

Zion's Advocate

*"And blessed are they who shall seek to bring forth my Zion at that day,
for they shall have the gift and the power of the Holy Ghost;"*

1 Nephi 3:187

VOLUME 72

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92 Yea, I know that I am nothing; as to my strength, I am weak; therefore I will not boast of myself, but I will boast of my God; for in his strength I can do all things;...

94 Yea, we have reason to praise him for ever, for he is the most high God, and has loosed our brethren from the chains of hell.

96 Yea, and we have been instruments in his hands, of doing this great and marvelous work; therefore let us glory, yea, we will glory in the Lord; yea, we will rejoice, for our joy is full; yea, we will praise our God for ever.

Alma 14:92, 94, 96

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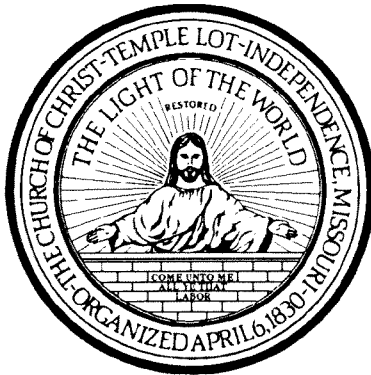
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To promote His Teachings & His Church, the Church of Christ;
To be a voice of warning to His people; To be Zion's advocate.

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ARTICLE

Humility

By Elder Arthur G. Smith

"And he opened his mouth, and taught them, saying, blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven" Matthew 5:2-3.

This was the opening statement of the lessons that Jesus taught to the disciples as they met on the mountain side. He needed to prepare them for the tasks ahead of them, for they were to be the teachers after Jesus was no longer on earth. How many others were drawn to the site and heard these things we do not know. The discourse, commonly called the sermon on the mount, concludes at the end of chapter seven with these words,

"And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine: for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes" Matthew 7:28-29.

How fitting that the Lord would list as a first requirement that humility was needed to approach our God. From the beginning of time God has called us to worship Him, and submit ourselves before Him, recognizing that we are subject to Him and that we are dependent on Him for all our needs. The humility of Jesus qualified him to become the Son of God in the beginning.

Micah wrote,

"He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?" Micah 6:8.

If we stop to think about it, this is the attitude, or state of our mind, when we can be taught. God is all wise and loves us when we are willing to listen to His Holy Spirit. We need all the wisdom we can learn if we would be part of the kingdom of God. We are promised the Holy Spirit if we keep His command-

From the beginning of time God has called us to worship Him, and submit ourselves before Him, recognizing that we are subject to Him and that we are dependent on Him for all our needs.

ments. The proud are resisted and learn nothing from the Holy Spirit; the humble are given grace.

The proper attitude of prayer is always a humble approach to our Lord for His grace and mercy to be extended to our needs. We need to remember that we can be truly sincere if we are humble, and our faith will be answered accordingly.

Repentance for sin means nothing if we are not humbled in our spirit; we need to repent daily.

"The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken

heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit” Psalm 34:18.

“Behold, are ye stripped of pride? I say

The proud are resisted and learn nothing from the Holy Spirit; the humble are given grace.

unto you, If you are not, ye are not prepared to meet God. Behold ye must prepare quickly, for the kingdom of heaven is soon at hand, and such an one hath not eternal life” Alma 3:50-51.

Alma writes this also,

“Yea, he that truly humbleth himself and repenteth of his sins, and endureth to the end, the same shall be blessed; yea, much more blessed than they who are com-

pelled to be humble, because of their exceeding poverty; therefore blessed are they who humble themselves without being compelled to be humble” Alma 16:137.

When Jesus came to the people here in the Americas he prepared the disciples here with the same teachings as he taught in Judea. In the third book of Nephi we read,

“Yea, blessed are they which shall believe in your words, and come down into the depths of humility, and be baptized; for they shall be visited with fire and with the Holy Ghost, and shall receive a remission of their sins. Yea, blessed are the poor in spirit which come unto me, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven” III Nephi 5:49-50.

So we can conclude that humility is required to be properly baptized. Baptism

is not just a formal ritual that can be applied to just anyone; it requires a thoughtful deliberate act of the conscious soul before God, primarily ex-

Repentance for sin means nothing if we are not humbled in our spirit...

pressing humility and repentance.

Without humility we are as dead souls without the promise of an eternal life... without hope...without the kingdom of heaven. With humility before our God we may pour out our cares, trials, sins, and many needs in prayer to the enrichment of our spiritual lives in Christ. Let us cherish the blessings of humility. ZA

IT IS NEAR— THE LAST SIGN

By Harvey E. Seibel

*“For yourselves know perfectly that the **day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night...** But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief...Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober...For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Thessalonians 5:2, 4, 6, 9).*

*“And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares. For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. **WATCH YE THEREFORE, AND PRAY ALWAYS, THAT***

YE MAY BE ACCOUNTED WORTHY TO ESCAPE ALL THESE THINGS THAT SHALL COME TO PASS, AND TO STAND BEFORE THE SON OF MAN” (Luke 21:34-36).

