

2015

A Happy Home

by Bill Lockwood

The theme of First Peter is to encourage Christians in the hour of persecution which was soon coming upon them. Peter informed Christians in Asia Minor (1:1) of the *“obligations the disciples were under to suffer for their religion; and suggested a variety of motives to persuade them to suffer cheerfully.”*

Peter reminded them of the great trials that were soon coming upon them (1:6); similar to what many think are coming upon the faithful of God today in America. They were to render to no man evil for evil (3:9) and that they were to suffer for doing *right* (3:13,14). As Christ suffered in the flesh, they were to arm themselves *“with the same mind”* (4:1) and consider it not peculiar that God would *allow* them to suffer (4:12). Further, the coming fire gave absolutely no excuse to Christians to *forsake obligations to their families* (3:1-7). In fact, the HOME was designed by God to comfort us by companionship.

1 Pet. 3:1-7

This text outlines a picture of a godly woman, then a godly husband. Let's make a few brief notes on the text. Pertaining to the godly woman the apostle *first* says that her *“outward adorning”* is **not** what is to be emphasized. Instead, a virtuous *heart* is what God desires. It is of interest that the word for *“adorning”* is from the Greek word *“cosmos”*—world. The verb is *“cosmeo”* which means to *“arrange.”* It is the root of our word *“cosmetics.”* *The real cosmetics that God wants are those which adorn the inner person* (v. 4). Paul calls this the *“inner man”* (Rom. 7:22).

Second, the woman of God is to adorn themselves *“with the incorruptible apparel of a meek and quiet spirit”* (v. 4). This adornment is *incorruptible*. In other words, it is not like the vogue of fashion clothes or jewelry that tarnishes with age. Instead, it is a beauty that remains through the ages. This is similar to the instruction given to mankind generally that *“bodily exercise is profitable for a little, but godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come”* (1 Tim. 4:8).

Third, a woman should strive to be a *“Daughter of Sarah”* (5,6). An example to Christian women on how to be respectful and honoring of the husband in the home is Sarah in her submission to Abraham. As Abraham is *“father of the faithful”* Sarah is the mother of faithful women.

Fourth, directed to the men, Peter instructs that they are *“to dwell with their wives according to knowledge.”* In hours of trouble too many men desert the family to leave a wife at home. It may be that in the hour of persecution some men in Peter's day might desert their families. Instead, he is to *“give honor to the wife.”* In Scriptural language this mandates that the husband is to recall his duty to provide for the necessities of the home, and particularly care for his wife.

So important is this obligation that the biblical writer here mentions that “prayers might be hindered” if the partners forsake their duties to one another.

Needless to say, the HOME has been under constant attack by our post-Christian culture. Its results are readily seen in society. *The sole solution to this problem is a return to the biblical pattern for the family, which begins with a man of God and a godly woman who take their obligations before the Almighty seriously.*