

# Seek Ye First...

“...the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you” (Matt. 6:33).

*A Quarterly Journal of Biblical Studies*

## THE WOMAN'S ROLE

J. D. Sweeten

In the beginning, God created man and woman. According to Paul, “Adam was first formed, then Eve” (1 Timothy 2:13), and each were assigned roles of responsibility in marriage, in the family and later, in the church. Cultures have grappled with the woman's place throughout history, but it is a particularly vexing issue in modern America and is now being hotly debated in the Lord's church. The mere mention of the “role of a woman” incites anger in some. However, the dispute will not die and any conclusions drawn in this matter will strongly affect churches of Christ in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. In fact, how we respond to the question of the woman's role may well determine whether or not some churches remain distinctly Christ's.

This issue of *Seek Ye First* centers on the woman's role in marriage, in the family and in the church. It is imperative that we go back to the Book to find our answers. The vital importance of understanding the woman's role is reflected in her influence on the marriage relationship (its success or failure), the welfare of the family (the underpinning of any society) and the distinct nature of the Lord's church as set forth in the New Testament. We must address this issue.

### **Marriage**

In Ephesians 5:23-24, Paul states, “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 every thing.” This submissive role of women in the husband/wife relationship has fallen on hard times of late. A suffrage movement that surfaced in the early 1900's has evolved into an antagonistic agenda of feminism and egalitarianism. In refusing to concede obvious distinctions between men and women, the modern Gloria Steinem model of womanhood has removed itself dramatically from the daughters of Sarah portrayed in 1 Peter 3:6. Contributing to the confusion is the equivocation of value and responsibility. Equating the two has led to a false perception of feminine inferiority, magnified by her so-called “second-class” status in the submissive marriage bond. Such distortion does damage to divine definition. The vital and indispensable supportive role of the wife compliments a husband's

leadership, adding cohesion and stability to the marital unit. Such godly submission in no way reflects negatively on a woman's worth.

### **Family**

As our society continues down a road of self-service, the righteous woman of Proverbs 31 is frequently and wrongfully employed to justify women's abandonment of motherhood. “Quality time” is substituted for the nurturing mother figure and homemaker of Titus 2:4-5. Work outside the home has gained such importance that husbands and children are placed on the back burner. We have even coined terms like “latch-key kids” to describe prospective juvenile delinquents, and “abortion rights” herald the ugly achievements of our modern feminist movement. More and more mothers are renouncing sound biblical principles for growing a godly family, and that's the way the country crumbles.

### **Church**

Apparently, the church is not immune to society's ills either. The woman's role in the church has drifted with social whims and demands are now being made to place women in leadership roles. The cry is “suppression” when faced with biblical opposition to this heresy. “But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence” (1 Timothy 2:12). Thus says the word of God, but humanity's innovations are limited only by its evil imaginations. As women become more active in public leadership, the church will fall deeper into apostasy and further from the church that Christ built.

We cannot ignore the issue and hope it goes away. We must meet it bravely with God's word. Accusations of chauvinism or provincialism ought not deter us from standing for the truth. The God-ordained role of the woman originated in the beginning (1 Timothy 2:11ff). A submissive woman reflects God-likeness. A woman's role is divinely ordained.

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# Seek Ye First...

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## Our Purpose

To provide scriptural material for the body of Christ that examines doctrines found throughout Holy Writ which when honestly studied will result in Christian growth and maturity. This includes the inspection of fundamental subjects, as well as some that are more complex in nature, all of which make up the Christian system.

## Our Plea

To encourage all men everywhere to study God's Word which is the power to save. And that this paper be a tool in the hands of all those who are honestly and sincerely seeking God's truth.

# WOMEN'S ROLE IN PUBLIC WORSHIP

Michael Light

There are few topics relative to the church that can spark as much controversy and hostility as the "role of women." This controversy has been raging for several decades and now intensifies as our culture runs headlong into "unisexism." There are two extremes on the subject of women and their place in the church.

There are those who are male chauvinists. These see women as second class citizens who are of less worth than men. Such men want a servant not a wife. The Bible clearly condemns this attitude toward women. Men are to love their wives and gladly sacrifice for them. Paul says, "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" (Ephesians 5:25, 28).