“And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the LORD hath said...” (Joel 2:32) (Bold & Caps—H.E.S.).

We are today in the period of time described in the fifth seal in which John saw the souls of them that were slain for the word of God who cried, “How long, O Lord... dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?” And it was answered them, “that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellow-servants also and their brethren, that should be

killed as they were, should be fulfilled” (Revelation 6:9-11).

This is the great tribulation described in Matthew.

The coming of the northern army is the last sign to be given before the opening of the sixth seal, or before the appearance of the Lord in the heavens.

“For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be...Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all

the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory" (Matthew 24:21, 29-30).

These signs signal the opening of the sixth seal and the conclusion of the tribulation of the fifth seal.

*"And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood; And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth...And the heaven departed as a scroll...And the kings of the earth, and the great men..." etc., "...said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: **FOR THE GREAT DAY OF HIS WRATH IS COME; AND WHO SHALL BE ABLE TO STAND?**" (Revelation 6:12-17)*

It is the author's opinion that the Fifth Seal was opened in 1830 commencing the time of tribulation. The Sixth Seal, however, will bring in the day of wrath, or *the day of the Lord* as it is given in other scriptures.

Matthew says that the signs in the sun, moon, and stars follow the tribulation. Joel 2:31 says these signs precede

Then Zion will become a reality in power and the saints will have deliverance from the wrath to follow, which shall be poured out upon the wicked...

the coming of the great and terrible day of the LORD. Revelation 6 says those same signs signal the opening of the sixth seal, which agrees with both Matthew and Joel above. We have seen signs aplenty of the day in which we live that we are truly living in the last generation of mankind. Two of these signs (which have spoken to us in thunder tones, if we had been listening) were the creation of the state of Israel in 1948 and the political power suddenly being wielded by homosexuals around the world. But there is another of far more devastating import yet to be revealed.

The sign given in Matthew 24 states that the times of the Gentiles would be fulfilled when Jerusalem was no longer trodden down of them. The giving of the Holy City to

the Gentiles began with the captivity of Nebuchadnezzar in sixth century B.C. Gentile dominion over that city ended in 1948 with the creation of the state of Israel. Events leading up to the restoring of Judah to their homeland was started in 1917 by the removal of the Turks from that land by General Allenby of Great Britain during World War One. But a twin development also occurred in that same year. It was the rise of Bolshevism and the overthrow of the Russian Czar in the October revolution of 1917. This has tremendous significance for us today because as the times of the Gentiles were coming to a close, (even as pagan Rome came to its end and a power yet more sinister replaced it) a new and more sinister power was rising in atheistic communism. That this was to take place when the Great Day of the Lord was near is shown by reference to Ezekiel 30:2-3:

*"Son of man, prophesy and say, Thus saith the Lord God; Howl ye, Woe worth the day! **FOR THE DAY IS NEAR, EVEN THE DAY OF THE LORD IS NEAR, A CLOUDY DAY; IT SHALL BE THE TIME OF THE HEATHEN.**"*

And what will be the situation of the saints in Zion in that day and what will be the last sign before the coming of the Lord or the opening of the sixth seal? Consider:

“Hear this, ye old men, and give ear, all ye inhabitants of the land. Hath this been in your days, or even in the days of your fathers? Tell ye your children of it, and let your children tell their children, and their children another generation. That which the palmerworm hath left hath the locust eaten; and that which the locust hath left hath the cankerworm eaten...” etc., *“Awake, ye drunkards, and weep... For a nation is come up upon MY LAND, strong, and without number... Lament like a virgin girded with sackcloth for the husband of her youth. The meat offering and the drink offering is cut off from the **house of the LORD**; the priests, the LORD’s ministers, mourn. The field is wasted,... Be ye ashamed, O Ye husbandmen, howl, O ye vinedressers, for the wheat and for the barley; because the harvest of the field is perished... **Gird yourselves, and lament, ye priests: howl,***

***ye ministers of the altar:** come, lie all night in sackcloth, **ye ministers of my God:** for the meat offering and the drink offering is withholden from the house of your God. Sanctify ye a fast, call a solemn assembly, **gather the elders** and all the inhabitants of the land into the house of the LORD your God, and cry unto the LORD. Alas for the day! **For the day of the LORD is at hand,** and as a destruction from the Almighty shall it come. Is not the meat cut off before our eyes, yea, joy and gladness from the house of our God? “(See Joel 1).*

*“Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: **FOR THE DAY OF THE LORD COMETH, FOR IT IS NIGH AT HAND;** A day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and of thick darkness... a great people and a strong... A fire devoureth before them; and behind them a flame burneth: the land is as the garden of Eden before them, and behind them a desolate wilderness; yea, and nothing shall escape them... The earth shall*

quake before them; the heavens shall tremble: the sun and the moon shall be dark, and the stars shall withdraw their shining: And the Lord shall utter his voice before his army... for the day of the LORD is great and very terrible; and who can abide it?

