

(Mother's Day)
Lake Drummond June 23, 1974

"IS YOUR HOME INSURED?"

Psalm 127

INTRODUCTION:

In this day, men are most vitally interested in insurance. We find that it is discussed and applied to almost every realm of our social structure. Almost everything is insured at some price. Race horses, singers, our houses are insured. They are insured against fire, or liability, or theft, or other things. As I thought about this great field of insurance, which covers a multitude of things today, I thought how well is the home insured? Where can real security be found.

Where can ample coverage be realized. *Some marriages are in a Mess. You can't unscramble Eggs - But God can make a beautiful Omelette!*
Woman said yes He is the Head! I am the Neck that waves the Head!
" He may rule the roost, but I rule the Roosters!"

On the 10th of April, 1952, an American citizen died in Tunis. Where his body remained for 31 years, until his own country, America - sent the man of war to bring him back to his native land. As the vessel drew near, bands and music went out to greet him. Big guns sounded their welcome. Flags were at half mask to honor his memory. The rich and the poor, the humble and the mighty. All stood in reverence for the man as his remains were carried by. What great battle had this man fought.

What great book had he written - none. What great painting had he spread on a canvass - none. What great invention had he perfected - none. Who was this man and what had he done. The man in the casket was John Howard Payne. He had written a song, a song sung by millionaires, in mansions, by workers in the factories and the fields. By soldiers knee deep in muddy trenches.

Here was a man who believed that the place we call home is the spot of earth supremely blessed - a dearer spot than all the rest. Millions in this country believe as he did. John Howard Payne when he penned these lines.

Home sweet home
Sweet, sweet home
Be it ever so humble
There is no place like home.

However, it is easy to see that the traditional home, sweet home, is badly in need of repair. And needs some kind of new insurance. It is not difficult now-a-days to find some who are even openly critical of marriage and the home.

There are some who even discuss - does marriage have a future.

Dallas Tex - 17,000 D, One Lawyer Handled 15.00 - Put flag on his, Members, in Court - Took 30 seconds - if child or Property 2 min. - His charge is \$75.00! Some courts & the court would like that thing Traffic Court -

It is important for us to remember at this point, that the whole concept of home is a divine one. And it is not surprising therefore, that the Bible has much to say about this sacred institution. Is there any way we can insure it. And make it secure.

It is my purpose today to fix in your mind, your focus upon the Psalm which we have chosen. Which has the principle that will determine whether your home is safe and adequately insured.

It is true, that the man employs the language of the Old Testament. But nevertheless it is eternal and it is abiding.

It is said that Solomon wrote this Psalm. A man of wisdom and experience. And he had been taught that apart from God, all is vanity. So he warned all homemakers of the utter futility of attempting to build without God. It is needless to point out how history, the events of our day, are verified. If God were not so ignored in the home, and the life of our nation, we would not have the shame and the tragedy of low moral standards. Breakdown of marriages, juvenile delinquency, etc.

Then we might well ask, what kind of insurance do we need for a happy home. A secure Christian home.

There are three or four words that we want to pursue. It must be divinely founded. It must be divinely furnished. And divinely favored.

I. DIVINELY FOUNDED

V. 1 Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it. We must never forget the fundamental to every home, is the necessity of marriage. And that it is solemonized by God. Men and women who chose to ignore this truth, may dare to enter upon the estate of marriage, and may even manage to build up a relatively happy home. But, it is a serious risk since God's word declares, except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it!

God must authorize marriage. When the Lord Jesus was asked for a statement on this - he pointed his questions and answers back to the first marriage which took place in human history. Turning back to the early chapters of Genesis - that it was

God who saw that it was not good for man to be alone. And therefore, he prepared a help meet for him // - Chapter 2:18.

God recognized that from the very (beginning) - that marriage was a necessity. The consecration of human love and of human life. He authorized the holy estate of marriage.

