



The Reflector

A TRIBUTE TO HOUSEWIVES

By DONNIE V. RADER

The role of the housewife is one that is very often minimized and unappreciated. I know from personal experience and the feeling that comes from having a job that in the mind of many is not work at all. That is precisely the view that many husbands and children have of the woman who guides their house. Many other women, who are not all that thrilled with being housewives, also have a limited view of the responsibilities. May we learn to give that role the consideration, honor and respect that God would have us give it.

IT IS HONORABLE

A few women refer to themselves as "just a housewife" as though they are ashamed that they are nothing more. If the same women held high positions in the business world they would proudly state their job description and the company they were with. May I say with great emphasis that being a housewife (and "just a housewife") is a position of honor for the simple reason that God assigned her that responsibility. Paul wrote that women should "marry, bear children, guide the house" (1 Tim. 5:14). He also told Titus that the older women should teach the younger women to be "keepers at home" (Tit. 2:5). When a woman does that she is fulfilling the highest purpose and usefulness that she possibly can. Then she has all the dignity she can have. The Proverb writer describes such a woman as "virtuous" and worthy of "praise" (Prov. 31:10-31).

Being a homemaker is not a second rate, inferior role. But, "here she is supreme—she has no equals. Here her first and her best work is to be done" (P. D. Wilmeth, *The Christian Home*, p. 101). Ladies, don't ever apologize, be ashamed or minimize your role.

IT'S A REAL JOB—IT'S WORK!

For those that think housewives have nothing to do please consider the expression "keepers at home" (Tit. 2:5) means "caring for the house, working at home" (Thayer, p. 422, emphasis mine DVR). Read again Prov. 31 and it will be obvious

that the woman described did not have an abundance of free time on her hands.

If we would stop and think we could see that the woman of the house has plenty to do. She cooks, washes dishes, folds clothes, irons, sews, cleans bathrooms, washes windows, vacuums, dusts, goes to the grocery, shops for the whole family and picks up after the others in the house. She starts her day before the rest, getting breakfast ready and sending her husband and children off in different directions. She works all day and then her job continues long after her husband and children have come home. She continues to cook, wash dishes and see to the 1001 needs of her family. There is more truth than poetry in saying that "A man works from sun to sun, but a woman's work is never done." And don't forget that she puts in overtime every day. She doesn't get the weekends off. Holidays are double duty.

Now, when you think that your wife, mother or friend has nothing to do maybe it would do you good to spend about a week doing what she normally does. Believe me, you will change your mind! In fact, husbands, it wouldn't hurt us to pitch in and help. Even with that help, she will have all she can handle.

Husbands and children, have you ever thought what the work your wife and mother does is worth? If she was paid by the hour or what she is really worth, you couldn't afford her! It is in the home that she works the hardest and is appreciated the least. What we need to do is just stop and thank her for what she does. And most certainly thank the Lord for her because having found a wife, you indeed have found a good thing, and "obtaineth favour of the Lord" (Prov. 18:22).

SHE'S A MOTHER TOO

Besides all the other household chores there are times she will have little children to tend to all day. Either one can be a full-time job within itself. But, she does both and never complains while others think she has nothing to do. She is the one that is up at night when the baby needs to be fed and rocked. She is the one that changes all the diapers. She does the potty training and reads to them and sings with them. She somehow manages to do all of that and still finds time for her husband and other family members. How dare anyone minimize the importance of what she does!

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sin.

One is tempted to partake of the pleasures of sin with his neighbors. He is tempted to relax and not be so "up tight" about the wickedness that he sees and hears. He is tempted to reach some sort of accommodation whereby he can be at total peace with the world. After all, he may rationalize, such things cannot be so bad or they would not be so socially acceptable to so many people.

One needs to understand that godly living is not freedom from temptations and trials. In fact, because such godly living is not the norm for the world at large it creates a conflict with the world. One must make up his mind to endure trials and resist temptations until the Lord delivers. God will, in His own time, deliver the godly. Some deliverance may come in this life, as in the case of Lot. Complete deliverance is sure to come in the life to come for those who remain faithful, godly, and disgusted with sin through it all.

Let's not let the lessons of Lot be lost to us.