*“Therefore also now, saith the LORD, turn ye even to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning... Blow the trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly: Gather the people, sanctify the congregation, **assemble the elders,** gather the children, and those that suck the breasts: **let the bridegroom go forth of his chamber, and the bride out of her closet.** Let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep between the porch and the altar, and let them say, Spare thy people, O LORD, and give not thine heritage to reproach, that the heathen should rule over them: wherefore should they say among the people, Where is their God? Then will the LORD be jealous for his land, and pity his people... I will no more make*

you a reproach among the heathen: But I will remove far off from you the northern army" (See Joel 2).

The coming of the northern army (the Gog of Ezekiel 38 & 39) is the last sign to be given before the opening of the sixth seal, or before the appearance of the Lord in the heavens. It is also the climax of the great tribulation when the saints will be brought to their greatest extremity because of the heathen. And if the righteous scarcely be saved what shall be the end of them that fear not God? Judgment shall surely begin at the house of God. Nevertheless the ministers of the Lord will plead for their people in that terrible crisis and God will hear and answer. Then Zion will become a reality in power and the saints will have deliverance from the wrath to follow, which shall be poured out upon the wicked in the form of the seventh seal via the seven angels with the seven trumpet judgments.

Upon whom does the Day of the Lord come? Or upon whom is the wrath of God to be poured out in that day?

"For the day of the LORD of hosts shall be upon every one that is proud and lofty, and

upon every one that is lifted up; and he shall be brought low" (Isaiah 2:12). "Howl ye; for the day of the LORD is at hand; it shall come as a destruction from the Almighty. Therefore shall all hands be faint, and every man's heart shall melt: And they shall be afraid: pangs and sorrows shall take hold of them; they shall be in pain as a woman that travaileth: they shall be amazed one at another; their faces shall be as flames. Behold, the day of the Lord cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it. For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine. And I will punish the world for their evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; and I will cause the arrogancy of the proud to cease, and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible" (Isaiah 13:6-11). "For the day of the LORD is near upon all the heathen...But upon mount

Zion shall be deliverance" (Obadiah 15 & 17). "For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch" (Malachi 4:1).

So what is the Lord's instruction to us?

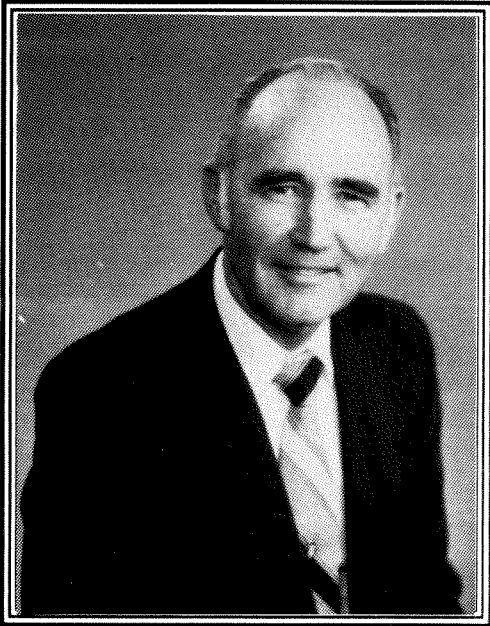
"Seek ye the LORD, all ye meek of the earth, which have wrought his judgment; seek righteousness, seek meekness: IT MAY BE YE SHALL BE HID IN THE DAY OF THE LORD'S ANGER" (Zephaniah 2:3).

But for others there is this warning:

"Woe unto you that desire the day of the LORD! To what end is it for you? The day of the LORD is darkness, and not light... Shall not the day of the LORD be darkness, and not light? Even very dark, and no brightness in it?" (Amos 5:18 & 20).
 ZA

OUR VITAL HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS: PART 4

Duties of Husbands



By
Apostle Donald McIndoo

Just as the scriptures outlined the specific and primary duties of Christian wives, they clearly point out the primary, essential duty of the Christian husband. This primary responsibility of husbands is summarized in a word. In Colossians 3:19 we read, "Husbands, love your wives..." There it is: God's requirement of every husband. So simply stated, and yet it needs some explanation

and then daily application into our lives. I can explain, but each reader must recognize, with the aid of the Holy Spirit, how it needs to be applied into your own relationship with your wife. The Greek word, *apagao*, which Paul used in God's command to all husbands is a very specific word.

1. It is the same word he used to describe God's love for us.
2. It is the same word which describes the way we should respond to Him.
3. So important is it that we understand how God loves us and how we are to love our wives, that Paul was to define this kind of love to the early church in Asia and Moroni to the church in America. These passages are found in 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 and Moroni 7:51 respectively. Some of its characteristics are as follows:
 - a. It is long-suffering and forgiving. Has

In a nutshell, if we are angry and bitter toward our wives, we cannot truly say we love them.

