

## The Last Best Hope of Earth

One month before signing the Emancipation Proclamation, Abraham Lincoln wrote a letter to Congress in which he addressed freeing the country's slaves. In it, Lincoln stressed the importance of doing the right thing to "save our country," which he described as "the last best hope of earth."

I want to borrow and amend Lincoln's words. The family unit in American culture is under attack from many sides: radical feminism, which denies the value of husbands and fathers; gay rights advocates who push for the endorsement of same-sex marriages; divorce and remarriage for any reason; people living together outside the bond of marriage - just to name a few.

Yet, God says, "Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it" (Psa. 127:1). When it comes to modeling for our world what the home should look like, the church of Jesus Christ is "the last best hope of earth."

When we admit that God both knows and wants what is best for us (Psa. 147:5; 1 Pet. 5:7), it should be easier to trust and obey Him in everything (Prov. 3:5-8). God wants your family to succeed. He wants your home to be happy and stable. He wants your marriage to be a small taste of heaven on earth. He wants your relationship with your spouse and kids to be healthy and happy. But the key to experiencing all of those things is to build our homes according to his design.

In matters pertaining to the home, God has spoken regarding:

- marriage being between man and woman (Gen. 2:18-24).
- the roles of husband and wife (Eph. 5:22-33).
- the responsibilities of parents to children (Eph. 6:4; Deut. 6:4-9).
- the role of children to parents (Eph. 6:2).
- the importance of intimacy (1 Cor. 7:1-5).
- the eternal consequences of adultery (Heb. 13:4).
- the permanence of marriage (Matt. 19:6).
- acceptable and unacceptable divorce (Matt. 19:3-12).
- the proper conduct of spouses to each other: love (1 Cor. 13), understanding and honor (1 Pet. 3:1-7), calm tempers (Prov. 15:1), and the golden rule (Matt. 7:12).

God has said much regarding human conduct, marital relationships, and family dynamics. We are unwise if we refuse to hear and heed His words.

- Eddie Parrish, Brown Trail church of Christ, Bedford, TX (Bulletin Digest) -

*If you keep in step with God, you'll be out of step with the world.*

### News & Notes

**TODAY'S SPEAKER:** Aaron Burch of the Hanoverton congregation.

**BAPTISM:** Harry Huff, 709 Maxwell Ave., Chester, WV 26034. Phone: (304) 387-2049.

**GOSPEL MEETINGS:**

Weirton Heights -----Oct. 16-19 ----- Steve Higginbotham

Hanoverton-----Oct. 16-20 ----- Rico Brown

**LADIES INSPIRATION DAY:** Saturday, Nov. 5th at Hanoverton, 10 to 10:30 a.m., Registration & eatables; Service at 10:30 a.m. with Latisha Brown speaking on "A Great Cloud of Witnesses." Lunch will be provided.

**BABY, BABY (TWINS) SHOWER :** For Sean & Nikki Beagle, Saturday, Nov. 5th, 1 to 3:00 p.m. at the Fellowship Building. Sign-up sheet in the foyer with more information.

**MEN'S BIBLE STUDY RESUMES:** Tuesday, Nov. 15th, 7:00 p.m.

**PANTRY:** Vegetable oil.

**SICK & SHUT-IN:** *Weirton Medical:* Russell Martin. *At Home:* Paula Clutter, Linda Parkes, Becky McKitrick, Mike West, Barbara DeLong, Claudette Miller, Charlotte Mader (David Steff's sister), Cheryl Renfro Walker. *Fox, Pepperberry Suites, Chester:* David McCoy. *Weston, WV:* Rick Beck.

## The Changing Seasons

One of the times of year I like the most is fall. The leaves begin to change colors. The weather becomes cooler. It reminds me of what the Psalmist wrote: "The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork" (Ps.19:1 KJV).

God indirectly speaks to us through nature. When we think of nature we should be able to see God's beauty. We should be able to witness and feel God's power. Nature shows us how changes can come rapidly. Perhaps this is why Paul wrote: "For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse." (Rom. 1:20). Let us think about God and all His attributes as we see the changing seasons, but let us always remember that God never changes (Mal. 3:6; Heb. 13:8).

- Bill Brandstatter, Marion church of Christ, Marion, IL (Bulletin Digest) -

### Autumn

Do you know who made them?  
Those leaves, gold, brown and red  
Who created the seasons?  
To plant the garden bed.

When summer sun is faded  
And trees turn green to gold  
Not a leaf falls, but He knows it  
As Autumn now takes hold.

- Author unknown -