□

STANDING FOR THE TRUTH

By JAMIE SLOAN

In the past few years I have become increasingly alarmed at a spirit which can be seen growing among us. It manifests itself in a number of ways. It looks upon debates and confrontations with teachers of error as ignorant and low-class. It views an unyielding doctrinal stance as somehow legalistic and unloving. "Standing for the truth" and "defending the faith" are being erased out of the vocabulary. A spirit of compromise and tolerance for error are cleverly pawned off as love and concern for those with whom we disagree. The implied choices are twain: co-existence with false doctrine (thus destroying identity), or else you are a fanatical hobbyist. To help offset such a wrong and foolish notion, I want to share with you a quotation which came across my desk a number of years ago. The words are written by J.W. McGarvey to J.P. Sewell in 1902. When the division came which resulted in the Christian Church, McGarvey compromised his convictions and fellowshipped the digressives while Sewell did not. Here was McGarvey's estimate of the two courses:

"You are on the right road, and whatever you do don't let anybody persuade you that you can successfully combat error by fellowshipping it and going along with it. I have tried. I believed at the start that was the only way to do it. I've never held

membership in a congregation that uses instrumental music. I have, however, accepted invitations to preach without distinctions between churches that used it and churches that didn't. I've gone along with their papers and magazines and things of that sort. During all these years I have taught the truth as the New Testament teaches it to every young preacher who has passed through the College of the Bible. Yet, I do not know of more than six of those men who are preaching the truth today. It won't work."

I hasten to point out that McGarvey was quite different from the compromising souls of today. He speaks with remorse and regret—they have not seen the error of their ways. He had convictions which he had compromised—they see such distinctions as "much ado about nothing." "He would have like to have gone back and chosen the other road—they work for the day when all staunch defenders of the faith are no more than a historical curiosity. However, that day has not come yet, and there is still a remnant set for the defense of the gospel of Christ. We must work to teach and exhort our brethren to stand against all innovations and apostasies. New issues must be studied and met with strong hearts dedicated to preserving the purity and identity of the Lord's church. Those who were previously "soft on error"

MORE ABOUT MCGARVEY

Professor McGarvey may speak out against the use of instrumental music in the worship, as he does, and say things against it that those who refuse to use it would hardly say; but what do the people who want the instrumental music care about this thing so long as he gives his influence almost entirely (except in his home congregation) to those who use it? Brother McGarvey believes that instrumental music is wrong, and so teaches; still, he gives his name and influence to a paper that advocates its use and associates with churches that use it (except at home and possibly a few other occasions.) So, while he believes and teaches that the thing is wrong, there is not a church in the land that uses it that will not today point to Brother McGarvey as "one of the strong men on our side." His influence goes with his fellowship, not with his faith and teaching.

—Jesse P. Sewell, "Wouldn't Stand For Organ," *Gospel Advocate*, Vol. XLIV, No. 49 (December 4, 1902), p. 771. [Via *The Search for the Ancient Order*, Vol. 2, Earl Irvin West]

"RIGHTEOUS LOT"

By EDWARD O. BRAGWELL, SR.

"... Righteous Lot, who was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked" (for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented his righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds)" —2 Pet. 2:7,8. (NKJV)

Lot, the nephew of Abraham, is scripturally judged to have been a "righteous man". That does not mean that he was a perfect man. He was subject to weakness and made mistakes. This is clear from observing both his pre-Sodom and post-Sodom days.

LOT'S UNWISE MOVE

Lot made a grave mistake in judgment in choosing the well watered plain of Jordan as a place to raise his family. (Gen. 13:10). The plain was as wicked as it was prosperous. There was nothing inherently wrong in his choice. After all, Abraham had freely given him the choice. However, as time passed, it proved to have been a poor choice. His children grew up and married in that environment. Later, when he attempted to save them from destruction, his sons-in-law thought he was joking. (Gen. 19:15). We are not told how many children Lot had in all, but only two daughters escaped destruction. Even after their escape the wicked influence of Sodom still surfaced in the two daughters. (Gen. 19:30-38).

One needs all the help he can get in raising his children in righteousness. In the best of communities there are adverse influences. To escape all evil influences one would have to go out of the world. Yet, there are clearly communities where moral standards are much worse than others. There are communities where there are some opportunities to form friendships with morally upright people. There are others where there are *little or no* opportunities to associate with good people. One needs to understand that, wherever he lives, his children are going to seek companionships of their age group from among those available to them. The harder it is for them to find someone of high moral character the more likely it is that they will associate with those of low character. So, anyone with children to raise, should seriously consider the general moral character of a community before moving there.