God shown that kind of love toward you? Of course He has. It really doesn't make any difference what short-coming you see in your wife—perhaps you think she's too lazy, a spendthrift, a poor cook, or perhaps she nags too much. When such a thought pops involuntarily into your mind, take a moment and think about the undesirable qualities God may see in you. And yet He has been long-suffering and forgiving. David wrote, "His mercy is everlasting..." And, husband, aren't you glad? Now God expects that same response from you to-

ward your wife.

b. It is always kind. This simple term means that the hus-

Love does not dwell upon the errors or short-comings of our wife...rather, it looks for and accentuates and praises her positive attributes.

band shall be friendly, gentle, generous and sympathetic.

c. It is not easily provoked. When we read from Colossians 3:19, we only considered half the statement. Let's read it all: "Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them." Bitter means to be irritated, harsh, or angry with them. 2000 years ago God must have seen some husbands in Asia just like some of us. I've known men who were so angry with their wives that for weeks on end they hardly spoke to them. With such a response they certainly broke this commandment of the Lord and

two more of God's laws were broken as well. In Ephesians 4:26 we are instructed, "Be ye angry and sin not; Let not the sun go down upon your wrath." And in Malachi 2:14 we are instructed to be a close companion to our wife at all times. In a nutshell, if we are angry and bitter toward our wives, we cannot truly say we love them.

d. Love is never selfish nor self-seeking. It seeks first of all the happiness, contentment and well-being of your wife and family.

e. Love does not dwell upon the errors or short-comings of our wife: (Read Phillipians 4:8.) Rather it looks for and accentuates and praises her positive attributes.

f. Love continues in the face of every adversity or provocation.

g. It never ceases; it will always be present and endure through all of life.

This type of love a husband should have for his wife is to be equivalent to Christ's love for the church: "Husbands, love your wives, even

as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it," (Ephesians 5:25). Here Paul lets us know just how

We are to love our wives as Christ loved the church, willing to suffer all for her, even unto death. What may prove even harder for most of us is to be willing, as was Jesus, to live daily for her.

great is this requirement which God has placed upon the husband. We are to love our wives as Christ loved the church, willing to suffer all for her, even unto death. What may prove even harder for most of us is to be willing, as was Jesus, to live daily for her. This is the type of love Jesus referred to when He asked Peter, "Lovest thou Me?" As you well remember, Peter could not profess this kind of love for his Master at that particular moment in his life. One day the Lord may ask each of us, "Husband, lovest thou thy wife?" How will you be able to respond? Perhaps more to the point, how would your wife respond to your response? If you cannot respond positively at this

particular moment, let us learn to love our wives as Peter learned to love the Master and live for Him. Interest-

...Gentleness, kindness, friendliness, affection, meaningful communication and the sharing of common feelings brings a like response in the natural woman.

ingly, nowhere does the scripture command this kind of love of the wife. It is true that in Titus 2:4 we read, "teach the young women...to love their husbands." But here the original Greek word which was used does not refer to that kind of love commanded of the husband. The love in this passage means "show affection to."

The responsibility of the husband is to initiate this love of Christ in the family. Remember, his role toward the wife is the role of Jesus toward the church: "Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. We love him, because he first loved us" (1 John 4:10 and 19).

As the husband continually expresses this type of

love toward his wife, that love will be reciprocated in the same way we have learned to love Christ, who first loved us. I firmly believe He created women to respond in this way: gentleness, kindness, friendliness, affection, meaningful communication and the sharing of common feelings brings a like response in the natural woman. (Of course there can be cases of women with behavioral aberrations, but they are the exception.) The husband who ignores, ridicules, puts down or chides his wife by day, and then expects a loving, romantic partner by night is defying the very scheme of God's creation pattern. He places himself at odds with both God's word and His divine plan.

Not only is his responsibility to initiate love, he must maintain that love. In the face of every provocation or adversity he must strive to make his love the guiding principle in the home, just as the love of Christ is the guiding influence within the Church. If it is the husband's duty to insure a loving atmosphere in the home, then he may well be held responsible if either member of the household were to say, as so many marriage counselors hear, "There's just no love left in this marriage."

Most often such persons are referring to the emotional, warm, cuddly and romantic feelings Hollywood so

The husband who ignores, ridicules, puts down or chides his wife by day, and then expects a loving, romantic partner by night is defying the very scheme of God's creation pattern.

vividly portrays as love. This has nothing to do with the kind of love God has required husbands to bring to the marriage and maintain. The love which God commands us is not a feeling such as Disney so humorously portrayed in his movie, Bambi, when in the springtime all the little animals of the forest found themselves "twitterpated." I do not deny that such feelings exist, nor that they are wonderful: they just are not the kind of love that is the basis of a sound marriage. In most wedding ceremonies when the young couple is asked to make their marriage vows before God, the minister does not ask the groom, "Do you love this woman...?" That implies a feeling he has to-

ward her. The dangerous part of this kind of love is that feelings are something over which we have little control: they come and go. The love which God requires of you is not feeling-oriented. Rather, the minister asks him, "Will you love this woman...?" This is the God-commanded type of love: it is a love over which we have control. In this instance, the husband (I hasten to add that the bride also makes such a commitment) pledged to voluntarily choose to give of himself to his wife, to exhibit that type of behavior which is deliberate and obedience-oriented.

