

Facts About God's Forgiveness

David Halbrook

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge (Prov. 1:7). Without this fear, you will lack knowledge of many truths. Last week, we learned about sin. Now, learn the facts about God's forgiveness. Read these verses in your Bible---

Colossians 1:14-- Without **Jesus' blood**, you cannot be forgiven. Humble yourself, and admit you need God's help.

Hebrews 11:6-- Without **faith** it is impossible to please God or receive His forgiveness. Why do you not believe?

Luke 24:47-- Without **repentance**, God will not forgive you. Are you willing to change your life and follow Jesus?

Romans 10:9-- Without **confessing Christ**, you will not be saved (forgiven). Thus, "salvation by faith alone" is false.

1 Peter 3:21-- Without **Jesus' baptism**, you are not saved (forgiven). Baptism, when combined with faith, is the time that Jesus' blood removes, and God forgives, sin. Do you believe this? If not, write us and tell us the Bible verse that shows someone being saved first and baptized later.

Did you read these verses? If so, you know the facts about God's forgiveness of all sin (theft, adultery, filthy words, etc.). Contact us with any comment/question.

Editor's Note: *Arkansas Weekly* is mailed to 21,000 homes, but some of the 21,000 people do not even know that our article is in the paper! You can change that one week at a time by clipping the article, handing it to someone, and if there is an opportunity, encouraging them to find the article next week. I have to constantly remind myself to do this, so I hope my reminders to you each week are not useless.

Simple opportunities to teach the lost and assist each other.

Pray for: Janice White, The Ledgerwoods, Novela Puckett, Samuel Southall, others with ongoing trials, our brethren who are travelling, and new Christians among us.

The list for preparing the Lord's Supper needs just a few more names. We continue to need people to offer a few minutes to post a short verse on the signboard. Can you?

We assemble each Sunday at 10AM, 10:45AM, 5PM & Wednesday at 7PM

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The Exhorter

Acts 11:23 *Exhorted them all... cleave unto the Lord*

Church of Christ--Quail Valley

May 11, 2014

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Wives & Mothers: God's Keepers of the Home

David Halbrook

Because I am a man, most often I think back on my father's example for help in applying God's principles of manhood, but as I am beginning to lead my own family, I am finding the example of my mother in the home as a valuable tool for learning and teaching. Among those lessons is the blessing of a wife and mother who is both willing and able to devote herself to being a keeper at home (Ti. 2:5).

God's Plan Was My Parents' Plan

God's plan from the beginning was for the woman to guide the home. Paul says that the woman was made for the man (1 Cor. 11:9), thus her role in the home is not punishment for sin (though her role was made more difficult by Eve's sin). By God's design, the wife's attributes provide the perfect complement to the husband's. Man's physical strength is complemented by woman's more gentle nature. Man's desire to conquer at almost any cost has often been tempered by woman's desire and appeal for his attention at home. As peace and prosperity allows our society the opportunity to explore the male and female makeup, science confirms what the Bible informs and what (macro)evolution cannot explain---that man and woman are inherently distinct from each other and that each gender flourishes when they live consistent with God's plan, revealed both in nature and, more clearly and specifically, by His word.

Proverbs 14:1 praises the woman who builds her house, and no mother builds her house who does not determine to give her home her primary attention according to her ability. We sometimes joke about wanting to be in two places at once, but God has placed time limitations on every family. This means that each family and spouse must wisely choose where to focus their time. Because God has a plan for the mother to be a keeper at home, His plan should be the plan of all Christians. Many blessings and gifts belong to my father, my siblings, and I because my mother was permitted and determined to devote the majority of her time and attention to her family.

