

Let's Go Home

When we are about town shopping or running errands and someone says, "Let's go home," that suddenly has the greatest and sweetest attraction to me. All at once there is the anticipation of rest and refreshment.

When we walk through the door I feel a sweet sense of peace and comfort that settles over me. Our homes should be all of that and more. Home should be a place that is cherished and treasured, one that could be called "home sweet home."

When my husband and I married a year and a half out of high school, we had minimal preparation and little instruction about building a home, but we had a deep love and respect for each other. Our life-goal was perfectly clear. We knew it would be serving the Lord in evangelism or pastoral ministry.

The first time I heard him preach was in a neighborhood church and it was our first date. It was a double date with my cousin and her boyfriend. He was an excellent young preacher and I was very impressed.

When he was preaching and looked in my direction I turned my eyes away so as not to distract him. On the way home he asked me why I didn't look at him while he was preaching. I replied, "I didn't want to distract you." His reply was, "Well, that distracted me." You can imagine that was a lesson I did not have to relearn.

We discussed many things about what we wanted our home to be. We agreed that we wanted to have a peaceful home without heated arguments and verbal offenses. Though we may have broken that rule a few times, for the most part we have honored those early resolves. I thank God for our "home sweet home."

Home should be a place of retreat from the cares of life and from stresses that a sin-cursed world brings on us. It should be a place of rest and sweet relief.

It should also be a place where we feel peace and know that we are loved and appreciated. There should be no anxiety in the family about coming together again at the end of the day. Always there should be the sweet anticipation of reunion.

When the children were young, Daddy's homecoming at day's end was a jubilant occasion. As the time for his arrival from the office came near, I would have the children put away their toys and get ready for Daddy. When he came in the driveway the children yelled excitedly, "Daddy's home!" It was a happy time. He would play with them a while before dinner to the delight of all of us. He still likes to play, but now it is more often with the grandchildren.

Sadly, many homes are not the places of sweet retreat they should be. It seems they are just places where people go to sleep, change their clothes and pack a lunch for the next day.

The people in such cases are like casual acquaintances, but they are not close family. They don't seem to have deep attachments to one another or to the family as a whole. The home is more like a house with a revolving door where the people pass through on their way to their real life outside the home.

The breakdown of our families today is at a critical level throughout our society. Though divorce may not always happen, there is a serious divide in the home way too often. When Mom is going in one direction, Dad in another and the children in still another direction, a cohesiveness and unity are sure to be missing.

Home should be a place of consolation. When you have experienced a great disappointment, a problem on the job or an emotional assault, home should be the place where you can retreat and find a loving embrace with compassionate companionship.

When you have that, the pain will go away so much more quickly. One should never have to worry about whether or not his or her spouse will be understanding. Without that comfort a couple may find themselves hiding their feelings from each other and growing apart instead of growing closer through the struggles of life.

When the children were growing up we had a wall plaque which read, "Christ is the Head of our home, the unseen Guest at every meal and the silent Listener to every conversation."

All of life should be governed by such godly principles. There is nothing more important than that in child rearing. Our children too should find home a place of unconditional love, sweet retreat, understanding consolation, genuine friendship and joyful Christian living.

May the Lord help us make it all of that and even more. If your family and your marriage are not top priorities, now is the time to push the reset button and get things in shape. With the Lord's help there is no real reason your house should not be your "home sweet home."

Now I have spent a lot of time telling you about myself and the lessons I have learned throughout my life. I would like to ask you a question about yourself. Have you secured your home in Heaven? If perhaps you have not yet settled the matter of your salvation for certain, why don't you do so now? It is very simple! First, you must take in to consideration these facts:

1. YOU HAVE SINNED AGAINST GOD.

"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God."—Romans 3:23.

2. YOUR SIN CARRIES A PENALTY.

"For the wages of sin is death..."—Romans 6:23.

3. GOD'S SON, JESUS, PAID YOUR SIN DEBT WHEN HE DIED ON THE CROSS, WAS BURIED AND ROSE AGAIN.

"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."—Romans 5:8.

4. ACCEPT BY FAITH THE PAYMENT JESUS MADE FOR YOU.

"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."—Romans 10:13.

That is all! Will you turn to the Lord and admit you are a sinner in need of a Savior? Will you put your faith in Christ Jesus and fully trust Him to save you? Would you call on Him today and accept His free gift?

If you will, then right now in simple faith pray this prayer asking the Lord to forgive you of your sin and reserve a home in Heaven for you:

Dear Heavenly Father, I know I am a sinner. I know Jesus died on the cross and arose from the grave for me. Right now, I ask that you forgive me of my sin and save me. I accept Jesus' payment on the cross to save me. In Jesus' name, amen.

If you are already saved but struggling to live the Christian life, I pray that the lessons I have shared with you have been a help to you.

You will recall that Jesus said,

"A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good;"—Luke 6:45.

The things that I have written here are truly treasures from my heart. It is my hope and prayer that you will take them into your heart and treasure them as your very own.