Let us now turn our attention to another scripture which describes the duties of a husband: "In like manner, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honor unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers be not hindered" (1 Peter 3:7). In this short passage we find four phrases which could use a little amplification:

1. "...ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge..." Here the term *gnosis* implies that the husband will seek to understand his wife. That word, by definition, means "to know thoroughly." Now I doubt

that even Peter would claim to know his wife's thought patterns, moods, temperament and feelings thor-

"Husband, treat your wife with tenderness and care as you would a fragile and valuable vessel."

oughly, so this brings us to the next definition: to seek for a sympathetic awareness and rapport with one's wife. Husbands, here is one of your God-given tasks in life.

2. "...giving honor unto the wife..." The expression means to esteem and honor the wife as a valuable and precious gift.

3. "as unto the weaker vessel..." This is in no sense a derogatory statement. The reference could easily be thought to relate simply to the physical attributes of the wife, and certainly most housewives do not possess the physical strength nor stamina of their husbands. Yet in other ways their physical characteristics keep them alive under conditions where their husbands do not survive. Within the past several months in Arizona two families have been stranded; one

in the snow near I-40 and the other in the desert near I-8. In both cases the wife survived while the husband did not. Mentally and spiritually we know of no inherent differences. I believe the passage must be taken in its entirety. Permit me to paraphrase it in its right context: "Give esteem and value unto the wife as unto a fragile vase." Let me demonstrate what this means by considering a valueless Mason jar. Most people treat it with little care or respect. It can be dropped on the floor with little chance of breaking. On the other hand, consider a delicate and costly porcelain vase: No one in their right mind would treat it as they would a Mason jar. God is saying, "Husband, treat your wife with tenderness and care as you would a fragile and valuable vessel. I made her this way, just for you."

4. This is why Paul was inspired to describe how men should love their wives as he wrote to the Ephesians: "So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. **He that loveth his wife loveth himself.** For no man ever yet hated his own flesh, but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church" (Ephesians 5:28-29). The husband is to nourish his wife. This word painted a

picture for those ancient people of Asia. It implied that he would care for his wife as a mother fed and cared for her beloved child. This passage also says that the husband will cherish his wife. Another tender word, with yet another picture drawn for the hearer. The word really meant "to keep warm" as a mother bird warms her chicks under her wings to provide warmth, shelter and protection. Jesus used this same picturesque form of speech: "...how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings" (Matthew 23:37). The husband is to be to his wife as was Jesus to the church.

5. This passage in 1 Peter 3:7 concludes with a dire warning to all husbands—**"that your prayers be not hindered."** Husbands, this is something seldom considered: here is a commandment with a specific penalty attached for disobedience. The very One to whom we pray is reminding us each to be understanding of our wives, to honor and treasure them as we would a precious vase or it could

have a negative effect upon the very prayers we offer to Him. The Apostle Paul frequently re-

...He (the husband) holds the ultimate responsibility for the maintenance of discipline and spiritual growth.

mind the church that the ministry were to be examples of righteous behavior before the body of Christ. When the Lord, therefore, revealed something of the behavior of those called to the ministry, it is not surprising that under consideration was their role as husband and father. In 1 Timothy 3:4 we read that they are to be "One that ruleth well his own house, having children in subjection with all gravity." As was established in the first part of this lesson, the husband is held responsible for the provision and management of the home. As well, he holds the ultimate responsibility for the maintenance of discipline and spiritual growth.

As with the wife, we

shall conclude this discussion of the duties which God has placed upon the husband with a word portrait of the scriptural husband: He is a man who loves his wife as God has defined true love. He is kind, gentle and patient, giving of himself and trying always to be understanding and sympathetic toward his wife, whom he considers as a companion of esteem and value. He manages well his home and provides for the discipline within the family, for which he tenderly provides warmth, shelter and protection.

In this day when the basic values and heritage of our great nation are being forgotten and undermined, with the institution of marriage under relentless attack and millions of homes suffering the effects of the absence or neglect of fathers, may the Lord bless and increase the scriptural husband that our nation and church be blessed.

ZA

LOCAL NEWS

RAVANNA, MICHIGAN

Our Michigan Reunion was held here again this year. It was so nice to see everyone and to have our little church full. Sue and I were downstairs cooking a lot of the time so we missed a lot of the meetings. We heard from everyone that they were well fed with the sermons, testimonies and the fellowship. I hope they were also well fed at the meals we prepared. You know, when I first came into this church I wondered why they had so many reunions. I had never heard of other churches that did this. But now I understand how nice it is to see everyone and meet with people who enjoy the Gospel. Also how

much the prayers and testimonies help each other.

