-given knowledge and wisdom. Things really did work out for the best, my husband's way. And all the time, what a pleasure to have a loving and kind husband to help me through.

One other thing. Sometimes we complain about our husbands doing something we dislike. Have you ever looked into your life to make sure you aren't doing the same thing. You know, it is so easy to forgive or overlook our own faults. Once I was bothered to no end when he interrupted me when I was writing a letter. Somehow after I had complained, God put a little check in my heart. Had I really done such an inconsiderate thing? Never! But I kept

check, and sure enough I found myself interrupting him at all kinds of things. Oh, how sorry I felt! And now before I could expect him to change I had to clean up my own act!

And then the children came. What beautiful little ones. But if I ever felt distracted, frustrated, impatient, utterly lacking, it was now. Oh how impossible mothering would have been, without Daddy there to lend a hand, give moral support, help discipline, help teach and train. Many times I've thought how good it was God put two parents into a family. And now more than ever, I needed God.

Those children have taught me more about life in their short years than I've ever gleaned in all my years previous. I've understood and appreciated my own parents more than ever before.

One of my first lessons was, "Let Daddy help a bit." Somehow I figured I was the only one who could, or should do anything for that baby, until I was utterly exhausted. And for sure I was going to be the best mother there ever was! I was very disappointed also, that in that moment of birth I didn't magically change into the wise and understanding person I remembered my own mother as being. I've learned it takes many years, much experience, much learning. Yes, one of those first lessons was that Dad was excellent with babies. What a relief to know I wasn't 100 per cent responsible for this little one.

Now you have to plan your day much more carefully. It is a common mistake for young mothers to put all their attention on the baby, and forget poor old Dad. More than ever Dad needs your attentions, your love and concern to help him fit into his new role. Perhaps you'll even have to plan your budget so there is a baby-sitting allowance for the odd time out, just the two of you.

And you'll have to plan a time for yourself. You need a little time every day just for yourself to pray or read, or enjoy some recreation. You have to be just you, not wife, not mother, or anything else for just a little while each day, to relax and collect your wits. I've been very fortunate in that my children have all had a nap after dinner until about four years. Then they were in such a habit of a "quiet time" in the afternoon, that to this day they co-operate in giving me a time just to my

self each day.

Although your main interests should be in the home, it is helpful to have some interest outside the home. Often your ministry will take you out among others, or bring them in to you. And this is good. Because if you remain isolated in your house all week, you become very self-centered. And home problems become monumental in your mind, because you have no one else for whom to think or care.

In disciplining, I have learned many things over the years. If you're a new parent and feel your lack of knowledge, you are apt to feel very inadequate. Your best place to seek help is from your husband. Talk over problems. Then you may want to seek help from:

1. Your Heavenly Father.
2. Proverbs.
3. How did Mom and Dad do it?

4. Take the example of a good, and proven mother in the church, such as an elder's wife. At times I've been tempted to read books on "child psychology," etc. I'm afraid many of those books left me very confused and upset. So although some think what these experts say may be helpful, take a lot of it with a grain of salt. Remember theirs is only a "natural" and not a "spiritual" knowledge.

From my own experience:

1. A child can understand at a very early age what is acceptable.
2. A child needs you to be consistent. It is "no" today, and it is "no" tomorrow, and tomorrow, and tomorrow, no matter how they beg or cry.
3. Don't give up, or get tired of disciplining. At times I've been so tired and ill I just didn't have the strength to discipline. Then when I did catch my breath I found the problem was bigger than ever, and my child was confused on top of it all.
4. A child needs praise. Praise will often do more, when it is appropriate and sincere, than all the criticism in the world.
5. A child needs your trust. How is he going to learn to trust others, and to become trustworthy, if you never trust him?
6. A child needs to be told, out loud, often that you love him.
7. A child must learn to give and take in a family, but he must also know he is a very special member of that family.
8. Never discipline too hastily, or

when you are angry. When you are hasty you might see only half the picture. When you're angry you might see a distorted picture.

9. Don't keep bringing up your child's shortcomings. God forgives and forgets, doesn't He?

10. Don't hesitate to say you're sorry, and accept that you can be wrong.

11. Help children to understand the results of their actions.

12. Children need to learn how to handle money, how to save money, how to tithe, and the value of good hard work.

Above all go to God when you don't have the answers. He will give you the knowledge, the wisdom, the love you need so much.

