

# THE FOREST HILL NEWS

Published weekly by the Forest Hill church of Christ

*Visit our Website at [www.foresthillchurch.org](http://www.foresthillchurch.org)*

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## **VISIT US SOON!**

### **Sunday:**

Bible Study..... 9:30 A.M.  
Morning Worship.....10:30 A.M.  
Evening Worship..... 6:00 P.M.

### **Wednesday:**

Bible Study .....7:00 P.M.

## **HOME OF**

## **MEMPHIS SCHOOL OF**

## **PREACHING**

[www.msop.org](http://www.msop.org)

## **Missions Supported:**

Far East/World Evangelism  
Gospel Broadcasting Network  
Iglesia de Cristo (Getwell)  
In Search of the Lord's Way  
Kakinada, India  
Manila, Philippines  
Murmansk, Russia  
Truth for the World

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## **WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT SPOUSE ABUSE?**

Bob Prichard

The Bible condemns spouse abuse by demanding a lifestyle of love and compassion, which rules out violence in the home. Whether abuse is mental, physical, or verbal, abuse does not fit with the Christian lifestyle. No member of the home has a right to hurt other family members.

Paul tells husbands, "Love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it... So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church" (Eph. 5:25, 28-29). If a husband loves his wife as Christ loved the church, he will not consider abusing his wife. Christ gave Himself for the church, and loves and nourishes it. As they follow His example, husbands will love and nourish their wives. Abuse denies love and diminishes the wife. As Adam received Eve, his wife, he said, "Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh" (Gen. 2:24). A man who abuses his wife acts as if he hates his own flesh, because he and his wife share this "one flesh" relationship.

Paul wrote, "Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything" (Eph. 5:22-24). Some men have, unfortunately, taken their position as head of the household a license to abuse wives and children. Submission does *not* give permission for abuse.

In the verse preceding his admonition to wives to "submit yourselves unto your own husbands," Paul wrote of "submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God" (Eph. 5:21). Neither the husband nor the wife is to "lord" authority over the other, but both are to mutually submit to one another in love. Submission does not allow nor condone abuse, nor protect an abuser from the consequences of his actions.

Peter amplifies the proper view of submission. "Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives; while they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear" (1 Pet. 3:1-2). He adds, that the Christian woman who adorns herself with a meek (strength under control) and quiet spirit may win her non-Christian husband (1 Pet. 3:3-6). "Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered" (1 Pet. 3:7). The godly husband who properly honors his wife will dwell with her in peace and love, and would never consider hurting her. The church must help families learn to live in love and peace, without violence.

(from *House to House*, Volume 10, Number 4)

## I SHALL RETURN (Part 2)

Matthew Martin

### JESUS WILL RETURN WHEN GOD SAYS SO

From a cheap looking tabloid at the grocery store to the Barnes & Noble bestseller "Left Behind," every non-Christian thinks he knows when Jesus will return. The truth is he does not have a clue. Some think they can guess it with Tarot cards, or by mapping the stars. Others at least attempt to use the Bible to determine when Jesus will return.

Perhaps the most cited chapter that is used concerning the second coming is Matthew 24. The first part of the chapter especially is quoted by misled, and misleading preachers. Yes, Jesus mentions things such as "wars, and rumors of wars" (Mat. 24:6), "nation rising against nation" (Matt 24:7) and others. But where most miss it concerning this chapter is to *what* Jesus is referring. He is not talking about the second coming. He is talking about the upcoming destruction of Jerusalem. As Jesus said "This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled." (Matt 24:34).

So when will the Lord return? Jesus gives the most definite answer on the subject: "But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only." (Matthew 24:36).

Notice how Jesus began that sentence: "of *that* day..." Keep in mind this chapter began with a question posed to Jesus:

"And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world" (Matt 24:3).

Notice the two separate questions asked: (1) "When shall these things be?" (2) "What shall be the sign of Thy coming and of the end of the world?" He answered the first question in the first half of the chapter, and the second question was answered in one sentence (verse 36).

When will Jesus return? Well if you are looking to unlock the secret, as though it is hidden within the pages of the Bible, you are going to be disappointed. According to Jesus Himself, no one knows, except for God.

(to be continued)

## A LIVING HOPE

J. Winfred Clark

There are towns scattered across our land that bear the name "New Hope." We do not know why a place would receive such a name, but we do know it says something good. After all, most would rather hear of a town called "New Hope" than "No Hope."

When Peter spoke of hope and Christ, he referred to it as a "living hope" (1 Pet. 1:3):

Blessed the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a **lively hope** by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

Here is a hope that would be said to be alive. There was a time when despair and disappointment would grip the hearts of these men, but not anymore. They had seen the Lord. He was resurrected. That fact revived their hope. It was alive and well.

### THE BASIS OF THAT HOPE

Peter would say it rests squarely upon the fact of the Lord's resurrection. One has proof that Christ's sacrifice was accepted for the sins of men (Matt. 26:26-28). In the shedding of His blood, sins would be taken away (Heb. 9:22). We have no doubt about the power of Jesus, for the resurrection proves it (Rom. 1:4), and gives us hope.

### THE VALUE OF THAT HOPE

What value does such hope have? It comforts us in times of stress and bereavement. Was not this the case with Mary and Martha? Was not this the assurance that Jesus gave them? It is the thing that braces us in times of opposition and persecution.

### THE FUTURE OF THAT HOPE

The future of that hope is the return of Christ. The messengers gave this word of hope to the apostles as they stood gazing into heaven, following the Lord's ascension (Acts 1:11). From the return of Christ, to the raising of the dead, and the reunion with the saints, what a day of hope fulfilled that will be! Then will come the rewards of that hope. As Jesus said, "Great is your *reward in Heaven.*" (Matt. 5:12).