It was a joy to see Brother Gale and his new wife Alice. They just glow with their new love. I have a habit of comparing my version of love with my son-in-law Aaron Heath and my daughter Sue because I know they love each other just by the way they each want the best for the other. I see this same love with Brother Gale and Sister Alice. I also see it with Brother LaVerne and Joyce Lussendon. They are such a happy couple and fun to be with. I don't mean there aren't lots of others like this too. I think God wants married couples to be helpmates for each other, and to be there in good times and bad.

You can give without loving, but you can't love without giving; joy shared is joy doubled, sorrow shared is sorrow halved. In the midst of everything, take time to love, and laugh, and pray, then life is worth living each and every day.

It was a wonderful reunion, and so good to see everyone, and we missed the ones who couldn't come.

When God measures people he puts the tape around the heart, not the head.

*Your reporter,
Norma Keith*

ZA

correction

Dear Brother McGhee,

I note in the minutes of the 1995 Ministers' Conference, under the Correspondence Committee, that you have an incorrect address listed for me. My address

(as correspondent for the Eastern States) should be:

**June Haines
P.O. Box 543
Roscommon, MI 48653**

Anyone interested in corresponding can contact me at this address. I would love to make more contacts.

Thanks.
In Gospel Bonds,
Sr. June Haines

SPECIAL REPORT

Church of Christ

Michigan Reunion News

Our Love and Greetings to All!

Once again the Michigan State Reunion of the Church of Christ opened on a beautiful sunny day, Friday, June 16th, at the Ravenna Local. The prayer service began at 11 a.m., with many beautiful prayers being voiced.

After a delicious lunch downstairs, we assembled in the sanctuary for a song service at 2:30 p.m., and following this was an afternoon preaching service.

Elder Max Spencer opened the 3:00 service with prayer and introduced the preacher of the hour, Priest Emery Pinder. Brother Emery admonished us to do as we are told in James: if any lack wisdom let him ask of God, for man does not seem to be able to learn by his own mistakes, he just keeps repeating them every few years. In Jeremiah 2:11, we are asked, "have the nations changed their gods which are not gods?" ... "thus forsaking the

fountain of living waters?" In Revelation it tells us that "He that is thirsty let him come" ... for Truth does not conflict with truth, only with our understanding (of what is truth). We are told in Luke 12:32, "Fear not little flock for it is the Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." We must remember this in these last days! In Deuteronomy 7:7 we learned that... "ye were fewest of all people" and in Moroni, the 4th and 5th chapters, we learn that we must take upon us His name and keep His commandments for it is our soul that is in question. Paul tells us in Galatians, "do not be taken away by another gospel." We must do as it says in Ecclesiastes, "the conclusion of all the matter is to obey God and keep His commandments." Brother Max gave the closing prayer.

Next, we all enjoyed the fellowship of each other and a wiener roast, while being joined by other members ar-

riving with their campers, tents, and trailers. There were joyful hearts and warm greetings awaiting all those who arrived.

Saturday morning, June 17, at 10:30 a.m., we gathered in the church sanctuary for a prayer and testimony service with Elder Adam Porter giving the opening prayer. Elder Max Spencer spoke to us as we are told "to preach unto them repentance" ...and that we are to "cry unto the Lord for His support." He also reminded us that the only way to be saved is through Him; in Him is the light and the life of the world. Brother Adam led us in a season of prayer in which many voices were heard. This was followed by many beautiful testimonies given in praise of our Lord's blessings unto us. The closing prayer was given by Brother Adam.

At 2:30, after another wonderful meal provided by our kitchen committee, we assembled again for another

preaching service. Elder Aaron Heath opened with prayer and introduced the preacher for the hour, Elder Joe Smith, of Ava, Missouri.

Brother Joe reminded us that we are a remnant of that organization that was restored in 1830, in answer to a very sincere 14-year-old boy's prayer. He also used John 6:53 to emphasize that "except ye eat and drink of the flesh of Christ ye shall have no life in ye." And he asked, "How do we get there? Do we listen to what God tells us?" Also, in Hebrews 6, we have the principles of the doctrine of Christ clearly defined for us, as these are rules of action, and we must be obedient to God's laws. As in Matthew 6:33, we must seek first the kingdom of God! And His righteousness (which is living right according to God's law's), love God with all our might and all our heart, and love thy neighbor as thyself. Our actions must be unified in building the city of God, unified in righteousness! The closing prayer was by Brother Aaron Heath.

