

## MARRY A CHRISTIAN

The Wise Man said, *"Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the Lord"* (Proverb 18:22). This is also true the other way: *"Whoever finds a husband find a good thing."* He could have added that whoever finds a good wife or a good husband is blessed. The New Testament says, *"Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled"* (Hebrews 13:4). Most people will marry, a few will not.

There are several important things to consider in selecting a wife or husband: important consideration, whether he will make a living and whether she will live within their means, whether he will be a good father and she a good mother, whether or not he/she is too selfish to make the marriage work, whether he/she has learned self discipline, whether they are mature enough, etc.

The most important consideration of all is to marry someone who is a Christian (assuming you yourself are a faithful Christian). You should be primarily concerned with marrying someone who will help you get to heaven. This is all important. Your soul is you most important possession. Saving it should be your most important consideration. Jesus poses the question: *"For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his own soul?"* (Matthew 16:26). To make a decision to pair up with someone who will be a continual hindrance to his divine goal is nothing short of foolishness. The ideal to strive for is to be *"heirs together of the grace of life"* (1 Peter 3:7).

The Lord knew His problems when they married outside of their faith. That's why he told His people Israel not to marry among the heathen. He said, *"Lest thou make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land, and they go a whoring after their gods, and do sacrifice unto their gods, and one call thee and thou eat of his sacrifice; and thou take of their daughters unto their sons, and their daughters go a whoring after their gods, and make thy sons go a whoring after their gods"* (Exodus 34:15,16).

One consequence of their marriage outside the faith can be seen in Nehemiah's time. Some of God's people had intermarried with the heathen and it had resulted in serious consequences. *"In those days also saw I Jews that had married wives of Ashdod, of Ammon, and of Moab: and their children spake half in the speech*

*of Ashdod, and could not speak in the Jews's language, but according to the language of each people" (Nehemiah 13:23,24).* It is true that in the Old Testament the Lord was concerned about maintaining the purity of the race, but when explanation was fully given, it always boiled down to the intrusion of other gods into their religious faith.

We know of numerous instances where a Christian married someone outside the church and was led away from the faith. First of all, even if one does not allow himself to be led away, he is likely to be in for a lifetime of tension and struggle with the mate to maintain his faith. Some get tired of the struggle, quit the church and lapse into indifference. Others grow weary of the tension and join their spouse's religion to keep the peace. They convince themselves that it doesn't make that much difference to which church they belong. Somewhere along the way they unlearn many of the truths of New Testament Christianity.

Although the most important consideration in selecting a life's mate is whether he/she is a Christian, there are further things to consider. One consideration is to be sure and select a wife/husband who is eligible to marry. The Lord does not permit just any one to marry. Not a few Christians have gotten themselves into a mess by marrying someone the Lord has not permitted to marry. Rather than listing all who are not eligible to marry, it is simpler to give those who are eligible to marry. First, be sure **you** are eligible to marry!

1. Those who have never been married are eligible to marry.
2. One whose spouse has died is eligible to marry (Romans 7:1-3)

All who are excluded by these categories are not eligible to marry.

It has been the case that some who claimed to be Christians were not good marriage material. They did not live and act as Christians and treated their spouses shamefully. In a word, they were hypocrites. (And some of them were elders' or preachers' children.) It sure would have been helpful if those who married them had looked a little deeper and saw to it that they were not just Christians in name only but faithful Christians.

It's hard to be too careful in selecting a wife or husband. Some people seem to give more thought to selecting a house, an automobile, a job, a bank, or an investment -- than they do a spouse. In marriage, you are investing body, soul and spirit in a lifetime relationship. Take your time! Investigate! Listen! If in doubt, don't go through with it! When you do finally decide,

resolve to make it a lifetime commitment. This is the Lord's way.

Marvin Rickett  
adapted from  
*Fulton County Gospel News*

## BAILING BUCKET

**"Those who complain that the old ship of Zion is sinking need to be aware that they are sitting on the bailing bucket." --Bill Prince, Jr.**

In those times that the church seems small and dwindling, in those times that no one gives a much needed word of encouragement, in those times loneliness in religion seems to settle in, let's not fall into Satan's trap and begin to criticize the Church. He wants us to criticize -- if we reduce the worth of the Church in our own minds then we will be less likely to participate in strengthening it.

I once heard this phrase -- "don't criticize, energize!" Our mind set needs to be that we can make a difference! No, we can't change everyone so that they stand strong for the Truth. We can't make everyone be filled with His Spirit. Even Jesus couldn't do that. But we can make a difference in our own lives!

Then, as individuals, we may influence others so that they become more motivated to serve Him. You can imagine what might happen if those influenced by us influence others themselves -- there is potential for far reaching effects!

We CAN make a difference in the Church, but it all starts with each one of us individually.

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## CHURCH SIGNS YOU MIGHT HAVE MISSED:

**"The best vitamin for a Christian is B1."**

**"Life has many choices. Eternity has two. What's yours?"**

**"Wal-Mart isn't the only saving place!"**

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**PREACH THE GOSPEL AT ALL TIMES.**

**USE WORDS IF NECESSARY.**

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## **GOSPEL MEETINGS**

<b><u>DATES</u></b>	<b><u>PLACE &amp; TIME</u></b>	<b><u>SPEAKER</u></b>
May 2 - 4	Valley, AL 7:30 pm (E.S.T.)	Don Thompson (Wedowee, AL)
May 4 - 9	Van Lear Church near Paintsville, KY	James McDonald (Woodbury, TN)
May 9 - 11	Mt. Carmel Church near Alvaton, GA	Sam Dick (Cave City, KY)
May 9 - 11	Noble Church LaFayette, GA	Wilbur Bass (Auburn, AL)
May 12 -16	Hopkinsville, OH	James McDonald (Woodbury, TN)
May 16 - 18	Freefield Church near State Line, MS	Carley Conner (Cookeville, TN) & Harry Cobb (Wedowee, AL)
May 19 - 23	Chestnut Grove Church Parksville, KY	James McDonald (Woodbury, TN)
May 23 - 25 (F - Su)	Second Avenue Church Opelika, AL 7:00 evenings	Julio Barahona & Kevin Mills (Newnan, GA)
June 1 - 6 (Su-F)	Taylors Crossroads Roanoke, AL 7:00 evenings	Tony Whiddon (Brooklet, GA)

## SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

1. What type of people did God raise up to deliver the Israelites from those that spoiled them?
2. What did Moses do with the tablets of the testimony when he saw the golden calf?
3. Who filled the jars with water that Jesus would turn to wine?
4. According to James 5, the prayer of faith accomplishes what?
5. If you come across a bird's nest beside the road, in a tree, or on the ground, with the mother sitting on the young or on the eggs, what are you NOT to do?

ANSWERS NEXT MONTH . . .  
and remember last month's questions?

1. What Old Testament woman does 1 Peter chapter 3 give as an example of an obedient wife? SARA (1 Pet. 3:6)
2. Ezekiel prophesied that what portion of the people of Jerusalem would die by plague or famine? ONE-THIRD (Ezek. 5:12)
3. In what does Paul encourage the people to be steadfast, immovable, and always abounding? THE WORK OF THE LORD (1 Cor. 15:58)
4. Who was devoured by the lions in the book of Daniel? THE MEN WHO ACCUSED DANIEL AND THEIR FAMILIES (Dan. 6:24)
5. Which tribe carried the Ark of the Covenant? LEVITES (Deut. 31:9)