Children Blessed by Mother's Consistent Presence

Because God's plan was my parents' plan, each day my mother's plan was to build her home and watch over the ways of her household, giving them her primary and constant attention (Prov. 14:1; 31:27). How can a mother give her household her primary attention when she is not primarily with her household? The routine of getting children prepared for each day and night requires *someone* be there and because God's plan was my parents' plan, that someone was my mother. This was a blessing because of what it prevented and provided. I have no stories of the regret of common youthful sins easily accomplished by coming home to an empty house (introduction to pornography, sexual immorality, alcohol/drugs/tobacco by personal curiosity or friends). Yes, I sinned in my youth but not because of a lack of oversight in my home. I have no traumatic childhood experiences because of a "sitter" who violated the trust put in them. Instead, a normal day for me meant my mother was present and would hold me accountable for the events of that day and evening, with the time to listen when I was willing to talk.

Today, there are so many outside voices and influences constantly present inside the home (through the radio, television, talking and texting on the phone, and various internet devices), it is crucial that there is someone in home with the children whose goal is to build the home by watching over their ways! In God's plan, no one has more interest in that home being built than Mother. Mothers, do you know the ways of your children and hold them accountable for how they use or view their phone and internet devices, iPod, Facebook page, email, television shows, movies, music, etc.?

The Husband's Work Blessed By Her Consistent Presence

In my childhood, my father earned his wages as an evangelist. The work of an evangelist is not always a "nine to five, forty hours a week" type of work. How many hours a week do you think Peter worked (remember, he was married)? In Acts 3:1, Peter and John went to the Temple according to the schedule of the people they hoped to teach. The evangelist who works publicly and from house to house often must work around the schedule of those whom he is teaching (Acts 20:20). While an evangelist cannot do this to the detriment of his family, one reason this was not a detriment in our home was because Mom was always present. She was not unexpectedly called into work, home late from work, or otherwise obligated in a way that caused private Bible studies to be delayed or cancelled. Such would certainly cause the way of truth to be blasphemed and potentially open doors to shut (Ti. 2:5).

I don't know how many gospel meetings my dad preached growing up. My childhood impressions are not of a constantly absent father, but I have some specific

memories of the weeks he was gone. I remember that our Bible study did not end when Dad was gone—Mom made sure they continued. Whether it was reading the Bible together and/or, as was the custom in our home, reviewing and reciting two of our nightly memory verses (from the Old Testament and New Testament, some of which I can repeat even today). I do not know what life would have been like for Dad to have returned to find out that Mom thought things were too busy for Bible reading or memory verses while he was gone. Without confidence that Mom's presence and work would be consistent in his absence, his work would have been limited and impaired. This is true in any home. Only the husband who can fully trust his wife to keep "first things first" during his absence can focus on his work while he's gone and praise his wife when he returns (Prov. 31:11, 28-31).

Wife's Work Blessed By Some Time Alone

Jesus advocated private prayer in His public preaching and private practice (Matt. 6:6; 14:23). Jesus advocated time with friends and brethren to visit, teach/learn, and share life's joys and sorrows (Lk. 10:38; Jn. 11). Some of these things could not always be done well, or at all, with all twelve disciples or the multitudes around Him every moment.

Because a woman's work in the home requires her consistent presence, husbands who nourish and cherish their wives will make time for them to have time alone—alone to pray and study, alone to plan for upcoming projects, alone to talk to family and/or friends to problem-solve or have the simple conversations that maintain close relationships, etc. Wives who are consistently present need some time to be temporarily absent. Whether that is a few minutes in the evening or several hours one day, each family will have to decide, but if Jesus, while in the flesh, chose to temporarily leave His disciples or the multitudes (whom He dearly loved), no wife or mother should think or feel that such time is selfish. When we husbands do better in our work, our wives can do better in their "saving" work (1 Tim. 2:15).

Conclusion

We know God's plan to save lost souls and to strengthen His churches works. Husbands and wives, let us be equally convinced that God's plan for the home will work in any culture, economy, and marriage. Let's make His plan our plan, and thereby bless ourselves, the churches, and each member of our homes as we work by faith to rest in heaven.