At 3:45 p.m., inside the sanctuary, a Michigan Reunion Committee for Minister's meeting was held. Next year's reunion will be held at the Bradley local in their new building and one of their members will be doing the re-

porter's job. (I've enjoyed it...but don't know where this next year will lead me, so I'm thankful that someone can relieve me). Outside, the children's activities were taking place. This year the children again received their Reunion Keepsake-Lesson booklets. We read a story, "The Prophet Tells of His Birth," which was printed inside, taken from *He Walked the Americas*, by L. Taylor Hansen. Next we each learned how to make a "talking stick," learning how to take turns talking, like the Indians do. then they could either do a "word search," a "hidden animal puzzle," or do some Indian beading. Much of the group were able to do all three of these activities along with munching on a popsicle or two, and some other games that were inside their booklet while they were waiting their turn for help in beading. We had a very enjoyable time and we had a very nice group of children to work with, and no mosquitos to bother us this year as it had been so dry!

At 5 p.m. we broke for our supper break and then we all enjoyed a special song service at 6:30, which was led by elder Lavern Lussendon. Many BEAUTIFUL VOICES were heard and greatly enjoyed by all! We especially en-

joyed the children: Emily and Heidi Porters playing of the piano, and our Children's Group in chorus.

At 7 p.m., Priest Emery Pinder opened the next service with prayer and introduced Elder Tony Grzincic. Brother Tony spoke to us about how the five wise and the five foolish tarried while the bridegroom tarried. This, he explained, means that the Lord waits to give us a chance to get ready for HIS return.

We paused for a season of prayer when we learned that Elder Joe Smith had been taken into the Med Center in pain. We do pray that he has regained his health since then and is in our prayers till.

Brother Tony continued...that while Jesus tarries, He also expects us to not be caught like a fish out of water, when He does return to us. He is giving us a chance to repent, for all men are welcome unto Him. He told us that the door that is open to us someday will close and then we will have no more opportunity. Brother Tony then read to us the story of "The Little Red Hen" and drew from the similarities of these latter days to the story of how the little Red Hen prepared for the future. She planted and worked without any help and took in

her harvest, sharing with her chicks and not those friends who she had asked to help. She had vision and faith. We must remember that our actions speak louder than our words, and that without faith it is impossible to please Him. As the bridegroom cometh, go out to meet Him, do not say, "Lord, Lord..." but DO the will of the Father, seek ye while the Lord may be found, do not lay up treasures on earth, you cannot serve two masters, build on a solid foundation! Closing prayer was given by Brother Emery Pinder.

Sunday morning, June 18th, began with our sacrament service, at 9 a.m., Elder Max Spencer opened with prayer and introduced Elder Gale Brantner.

Brother Gale welcomed everyone to the 59th Michigan State Reunion. He spoke of 1 John, chapter 4, where it speaks to try the spirits to see if any are of God; in this way will you know that Jesus is coming in the flesh for "he that hear us has the spirit of truth; he that loveth not, knoweth not God, for God is love." In Matthew 26, it tells of Jesus and His disciples breaking the unleavened bread, wine and He told them of the new testament ordinance of the sacrament, in remembrance of Him. In

John 6 it says, "labor not for that meat which perisheth...my Father gave you the true bread."

Many names were added to the prayer list and the sacrament was served. We then went into a season of prayer, followed by many songs, many wonderful testimonies lifted in praise of the Lord's blessings, many more beautiful prayers, and many administrations. We were very blessed, with the Lord's spirit strongly with us. The closing prayer was given by Elder Gale Brantner.

We then enjoyed a very nice lunch in the dining hall. Thank you to the Kitchen Committee for the wonderful meals, and a job well done!

At 2:30, we gathered in the sanctuary for a final song service. It turned out to be a very special one, made extra special by some of our children's voices, how wonderful to hear Peter Gould and his little girls Leah and Sarah!

At 3:00, the final preaching service for this year's reunion was opened with prayer by Elder Merlin Eddy of Minnesota, and he introduced Elder Sam Gould of Independence, Missouri.

Brother Sam pointed out that we (his age group and older) were outnumbered by young ones this afternoon. Which is quite extraordinary!

He admonished us that this younger generation, for the most part, does not have the learning that they should have and thus they see things quite differently. This young generation hasn't focused on, or known, prophecy as they should. Most haven't read the book of Revelation...this is a change...WE must take the whole gospel to them! Brother Sam admonished us that it is the people with zeal that will speak of Christ, while the churches contend one with another (II Nephi 11 and 12). Brother Sam reminded us that Brother Adam said, "that the world is knocking at your door, saying, come out and play...because you build your house too close to it." Remember, the power of deliverance is in the word of God. The Little Red Hen had a vision of the fruit of the Word. The world creates a great emptiness that cannot be filled, even though they try to with all their toys and activities. Even peace and quiet cannot be found, the world thinks they have to have TV or radios blaring all the time (how can they harken to the Spirit if they cannot hear it?—djh). They do not realize what they are missing out on...for it is the Spirit that quickeneth, that teaches us, and gives us hope and comfort! He fol-

lowed this with reading from Matthew 22 and Revelations 18. Brother Aaron Heath made closing comments and Brother Merlin Eddy gave the closing prayer for the '95 Michigan State Reunion.