It is this writer's judgment that preachers with school-age children should consider this before moving into a place so isolated from other Christians that their children will have little or no

association with young people who are taught the same high moral standards that they want their children to have. It is so easy to lose one's children to the world in such an environment. Yet, one does not need to so shelter them from the "real world" in which they must function one day that they will not be able to cope. They must learn to be "children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation." (Phil. 2:15).

LOT'S RIGHTEOUSNESS

Being surrounded by ungodliness does not mean that one has to just flow with the current. He can be righteous in the midst of unrighteousness. Lot maintained his righteousness while living in a city so wicked that it has a vile repulsive sin named after it. Too often, we excuse our sins and the sins of those we love by blaming outward circumstances. True, it is easier to live godly when surrounded by godly people. However, the real test of the genuineness of one's faith comes when he must live godly when surrounded by ungodly people. Truly, Lot shined as a light "in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation".

If asked, "What is the greatest weakness among brethren today?", I would likely answer that it is our unwillingness to daily stand above the crowd in moral, ethical and spiritual conduct. It is so easy to justify compromises when we look at the world around us.

LOT'S TORMENT

The secret to Lot's maintaining his own personal righteousness while surrounded by unrighteousness may have been that he never got to where ungodliness in others did not bother him. He was "oppressed with the filthy conduct of the wicked." (v. 7). He "tormented his righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds." (v.8). When one gets to the point that another's sin does not bother him, then, likely, it won't be very long until he will be comfortable with his own sin. When we can hear and see lawlessness with passive indifference we have reached a danger point in our own efforts to remain pure. When we can hear vulgarity and profanity with hardly a raised eye brow—it time that we checked our own spiritual health. When we can observe the "works of the flesh" openly advocated and practiced in society without becoming disturbed—it is time to be concerned about our own relationship with God.

LOT'S DELIVERANCE

Lot is held up to us as an example of how "the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment." (v. 9). One, such as Lot, living in the midst of a wicked society faces many temptations. There is a strong temptation to accept a false deliverance—ease the struggle by giving in to, or at least tolerating,

can be influenced by word and example to greater strength. McGarvey's words are both sad and repulsive. If he saw the folly in the course he had chosen, why did he not rectify it? Another story regarding McGarvey comes to us telling of his declining days when the instrument was introduced into the Broadway church in Lexington, Kentucky where he worshipped. As a majority vote was taken a teenage girl was seen raising her hand to vote for the organ, canceling out the vote of McGarvey against the instrument. How tragically sad! It must not happen to us. We must not be intimidated by the peddlers of division into cringing and cowardly silence. We must say with them of old, "They shall not pass." □

HOUSEWIVES

Sure the father has responsibility in rearing the children, especially in shaping them spiritually (Eph. 6:1-4). However, generally that has been done by the mothers (2 Tim. 1:5; 3:15). Napoleon said, "The future destiny of the child is always the work of the mother."

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

What is happening to the role of the housewife? Why are so many dissatisfied with being "just a housewife"? Many have followed some career to the neglect of the house, children and their husbands. Could it be that some are trying to live by a higher standard than they can afford and thus it forces the wife to leave the home and into the market place. Don't misunderstand. I'm not saying it is wrong for a woman to work outside the home. I am saying that it is a shame when some woman chooses her career (or unnecessary job) and doesn't keep up her work at home and leaves the children to be raised by some hired babysitter and the older ones come home from school to an empty house.

Why isn't more emphasis given in the training of young girls to being housewives? Why is it that

FUTURE MEETINGS

MAY 7-12, 1989
H. E. PHILLIPS

DEC. 3-8, 1989
LARRY ROUSE

MAY 6-11, 1990
GRANVILLE TYLER

DEC. 2-7, 1990
DONNIE RADER

MAY 5-10, 1991
LYNN HEADRICK

DEC. 1-6, 1991
DAVID HARTSELL

We plan to schedule one week-end meeting per year in addition to the above meetings.

so many who marry today have no concept of their responsibilities? Is the art of being a good homemaker becoming a thing of the past? God forbid that the day should come! □

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SERVICES

Sundays:

Bible Classes	9:45 A.M.
Worship	10:45 A.M.
Worship	6:00 P.M.

Wednesdays:

Bible Class	10:00 A.M.
Bible Classes	7:30 P.M.

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