Many young mothers have today thought that earning a share of the family income a reasonable idea. I am going to ask you to consider a few things very carefully before you make any decisions. First of all, have you really set down in black and white how much you'd have left after all the extra expenditures were taken care of? What expenses? How about clothes for work, transportation, lunch, babysitting? Then there are the things you normally did - like baking and mending that you don't have time for now. So you have to buy more things ready-made, more convenience products, more throw-away items. Also when you're already downtown, you might as well just whip around the corner and get this or that, you normally wouldn't get. Be honest in your calculation. You'll find you really aren't bringing home that much.

Now you've earned that money, it would be only reasonable you should be able to spend it as you please. Wouldn't it? So the devil argues, to make a division in your home.

And finally think of the children. They are the ones most apt to LOSE on your make-money idea. Babysitters just can't mother or discipline like you can. Children become confused, more easily upset, more disorderly when Mom is there just now and then. But you say, your children are all in school, or teenagers. Sure they aren't so dependent on you physically, but emotionally they need you more than ever.

I've heard "experts" say it's the

quality, not the quantity, of mothering a child receives that counts. Tell me, what quality of mothering can you give after eight hours on the job, plus all your housework?

As far as I can see, in the Bible there is no mention of a wife earning a share of the family income. But over and over again it speaks of the homemaker excelling at her task. Here is one place you can really show your colors, especially with inflation rampant. Remember I talked about specializing? Well you know your husband's income. You know how you've agreed to budget that money. Now you work within those limits, and stretch those dollars every imaginable way. Become the best repair lady, the best recycler, the best sales hunter, the best consumer on your block. My Mom could make anything, mend anything, smell a real sale a mile off. She could make a delicious meal out of scraps, and she clothed us neatly and pleasantly on hand-me-downs and madeovers, often. And you can do it too. Yes, you can even pray for help in this area. Many times I've known what was on my shopping list, and I've known how much was in my wallet. And I've asked God to help me stretch that dollar. And He did. At other times I've asked for guidance to know what was really necessary on my list, and what I could do without.

Once I heard a lady bemoaning her fate as, "just a homemaker." Why her friends were doing such interesting things, going to such exotic places, making so much money, while she was just a homemaker doing the same menial tasks day after day, for nothing! At first I thought she had a point. And then it struck me how wrong she was. She was building a home, a family, one of the most earth-shaping and responsible jobs on earth! And her pay, matchless! She has grown to see that family grow up, walking with the Lord, with their homes in order. Her friends pay cheques are long gone: hers will last from generation to generation!

In recent years we've heard a lot about women's liberation. To tell you the truth, I've often been confused by what they called liberation. As children of God, we are the most liberated women on earth. As a home

maker I've often looked at my home and all its conveniences and felt very grateful. We have been liberated from much of the hard toil our mothers and grandmothers did. -

Now let me tell you a little story. Once I hated doing dishes. It was the last chore I did around the house. They'd pile up and pile up and I could still find something else more pressing to do. Once we got the hot running water things were a little better. And then one day it dawned on me that at noon time when I did dishes, the children were all tucked in bed, quiet. Now was an ideal time for me to meditate and pray and sing without interruption. Dishes time became a favorite time, actually a respite in my day. Then my daughter got to that age where she could help. Now that time we spent together working over a menial task, brought a chance for us to talk over our day. A time to share our hopes and dreams, our problems and difficulties. And because we both love to sing, we often sang. There came a chance for us to get a dishwasher, and you know I refused it. Dishes time had provided so much in my life, I didn't want to let it go!

Young wives, learn to be content with what you have. And when God gradually adds to you, enjoy it thoroughly. When we got our new home we dedicated it to God's use. We have often been blessed by the use He's put it to. Each new addition to the home we've also dedicated to His use. Our home is God's, God dwells with us in it, and uses it and us. Praise God!

And finally, young women, while you've read this you've likely noticed how often I've mentioned prayer. No life, no home, is complete without God's presence. And when God is there, it is only natural to want to communicate with Him. Long ago my Grandmother taught me about this. She said her first thought on waking was, "God, please help me this day to be a good wife and mother." All who knew my grandma have pronounced her one of the finest examples of a wife, mother and homemaker they knew. You too can be the best, young women, with God's help.

In quietness and confidence shall be your strength. Anonymous.