These men also think women are mentally inferior to men and cannot handle the pressures of life as well as a man. They sometimes view a woman more as a sex object than a person. This view is not consistent with the place of honor God has granted women. In 1 Peter 3:7 we read, "Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife." She is the queen of his home. Paul instructs Titus, "That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed" (Titus 2:4, 5). Some would have women sit in the corner of the church with eyes on the floor never engaging in any of the work of the church at all.

At the opposite end of the spectrum are leftists feminists who think women are superior to men. They push for women to have a right to do every thing a man does. They ignore distinctions between the sexes that the Bible clearly recognizes. Women are not men. They are not the same as men in a host of areas. And shouting feminist slogans doesn't change the fact that men and women are different. The man is the head of the wife. "For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church" (Ephesians 5:23). The wife is to be subject to the husband. "Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing" (Ephesians 5:24). Feminists on the left have missed the mark just as surely as chauvinist men on the right. Jumping from one extreme to the other brings us no closer to the truth.

When it comes to the church, we are not under a democracy. We are under a theocracy. That is, God is the head and we are to submit to Him. "Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing" (Ephesians 5:24). God has not given men and women the same roles in the work of the church. There are some areas of service which He has reserved for men only. Notice: "Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection. But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence. For Adam was first formed, then Eve. And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression" (1 Timothy 2:11-14). The woman is not to usurp (teach

over) a man. Since she has no authority over the man then she cannot preach to a crowd of men, for when one preaches it is to be with all authority (Titus 2:15).

When one begins to argue for women taking the lead in public worship services, he (or she) is at odds with the biblical method. Women cannot do anything in the assembly that constitutes usurping the authority of the men who are present. Whether it be preaching, song-leading, leading of a prayer, etc. Such things are contrary to God's divine will. Unfortunately, many in the Lord's church currently argue for, and insist on, having female elders and deacons. Read 1 Timothy 3:1-13, and notice that every reference to the one being considered for the office of an elder or deacon is masculine in nature. "The husband of one wife," "ruleth his own house," "having his children," "for if a man," "how shall he," "he must have," "lest he fall," "Let the deacons be the husbands;" these all refer to men, not women. The first chapter of Titus, verses six through nine, concurs with the Timothy passage. Only men are qualified, due to gender specific qualifications, to serve as elder and deacons.

There are however a host of works the Lord has given in which women are to engage. Many would do far better to concentrate on carrying out the work the Lord has given them as opposed to complaining about those things He has deemed "men's work." Women can profess godliness. Notice Paul's statement to Timothy concerning the godly woman's demeanor: "In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works" (1 Timothy 2:9, 10). They can learn about God's word as an industrious Bible student (1 Timothy 2:11). They can teach and train other women to be faithful (Titus 2:3-5). They are expected to participate in worship (John 4:24), teaching and admonishing through song (Colossians 3:16). They can also teach privately (Acts 18:24-26) and lead others to Christ (1 Peter 3:1-6). If more women were fulfilling their duties in these areas, they would have less time to complain about not being able to preach.

Women can be a tremendous help to their husbands. Many men could really use their spouse's support living the Christian life. She can encourage and motivate him to apply himself in the area of preparing to teach and to lead the church as an elder or deacon. She can aid in providing a hospitable house, in which the Lord is respected and His word taught. She can help train her children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord (Ephesians 6:1).

No elder, deacon or preacher can truly achieve his responsibilities without a godly, Christian wife. May women who possess a desire to serve the Lord do so with all their might, but never outside of the parameters the Lord has placed on them. Praise God for godly women, we need more of them.

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## Theme This Issue:

**"THE ROLE OF WOMEN"**

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## Seek Ye First...

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# GOD-PLEASING WIVES

Tom Moore

The proclamation Jeremiah set forth in his day is also true of ours, "An astonishing and horrible thing has been committed in the land" (Jeremiah 5:30). Let me inform you of some astonishing and horrible news. There are over 1,000,000 divorces per year in America. It has been said that only one out of six marriages today work in the sense of the two enjoying being together. It has been documented that 70% of teenage marriages end in divorce within five years. The eventual divorce rate of teenage marriages is 85%! These are startling statistics, and it is of utmost importance to realize that God hates divorce (Malachi 2:16)!