Have you ever recognized that unless God's purpose for you is one of celibacy. He has just the right partner for your life - if only you would seek his guidance. He never intended that men and women should approach the sacred experience of marriage, by the process of (trial and error.)

So I would appeal to you to contemplate making God the author and the foundation of your marriage, and of your home, which is planned in heaven.

For a home to be divinely founded, God must be at that wedding. And this refers to Genesis 2 - the Lord made a woman and brought her unto the man. V. 22. "What therefore God hath joined together, let no man put us asunder," Jesus said. It is time, that thinking people realize, that on the question of happiness, safety, and insurance, that we not forget that it must be founded by God.

He says that God will defend the home if it is founded upon him. V. 1. "Except the Lord keep the city. The watchman waketh but in vain." Even the watchman on the wall of the city, have not prevented the evils - but have threatened our homes down through the century. God is the only protector and

defender of the home. It is like David said, "the angel of the Lord encamped round about him that feared him." Psalm 34:7. The angel of that verse is none other than the Christ of the New Testament. And the secret of a guarded home is the all preserving, prevailing presence of the Lord Jesus Christ. Only he can maintain that home on that foundation.

1 First there is the practice of prayer. in this foundation. Writing to married couples, Peter warns the husband to give honor unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel. That your prayers be not hindered. I Peter 3:7. Do you bow your head in prayer at mealtimes.

Is the altar of prayer honored in your home - if it is not, then you can depend upon it that evil will soon find its way into the innermost part of your home life.

2 Second, Bible reading. The reading of the Bible is necessary. To the family at Colossie, Paul says let the word of Christ dwell in you richly 3:16. And then he proceeds to show how this effects family relationships for good. Where there is no prayer, there is no sacredness. Where there is no Bible, there is no stability, of home life.

3 The third thing is - the filling of the Spirit. Be filled with the Spirit. Eph. 5:18. And once again, Paul is addressing, not just the Church - but he is talking about the homes and the families. Where husbands and wives, children, servants, and masters - where there is no prayer - and where there is no Bible -

there is no stability. There is no insurance. And where there is no Holy Spirit - there is no love. And that does not mean a sickly, sentimental - but rather the husband's loving consideration for the wife. And the wife's loving submission to the husband. And the parents loving devotion to the children. And the children's loving obedience to the parents. Eph. 5:18, 6:4. So the sanctifying stabilizes the sweetening presence of Christ. And it can be known only through God's ordained means. In this foundation -- the practice of prayer, the reading of the Bible, the filling of the Spirit. Is Christ's presence pre-eminent in your life.

Long before his talk show, Phil Donahue was struggling to make a name for himself. In the story of his life, he told about an early assignment that he had in West Virginia. When he arrived there with his T. V. camera, he saw a group of worried relatives, huddled around. There were 36 miners trapped below. It was 2:30 in the morning. And the snow fell on the group. And a mountain preacher said - Dear God, let us pray. And they joined hands and they began to sing. What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear. What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer. "

That scene gave goosebumps to Donahue. He was certain if he could get a film of it, it would make CBS evening news. Unfortunately, it was so cold that the oil thickened in his camera. And the film started dragging. By the time he held it close to his body to thin the oil, the prayer was over. He missed his scoop.

Undismayed, he approached the Preacher and he said, Reverend, I'm from CBS news. Could you please go over your prayer again. We have about 206 stations or so across the country who will hear you and millions will pray for your miners.

The old mountain preacher replied, son, I just couldn't do it. I already prayed to my God, and any other praying at this time would be wrong. Oh, I just can't do it.

This angered Donahue and he went off to a phone booth and dialed New York in colorful language that he was unable to get the story. And he was shocked and disappointed. A year later, while he was driving to work one morning. What really hit Donahue was - here was a Preacher's stand, it was a great demonstration of the moral courage that he had never seen before. He refused to sell his soul for (CBS). Donahue says, (I don't know where he is now - but if he isn't going to Heaven, no one is.) We need this foundation in God. So we will not be selling our souls cheap.