It was a wonderful reunion; we were Very Well Fed! (Spiritually and physically). Our Watchmen have cried out again, in one accord, that the world is encroaching, endangering our families and even our own souls! WE MUST PREPARE FOR OUR

LORD'S RETURN!

We did not want to part, but did so with joy in our hearts for having had the fellowship of worshipping with other saints and for the nourishment we received in hearing God's Word. We ask that the time we shared will strengthen us and that we may carry His Spirit with us and on to others. We closed with *One Fervent Prayer*, in asking that He will continue to guide and protect us, and strengthen us in these latter

days. We also pray that this report will uplift you who weren't able to be with us at the reunion, and that this report may kindle your desire to seek the Lord, to "Come Unto Him" and be strengthened by His Spirit and His Love.

With a thankful heart, once again, your sister and reporter,

Deb Brantner Vogel

ZA

ANNOUNCEMENT

1995 Phoenix Reunion

Join with us for a weekend of spiritual refreshment and rejuvenation at the Phoenix Reunion. Come and enjoy the fellowship of the many loved ones in Christ, and feast upon the word of God with us.

Reunion dates are Friday, November 24th through Sunday, November 26th.

For more information, or if you plan to attend, please contact:

Pastor Elder Joel Yates
2924 E Rockwood Drive
Phoenix, Az 85024-3436
(602) 569-9296

ASSISTANT PASTORS:

Elder Gordon McCann
18808 N 30th Street
Phoenix, AZ 85024-3436
(602) 867-7681

Priest Glenn Orsted
1327 E Wescott Drive
Phoenix, AZ 85024-2393
(602) 780-8764

If you cannot attend, please remember the reunion and all of its parts in your prayers.

Zion's Advocate

*"And blessed are they who shall seek to bring forth my Zion at that day,
for they shall have the gift and the power of the Holy Ghost;"*

1 Nephi 3:187

Volume

Independence, Missouri

Number

The *Zion's Advocate* needs your submissions! Articles and testimonies are its life blood. So take a moment this afternoon and, as the Lord directs, jot down that testimony you've been meaning to write, or begin the article that's been on your mind. If you need a trigger to help you get started, look over the suggested topics below. We look forward to seeing an article from you in the *Zion's Advocate!*

- Why are the Seven Principles of the Gospel important?
- Why is Baptism Important?
- What is our claim to being Christ's church?
- How important is the Book of Mormon?
- How can we rely on the Unchangeableness of God?
- Who is Spiritual Israel?
- How can we exercise our Talents in the Service of the Lord?
- How do we fill our Lamps with Oil?
- How can we enjoy the Gifts of the Spirit?
- What are some practical ways we can Overcome the World?
- What specific steps can we take to overcome particular weaknesses, such as: Anger, Pride, Lust, Temptation?
- How can we return to the "Old Paths"?
- How can we become "As a Little Child"?
- What will it take for us to become a Humble People?
- How important is paying Tithing?
- How can we show true Thanksgiving to God?
- How can we find the right Mate?
- How can we improve our Marriage?
- What are some basic steps to raising Godly Children?
- How can we build Stronger Families?
- Why is America the Land of Promise?
- How can we, as Christians, become involved in our Government?
- What can we expect to face in these, the Last Days?
- What can we do to help bring about Zion?

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CHURCH OF CHRIST CONFERENCES

The 1995 Ministers' Conference (general membership) for the Church of Christ will commence Sunday, April 7. The business sessions will start at 9:00 A.M., Monday, April 8. A Solemn Assembly will be held prior to the conference, April 5 and 6. All services will be held on the Temple Lot.

The 1995 Ministers' Conference (priesthood membership) of the Church of Christ will be held Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, August 21 through 23, at Independence, Missouri.

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- Baptism for the Dead? - A Fallacy
- Book of Mormon, The (tract)
- Brief History of the Church of Christ, A
- Cost of Salvation, The
- Does it Make a Difference to Which Church You Belong?
- First Presidency or First Apostles?
- God's Purpose in America
- Great Plan of Redemption, The
- Latter Day Restoration, The
- Marriage for Time and Eternity? — A Fallacy
- Mighty Acts of the Ages (Spanish)
- Priesthood — Divine Authority
- Principles of the Gospel, The — Baptism
- Principles of the Gospel, The — Faith & Repentance
- Principles of the Gospel, The — Laying on of Hands
- Resurrection and Eternal Judgement
- Sermonettes on the Teachings of Jesus
- Synopsis, A (Compares beliefs of 3 Restoration churches)
- What about the Book of Mormon
- What the Church teaches about Matrimony (Spanish)
- Why? (Amplifies absence of a "First Presidency" in Scripture)
- Zion and the Temple of the Lord

*NOTE: Donations will be accepted to cover postage & printing costs.
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PRIESTHOOD VISITATION

If you or someone you know (member or non-member) would like to be visited by a member of the Priesthood of the Church of Christ, please call or write to the Council of Apostles at Church Headquarters in Independence. The phone numbers and addresses are listed on the inside front cover.