The major reason there are so many divorces in our world today is that husbands and wives do not know or do not fulfill their scriptural obligations in the marriage relationship. Do you know what your duty to your spouse is, your God-given duty? In this article we will explore some of the Bible-given responsibilities of a wife toward her husband.

Wives must love their husbands. Paul instructs older women to "train the young women to love their husbands" (Titus 2:4). This would seem to go without saying, but don't be fooled. It is interesting and very informative that Paul would say the older women need to teach younger women how to love. Most young women would say, "I know how to love my husband." But love in youth deals mostly with sex-appeal and as the years march on that will change. Young women need to learn to love the inner man – not the outer man which will grow old and less pleasing to the eye.

Wives are to be in subjection to their husbands. "Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord" (Ephesians 5:22). When Paul called on wives to submit he gives two reasons: (1) the Lordship of Christ, and (2) the headship of the man (Ephesians 5:22-23). If a woman is truly submissive to the Lord, she will have no difficulty being submissive unto her husband. This does not make the woman a slave or a "doormat" to be stepped on, but means she will respond voluntarily, positively and joyfully to her husband's leadership.

Wives are obligated to care for their husband's needs. Again, Paul instructs the older women to teach the younger women "to be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed" (Titus 2:5). It is very clear that women have been given charge of "keeping the home." Paul also says women are to "guide [manage, NKJV] the house" (1

Timothy 5:14). The virtuous women, described in detail in Proverbs 31:10-31, gives more insight into this privilege and obligation.

Wives are to be faithful to their marriage vows. "Let marriage be had in honor among all, and let the bed be undefiled: for fornicators and adulterers God will judge" (Hebrews 13:4, ASV). Solomon gives the same warning in this fashion, "drink waters out of thine own cistern, and running waters out of thine own well" (Proverbs 5:15). A woman must give herself sexually only to her husband, otherwise the marriage is defiled in adultery.

Wives should not keep themselves sexually away from their husbands as clearly discussed in 1 Corinthians 7:3-5. "Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife unto the husband. The wife hath not power of her own body, but the husband: and likewise also the husband hath not power of his own body, but the wife. Defraud ye not one the other, except it be with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency." This is one area that has caused many a marriage to falter. Also, sexual relations between a husband and a wife are not to be used to manipulate one another.

Wives must be good Christian examples to their husbands. Peter declared, "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 [conduct, NKJV] coupled with fear" (1 Peter 3:1-2). Setting good examples within the marriage relationship is very important, especially if your spouse is not a Christian. Unbelieving husbands can be won to Christ by your godly examples, and believing husbands will be strengthened through the same means.

Wives are to respect their husbands. "Even as Sara obeyed Abraham, calling him lord" (1 Peter 3:6). Sarah is one singled out as an example of subjection to one's husband, and as an example of showing respect. Wives should hold their husbands in the highest esteem. They should not talk down or belittle their husband in any way – especially in the presence of others. Wives should be proud of their man, and will want others to know it. "Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife reverence her husband" (Ephesians 5:33).

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 Guest Article...

# WOMEN TEACHERS

Michael Hatcher

It seems there are always extremes to which people go. This is true regarding women teachers. On the one hand we have those who believe that women may teach at any time and any place to any group of people (men and women), completely ignoring passages such as 1 Corinthians 14 and 1 Timothy 2. They believe these passages (and others like them) were temporary and culturally based. To the other extreme we have those who believe that women can never teach, including even children or other women. Paul told Titus, “The aged women likewise, that *they be* in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, *To be* discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed” (Titus 2:3-5).

Elderly women, because of their experience, are especially qualified to teach younger women in these areas. Sadly, we have (to a great extent) forsaken this vital area of instruction within the Lord’s church. It would appear that some of the difficulties we are having in the nation and in the church are the result of the failure of older women instructing younger women. “The aged women likewise, that *they be* in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things” (Titus 2:3). This world would be far better if these types of older women were teaching young women. There are two main areas of instruction: personal character and domestic relations.