II. DIVINELY FURNISHED

V 2 - "It is vain for you to rise up early, sit up late, to eat the bread of sorrows. For so, he giveth his beloved sleep."" Solomon is saying something here about the furnishings of the home. That really matter. There are those things that are secure through hard work, early rising, and long toiling. They are the gifts of God to those who rest and sleep in his will. And this is the way to get good insurance in your home.

Divinely furnished. D. L. Moody was holding an evangelistic campaign and an enthusiastic woman, who insisted that God had called her to preach the Gospel, came up to talk to him. Mr. Moody replied that he thought it was wonderful that she was able to discern God's will. Then he asked her about her family. She replied she had a husband and eleven children. Moody exclaimed, then you ought to

thank the dear Lord madam, for he has not only called you to preach, but he has already given you a congregation.

Now our dear and devoted mothers need not to fear that their lives are wasted when they spend time in the home and for God. Perhaps the greatest service that God has ever given to any soul, he has entrusted with mothers. Are we appreciative of what our mothers have given us. Given up in this world in order to manage the home in our behalf.

Someone has said - there are two kinds of magic. That is Heaven, and home. How true it is. Your home can be a Heaven or a Hell. If it is a Heaven, then it is a sanctuary from the outside world. It protects you from storms. There is nothing in this world so wonderful and attractive like a home and the appealing love that comes through it. In Song of Solomon Solomon wrote the picture of the wife - opening the door to the returning husband, and saying - I rose up to open to my beloved, and my hands dropped with myrrh and my fingers with sweet smelling myrrh upon the handles of the lock. He pictured this mother with joy and contentment - willingly furnishing love.

Dr. Lee one time said his mother had all kinds of medicine for every ailment. That might come to them. She said, she had to deal with chicken pox, measles, mumps, itch, ear ache, tooth ache, colic, poison ivy, whooping cough, and bruises.

Then he went on to say - what were the medicines that she had. There was Sloan's liniment, good for man and beast. Castor oil - the dreaded purgative. Winslow's soothing syrup. And turpentine was used for cuts and bruises. Mustard

plasters were used for lung and stomach ailments. The remedy for tooth ache was usually (extraction). But she was both nurse and faithful physician, he said.

Grady Wilson - And we wonder how they made it / Had A RAZOR strap hung on wall - under a Motto "I Need Thee Every Hour"

How true it is that mothers had to furnish all of that. And they furnished contentment in the home. Heb. 13:4-5 - let your manner of life be without covetousness and be content with such things as you have. For he has said, I will never leave Thee nor forsake Thee. The acid test of the happy home, is that it does not have to depend upon material comforts, for true contentment. Whatever the circumstances were, Jesus is Heaven there. He who turned the water into the wine of gladness at the marriage in Cana of Galilee, is the one who continues to work miracles in the home. This is why a believing husband and wife can say - whatever the circumstances, all things work together for good, to them that love God.

Baby MARVIN in the cartoon strip is having on the foot stool & thinking - My eyes won't stop watering with this cold, with my luck - the next time I want to throw a tantrum, I'm going to be all out of tears

It is so healthy and refreshing to know that God furnishes this. To sleep in the will of God is to know something of the spiritual, mental and physical refreshment that God brings to the home. The restfulness of being understood and the peacefulness, of being undisturbed. When Jesus visited the home in Bethany, he provided it with love, understanding, and peace.

III. DIVINELY FAVORED

V. 3 - (Children are a heritage of the Lord. And the fruit of the womb is his reward.) God's favor upon the home. This is the kind of insurance that the home needs. In which his divine favor is there.

And there is the right kind of parents. Now that does not altar the fact,

that we come to God's purpose of married life. It is to favor the home with the gift of children.

From the verse of Psalms before us, we see that children are sent to reward the home. What could be more rewarding than the sunshine of little faces, the patter of little feet. The music of little voices, the pressure of little fingers. The love of little hearts. Yes, children reward the home.

