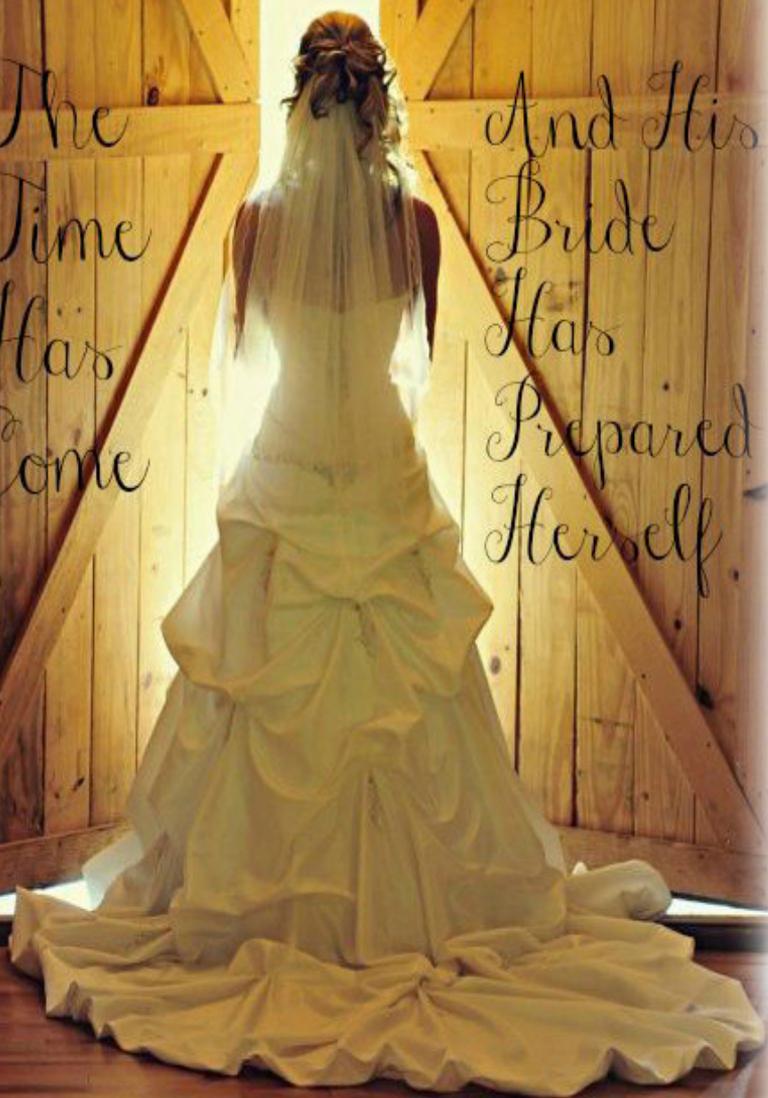


Revelation 19:7

The
Time
Has
Come

And His
Bride
Has
Prepared
Herself.



High Time To Awaken Out Of Sleep - Romans 13:11

I sat staring at my computer screen. What I was reading was about to rock my world and change my life forever. But in a strange way, I was prepared.

I grew up in the late 50s and 60s in a world that would be hardly recognizable today. My wonderful parents raised me in a home of love and Christian values.

My dad was a successful business man, but he always carved out time to really be a dad. At night he would tuck me in bed and thrill me with the Bible's account of Christ's return. He was passionate about Biblical prophecy and studied until the day he died. The legacy my parents left me was a passion for Jesus Christ, and the truth of God's Word.

I was married for the first time for 16 years. As time went by I became disillusioned and sought my own way out of our troubles. We eventually divorced and I thought that would solve everything.

I remarried several years later. Not long into my second marriage I began having what I call "night terrors." I would dream that something was terribly wrong with my eyes. Waking up, I found myself in front of the mirror staring at my eyes. Or in frantic haste, I would jump out of bed shouting, "Lord, God in Heaven!" It sounds comical, but the terror was real. It was as if I were falling into the abyss of hell. Calling out to God came from some deep place inside. Later, in studying the Bible, I read in the Book of Job, that dreams are one of the many ways God speaks to us, even terrifying dreams.



My quest to seek answers to my disturbing dreams began in earnest. Was God speaking to me? I began to read the Bible with new eyes and to take Jesus' words seriously.