In their personal character, the Bible says that older women are to teach younger women to be sober. Younger women must learn to be discreet. *Discreet* is to be of sound mind and indicates self-control. There have been many marriages destroyed because some immature women cannot and do not control their emotions and lives as well as exercising a soundness of mind in their actions. All need to learn to be sober.

*Chaste* is to be pure or clean. Sadly, this beautiful trait is being lost in our age. Young women do their best to be chased, not chaste. They dress in a provocative way, walk, talk, and act in a way to sexually excite young men. Fornication and adultery are encouraged and sought after by many. Yet, this way only leads to heartache and destruction.

Young women are to be instructed to be good. She should

practice deeds of kindness, charitable, helpful deeds. Dorcas was one who “was full of good works and almsdeeds” (Acts 9:36). When Peter arrived to raise her from the dead, “all the widows stood by him weeping, and shewing the coats and garments which Dorcas made, while she was with them” (Acts 9:39). In speaking of taking widows “into the number,” Paul writes, “Well reported of for good works; if she have brought up children, if she have lodged strangers, if she have washed the saints’ feet, if she have relieved the afflicted, if she have diligently followed every good work” (1 Timothy 5:10).

There are four qualities relating to domestic relations. They are to love their husband. This at first sounds odd, for what wife does not love her husband. However, many mistake love and lust, and far more have no idea what true love is. True love is a giving of oneself for others (here for her husband). God loves us—He gave His only begotten Son (John 3:16). That is true love.

Closely associated with the previous quality is for young women loving their children. Obviously there is a need for this teaching as is evidenced by the greatest holocaust ever—abortion, where mothers have their children legally murdered. Thousands of children are abused by parents on a daily basis. Young women need to be taught true love (including a love of their children).

They are also to be taught to be keepers at home. Wives are guardians of the home, working actively in taking care of the household duties. While society has encouraged women to get out of the home and into the workforce, the Word of God instructs women to be domestically oriented. What a marvelous situation when the woman works in the home.

Last, the Spirit mentions that older women are to teach the younger women to be obedient to their husband. This involves submission. When a husband has the proper love for his wife, giving her respect, then it will be easy for the wife to obediently submit to him. The wife should respect her husband and not try to wear the pants in the family.

When older women live in the proper manner and then teach younger women to live according to the instructions given here, then the home will be a haven on earth.

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# GOD-PLEASING MOTHERS

Tom Moore

Parenting is the most important job in which we will ever be involved. The future of our children, the church, and the nation depend on how we raise our precious offspring. J. Edgar Hoover stated, "There is no synthetic replacement for a decent home life. Our high crime rate, particularly among juveniles, is directly traceable to a breakdown in moral fiber - to the disintegration of home and family life. Religion and home life are supplementary. Each strengthens the other. It is seldom that a solid and wholesome home life can be found in the absence of religious inspiration."

It has been said that "between the child and God stands the parent - a separating wall or a connecting link." It is a must that we realize that it is extremely difficult, if not impossible, to train up a child in a way we ourselves are not willing to go. In this study we will be focusing on mothers. **As I see it, a mother's responsibility falls into three basic categories: training, disciple, and example.**

A mother must be involved in the training of her children. Solomon taught, "Train up a child in the way he should go, and even when he is old he will not depart from it" (Proverbs 22:6, ASV). To "train" a child is to communicate "the way" to them - "the way he should go." A mother needs to give her children what can be handled and what is needed to direct them.

In training children in "the way," mothers need to remember that there is a "broad way" and a "narrow way." Our Lord announced, "Enter ye in by the narrow gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many are they that enter in thereby. For narrow is the gate, and straightened the way, that leadeth unto life, and few are they that find it" (Matthew 7:13-14). The "broad way," of course, is the way that seems right to man, "but the end thereof are the ways of death" (Proverbs 14:12). The "narrow way" is through Jesus, and "no man cometh unto the father, but by me" (John 14:6).

