

*Trust in the LORD forever,
For in GOD the LORD, we
have an everlasting Rock.*

Isaiah 26:4

Store In My Heart Romans 6:23

*For the wages of sin is death,
but the free gift of God is eternal
life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Consider the contrast for a moment.

Wages are associated with work or payment for services rendered. Thus, we can see that the reward or payment we receive, death, is for all the effort we put into committing sin. Those who live in sin will receive their due payment.

On the other hand, eternal life is a gift. Gifts are not given because they are earned. We don't give our children gifts because they worked enough to earn them. There are no services or labor associated with a gift.

But note where that free gift is found, in Christ. If we are 'in Christ' we can receive eternal life. I must leave sin behind and be "in Christ" if I want the gift of eternal life. How to be "in Christ" is the next logical question one needs answered.



The Torn Pattern

Dickie Howard

Many of God's people have no problem with His pattern for the church treasury, worship, or salvation. But, these are not the only patterns God has set forth in His word.

God told Eve, "and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee" (**Genesis 3:16**). We see that wives are to submit to their husbands (**Ephesians 5:21**, **1Peter 3:1**). Wives are to be keepers at home (**Titus 2:5**).

Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it (**Ephesians 5:25**). We see in **1Timothy 5:8** that a man must provide for his own house. Fathers are to bring their children up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord (**Ephesians 6:4**). These are but a few of the passages that show the pattern God has for the home, It shows the wife to be a keeper at home, in submission to her husband, and loving her children. It shows the husband loving his wife as himself; providing the needs of the family, and leading in teaching his children God's word.

A few days ago, a baby was left on someone's doorstep in Huntsville, AL. It is a shock to most that this could happen. Well, every day of the week many parents are leaving their children on someone else's doorstep. Many times the children are begging the mother or father not to leave them. Their cry is in vain because mother has to work.

From passages such as **1Timothy 1:5** and **3:15**, we see that Timothy was taught the scriptures from a child. He was taught by his mother and grandmother. It seems Timothy was with his mother and grandmother during his childhood. In times past, if the mother had to work to provide for the family, the grandparents or someone of the family kept the children. This is rarely possible today. Many times grandmother is also working. With this in mind, let us look at some of the dangers caused by someone else raising our children while Mother works.

Talking about the commandments of God, "And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up" (**Deuteronomy. 6:7**). "Chasten thy son while there is hope" (**Proverbs 19:18**). Train up a child when he is young (**Proverbs 22:6**). The time of hope is while he is young. Many times the working mother feels guilt, and wants to do only "fun things" with the children during their "Quality Time". Discipline and training becomes more difficult.

In the beginning, it is hard for the mother to leave the child at daycare. But, after awhile, in many cases, even when Mother has a day off, the child is left at daycare because Mother has a lot to do. It is easier without the little one.

The first thing, asked when many mothers call a daycare is, "How much do you

charge?" Does it matter what will be played on the TV? Have we checked to see what kind of values the owner has? Just what kind of an environment do we put our children in? The really sad cases are those where the mother pays about as much for daycare as she makes, but would rather work than tend house.

Many times mothers don't want to miss works so children are brought to daycare sick. The other children are exposed to what-ever the sick child has. A sick child wants and needs his mother.

There are so many things in the child's life that are missed by the working mother.. many times the first step... the first spoken word. These are things that should be enjoyed and treasured by the parents that brought the child into the world.

At first, Mother is going to work only until this or that is paid for. But, the barns are torn down and bigger built. That must be paid for, and mother can't quit even if she wants to. Some say they are building for their children's future. Neither our, nor our children's goal should be treasures on earth, but a mansion in heaven. *"But seek ye first the kingdom"* (**Matthew 6:33**). In **Acts 17:6** we see some of the church turning the world upside down. But, today it is turning the other way around, because some love this present world.

Even some of the Denominational world are sounding the "warning trumpet." A while back, a Baptist church canceled their daycare to encourage their mothers to stay home with their children. They believe the mother working is not good for the home. They went on to say if folks would get rid of the idea they have to have 2 new cars and a big house with all the trimmings, the mother wouldn't need to work. Many young married couples today don't know what a "starter" house is. They start out in a bigger house and with bigger cars than Mama and Daddy now have.

We all know there are mothers who have to work. There are conditions they have no control over and there is no other way to support the family, and may God bless every one of them. But, if we will be honest with ourselves, we will have to admit many, even in the church, don't have to work to help support the family. We are to be vigilant because the devil is seeking whom he can devour (**1Peter 5:8**). Let us not be deceived, and heed the warning. The devil is working overtime on our homes.

In **Acts 20:20** Paul said, *"I have kept back nothing that was profitable unto you."* In **Acts 20:27** he said, *"For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God."* The pulpit must convert the pew to God's pattern. But as more and more mothers are working, we hear less and less from some pulpits. It seems some preachers are scared to death some may leave, or quit, if they preach on certain subjects. Remember, God will take care of the numbers if you will but **PREACH THE WORD (1Corinthians 3:6)**.

Yes, God has set forth a pattern for the home and we have a choice to follow it or reject it. The devil must not only be smiling, but he must be laughing out loud, because many have torn asunder God's pattern.

(Brother Howard wrote this in 1998 and it is still much needed today. **God's Plan** is always the best plan. DLH)

Contact Us

We like opportunities to speak with others about the Lord.

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The
CHURCH OF CHRIST
MEETS HERE



10:20 AM • Sunday Worship Service
5:00 PM • Sunday Night Bible Study
7:00 PM • Wednesday Bible Study

For Our Information

Deberah Brooks is doing physical therapy and doing well in her knee surgery recovery.

JoBeth Henderson has been tired and weak most of the week but is doing much better than after her previous treatment.

Tommy Robinson is taking treatment 5 days a week. They should talk with the doctor about progress on Monday.

Sue Soliday is improving and getting around much better.

Sunday evening - **Isaiah 54** Wednesday - **Revelation 17**

Spring Meeting - Terry Summerlin - Starts Next Sunday

Announcements are on the front bench and in the hall.