V. 5
They also bring rejoicing and Solomon says, happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them. And someone asked Dr. F. B. Myer once - what was his conception of Heaven. He said, it is a play ground of little children. You remember Zechariah 8:5 - described the streets of the Holy City as being full of boys and girls playing. What then could be more like Heaven, than a home that is ringing with little children's laughter.

Development of This Country - Pick Cotton - Power to The Farmer - Blow Will -

V. 6
You see the responsibility to really insure the home. As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man, so are children of the youth. He likens the children to the flight, the direction, and the effect of an arrow. It depends entirely on the way that arrow is produced. The way it is polished, the way it is pointed. The tragedy is that so many arrows leave our homes, today - dipped in poison. The germs of so many social disorders, are bred in the home. And thus, the effects of their parents sends the child out into a corrupt society.

Bosseuet said, great men are formed on the knees of their mother. But it is just as true to state that bad men are formed on the knees of their mother.

A man condemned to 15 years of hard labor when given permission to speak was heard to say with great feeling - I pardoned the judge, their sentence is just. I pardoned the police, they did well to arrest me. But there are two people in this court that I will never forgive. They are my parents - who brought me up without God and without hope.

It should not come as a shock to us Lee Harvey Oswald, Assassin of Pres. John F. Kennedy, was raised in home without a father. Nor are we surprised Marilyn Monroe (separated) who glamour could not keep her married to one man - Never knew what home was like - It is sad when a home lacks this kind of insurance. And yet on the other

hand, we can find just the opposite. Garfield was elected President - his first act publicly was to kiss his mother. Lincoln, when elected as President, said I must go and tell the dear little woman. Our Lord and Saviour never forgot his mother - no, not even when he was hanging on Calvary's cross, in pain.

What a responsibility is this - that rests upon men and women. And what a responsibility that rest upon young mothers who are homemakers and some who do not take it seriously.

KNEE PRINTS

Two generations ago, a man and his wife moved into our section. They cleared new ground and built a modest house. They raised two fine sons. They were victims of reconstruction days, without formal education; but they gave the boys the best. One became a lawyer and the other a great surgeon.

Several years later, the sons were called home to bury their parents. They had to stay a while to wind up the small estate. They decided to tear down the old house, build a modern one and secure a tenant for it.

As the old house was being razed the elder son called his brother and pointed to prints on the old hearth. One of the boys said, "I remember one fall Mother asked Dad to repair the hearth before winter. He made some cement and did the repair. That night, thinking the cement had set, he took down the Bible, read from it, and knelt to pray. Those dents were made by Dad's knees in prayer."

Deeply impressed, the two professional men knelt down and made their peace with God. Wonder if we are leaving any "foot-prints on the sands of time?"

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Dr. George W. Truett told of the R. A. Torrey conversion I repeat it to

show you something of what a mother and her God can mean. Young Torey inspite of a dedicated mother became an (infidel) - whose kind was painfully rude. In a fit of anger, he left his mother one day, she followed him to the gates and he walked rigidly away. At the fence, she reminded him, "Son, when you come to the darkest hour of all, and everything seems lost and gone, if you will honestly call on your mother's God, you will get help."

old song - Will the circle be unbroken

So the story continues, Torey was 427 miles from home, and he found himself unsuccessful in fortune making, worn out with failures. And in a hotel room he toyed with a revolver. And a suicide note. And in his heart he remembered his mother's God.

(Oh, God of my mother, if there is such a being. I want light. And if you will give it to me, no matter how, I will follow it.)

The story is - that a mother's God became that night the God of her son. And what a perfect, happy-ever after ending. All because a mother had a God.

You mothers who are here today - can you truthfully tell your son - call on your mother's God. If not, take Jesus this moment for your Lord. Then let your son know by precept, by life, and by years ahead, that he can call upon his mother's God.