It is important to realize that between birth and age 21, the average child spends 105,000 hours awake. Of these waking hours, an average of 2,100 are spent in Bible Classes and worship. About 10,000 hours are spent in secular schools. But 92,000 hours are spent at home. We should easily see the need for training our children at home. Read carefully Deuteronomy 6:4-9 as added emphasis to the importance of training our children in the way they should go.

Furthermore, a mother must also be involved in the

disciplining of her children. Discipline in the home vital, for without discipline there will be no respect for authority. Mothers need to teach their children to respect the authority of parents and the authority of God. Our jails are full of those who were not disciplined to respect authority in youth. Also, there are many who have become unfaithful to the Lord because they were not disciplined as a child.

Solomon declared, "He who spares his rod hates his son. But he who loves him disciplines him promptly" (Proverbs 13:24, NKJV). "The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame" (Proverbs 29:15).

Finally, a mother must set forth a good example for her children. Children blindly and trustingly imitate their parents. Moms need to realize that if they yell and gossip, more than likely, so will her children (Proverbs 11:16; 14:1). If a mom is not honest - what chance will her children have?

Surveys have shown that when both parents are active in the work of the church 93% of the children remain faithful. When only one parent was active, 73% of the children remained faithful to the Lord. When both parents were marginally active, their children remained faithful only 53% of the time. When both parents attended worship services infrequently, only 6% of the children continued in the faith. The need for mothers (and fathers) to set good examples for their children is easily seen.

This type of good example was seen in Lois and Eunice. Paul writing to Timothy was "reminded of the unfeigned faith that is in thee; which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and, I am persuaded, in thee also" (1 Timothy 1:5). Jesus said, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 5:16). Would this not apply to mothers as well? Mothers need to set forth good examples in their speech, Bible study, honesty, modesty, and how important the Lord and His church really is to her.

Mothers, you have an important and awesome responsibility in raising your children.

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# THE PRICELESS WOMAN

J. D. Sweeten

I stood over my 6:15 coffee, bleary-eyed and barely awake, mulling the day's schedule over in my mind and hoping I hadn't forgotten anything important. Nonchalantly, I reached for the creamer, and remembered from the day before that it was empty. Mechanically, my reaching and grasping motion continued on autopilot and, lo and behold, someone had refilled the creamer dispenser. No doubt my beautiful wife, who takes care of all the "little" things in our home, had taken the time to complete but one more of the many thankless tasks necessary to keep our family going. It is like that all too often, and to my shame, I fail to say "thank you" nearly enough. "Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies" (Proverbs 31:10).

The subjective, submissive role of women in the home and church has never lent itself to public accolades or front-page recognition. It is unfortunate that we forget the many references Paul makes to our equality of value in Christ where "there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:28). "Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary: And those members of the body, which we think to be less honourable, upon these we bestow more abundant honour; and our uncomely parts have more abundant comeliness" (1 Corinthians 12:22-23). The very nature of a woman's glory is in her quiet spirit, so that their husbands "may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives; While they behold her chaste conversation coupled with fear" (1 Peter 3:1-2). But, lest we think the quiet spirit less essential, we would be beneficially reminded that in all of God's creation, as the creative process unfolded day by day, there was a continual statement of satisfaction: "and God saw that it was good" (Genesis 1:10, 12, 18, 21, 25). There was only one exception, only one "not good." "And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him" (Genesis 2:18). God placed His divine stamp on the value of a woman, and no sleight of hand by mindless men will ever diminish ought from its reality.

The contributions of godly women so often go unheralded, yet the church rarely lacks for them. Their commitment to Christ is conspicuous in their constant attendance, often in spite of a non-supportive husband. They attend the gospel meetings, the evangelism workshops and nursing home devotionals. Their dedication radiates in their preparations for fellowship meals, their visits to the sick, or that cheery card that lifts you from the pit of despair or just lets you know that you were a welcome visitor to the assembly. The

children of our members, the next generation of the church, we place into their capable hands and, too often, without so much as a "how-do-you-do." And considering Jesus' attitude toward children, the parallel puts the woman's contribution on an ethereal plateau. To leave these accomplishments unsung is villainous.

God has employed women throughout the history of mankind to benefit the race, beginning with Eve. Sarah called Abraham Lord (1 Peter 3:6). Deborah shamed Barak into action (Judges 4:9) while Ruth brightened the dark ages of Israel's history (Ruth 1:1ff). Jochebed bravely hid Moses (Exodus 2:2) and Hannah dedicated Samuel (1 Samuel 1:11). Jehosheba saved a king of Israel (2 Kings 2:11) and Esther saved Israel from a king (Esther 4:16). Aged Elizabeth was blessed in her patience (Luke 1:25) and Mary "found favor with God" (Luke 1:30). Joanna and Susanna walked with our Lord (Luke 8:2-3) and Mary Magdalene was the first to proclaim the risen Savior (Mark 16:9). Without Lois and Eunice, there would have been no promising, young evangelist, Timothy (2 Timothy 1:5). With godly women, it was never an issue of who leads or who gets the glory, and some remain nameless to this day. But, heaven's record lists them each one beside their wonderful works.

There is no replacement for a godly wife, and though "her price is far above rubies," she rarely received flowers for her efforts. The wise husband "praiseth her. 'Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all. Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised'" (Proverbs 31:28-29). The godly wife is an essential element to a successful marriage. There is no substitute for the godly mother who "giveth meat to her household ... for all her household are clothed with scarlet ... She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness. Her children arise up, and call her blessed ... (and) her own works praise her in the gate" (Proverbs 31:15, 21, 27-28, 31). "Honour thy ... mother" is part of "the first commandment with promise" (Ephesians 6:2) and should be perpetually practiced. There is no alternative to godly women in the church. Their place of submissive service is critical to the church and invaluable to its growth. They have been blessed with responsibility of continuing "in faith and charity and holiness with sobriety" (1 Timothy 2:15). Support, understanding and praise are due in "good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over" (Luke 6:38) for "her price is far above rubies."

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Eddie & Oleta Pafford—Bangs, TX  
Ray & Ruth Phillips—Bangs, TX

Kenneth & Anna Reed—Bangs, TX  
Jeff & Kelly Sweeten—Comanche, TX  
Nita Towler—Bangs, TX

### In Memory Of

Linda Blair—Bangs  
Vernon Phillips – Rising Star  
Jimmy Roach—Zepher  
Richard Strickland—Bangs  
Billy Vogel—Bangs

### Memorials Given By:

Bangs Church of Christ  
Michael & Carrie Light—Bangs, TX  
Jeff & Kelly Sweeten—Comanche, TX  
Tom & Carole Moore—Port Lavaca, TX  
Eddie & Oleta Pafford—Bangs, TX  
Pauline Hopkins—Bangs, TX  
Millie Robbins—Bangs, TX  
Bill & Trevone Davis—Early  
Kenneth & Anna Reed—Bangs, TX  
Bernice Chick—Bangs  
Joy Early—Bangs, TX  
Cathy Godfrey—Bangs  
Millie Robbins—Bangs  
Charlene Chesshir—Cisco  
Sue Bennie—Bangs, TX  
Harry & Sandra Walker – Bangs, TX

### Editor's Speaking Schedule

#### Michael Light

*Feb 27-Mar 1*—Houston College of the Bible  
Lectures, Spring, TX  
*Mar 2-16*—Murmansk, Russia  
*Mar 17-19*—Southwest Arkansas Lectures, Cam-  
den AR  
*Mar 24-26*—Gulf Coast Lectures, Portland, TX  
*Mar 26-29*—Hillcrest church of Christ, Stephen-  
ville, TX  
*Apr 30-May 3*—Emory church of Christ, Emory,  
TX  
*Jun 10-11*—Bellview Lectures, Pensacola, FL  
*Sep 13-17*—Jonesboro church of Christ, Jonesboro,  
LA  
**Tom Moore**  
*Jul 28-Aug 5*—Old Harbor, Jamaica  
*Mar 24-26*—Gulf Coast Lectures, Portland, TX  
*Sep 10-13*—Camden church of Christ, Camden,  
AR  
**Jeff Sweeten**  
*Mar 5-9*—Southwest Lectures, Austin, TX  
*Sep 24-28*—Hillcrest church of Christ, Stephen-  
ville, TX