. So in the summer of 2015, I stumbled upon a website dedicated to the study of marriage, divorce and remarriage. Articles and Bible studies described the permanency of the first covenant marriage vow made before God. Subsequent divorce and remarriage is Biblically shown to be adultery while the spouse is still living. This was a thunderbolt to me and I had to study it out for myself.

I read many, many books; spoke with authors of books; talked to many pastors about my situation; and researched what the early "church fathers" taught about divorce and remarriage. I got a concordance and looked up words in the original Greek and Hebrew. I read and re-read everything the Bible has to say about marriage from Genesis to Revelation. Was my re-marriage indeed adultery? And what if it were? What did that mean for me and my second mate? Jesus' words are very simple:

"Whoever divorces his wife except for fornication and marries another, causes her to commit adultery. He who marries a divorced woman is committing adultery." And **"If a woman breaks wedlock from her husband and marries another, she is committing adultery."** Matthew 5:32 and Matthew 19:9

"Whoever breaks wedlock and marries another, is committing adultery. If a woman breaks wedlock and marries another, she is committing adultery." Mark 10:12

"Whoever breaks wedlock from his wife and marries another is committing adultery, and whoever marries a woman who has broken wedlock from her husband is committing adultery." Luke 16:18

Jesus said (paraphrase) "Haven't you read? In the beginning God made them male and female. A man will leave his mother and father and cleave to his wife. The two shall be one flesh. What God joins together, man must not separate." Matthew 19:4-9 - quoting from Genesis 2:24.

Marriage is the "Great Mystery." Ephesians 5:32 Marriage shows how committed God is to us - quite literally wants to be in "wedlock" with His people. A husband represents the love and commitment of God to us. His Church, (believers in Him) are called His BRIDE.



Husband and wife are like scrambled eggs - one in body and soul through their vow to each other before God - the perfect picture of Christ and His church.

"A wife is not to divorce her husband, but even if she does, she is to remain unmarried or else be reconciled to her husband. A husband must not break wedlock."

v. 39, "for the wife is bound by law **as long as her husband lives**; but if her husband dies, she is at liberty to be married to whom she wishes, only in the Lord." 1 Cor 7:10-11

I never "saw" these verses before. My eyes had literally been blinded. Whatever the culture around me and the church said, I believed.

Jesus said His Kingdom is not of this world. It's a place where everything is "right." Jesus said He was coming back to get His own people who love Him and destroy the wickedness of the world. We are not meant for God's wrath - we are meant for salvation and escape from the judgment to come. As hard as it is to understand, some people will choose wickedness over the paradise planned for us and the free gift of salvation. Satan has deceived them.

"Don't you know that the unrighteous **will not inherit the Kingdom of God**? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the Kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, sanctified, and justified in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of God." 1 Cor 6:9-11

"Now the works of the flesh are evident: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, murders, envy, drunkenness and the like of which I told you beforehand that those who practice such things **will not inherit the Kingdom of God**." Gal 5:16,17

"For the woman who has a husband is bound by the law to her husband **as long as he lives**. But if her husband dies, she is released from the law of her husband. So then, if while her husband lives, she marries another man, she will be called an **ADULTERESS**; but if her husband dies, she is free from that law, so that she is no adulteress, though she has married another man." Romans 7:2,3

Then there was this alarming verse: "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord' will enter the Kingdom of Heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' I will say to them on that day, 'Depart from Me, I never knew you, workers of iniquity.'" Matthew 7:21-23

This was my turning point. All these Scriptures had shed serious light on my life. What was I going to do with this truth? It had taken almost two years to fully study and understand what it all meant. All along this journey I shared everything I learned with my second mate. It took a long time to understand God's view of the permanency of first marriage. Divorce and remarriage is so common now that God's way is outright rejected. I began seeing more clearly how much our adversary, Satan, hates us and does not want us to be in right relationship with God. He goes to great lengths to defile and destroy us.

Jesus even said that not many will accept His word. My second mate and I decided together that we wanted to follow God and His Word even if the world thought we were crazy. We decided to become "divorced" in the eyes of the state and remain "unmarried" in God's eyes. God showed us how important obedience is. Jesus said "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments. And if you do, I will disclose Myself to you." John 14:21 His commands are for our good, to give us an abundant life. John 10:10

After we had made our decision to obey our Heavenly Father, my night terrors vanished away. I no longer dreamed my "eyes" were in trouble because now I could SEE!

This verse describes the urgency to do what Jesus has said.

"The Day Jesus returns will come as a thief in the night - unexpected - in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed and burned up.

Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness looking for the day of God when the heavens will dissolve, being on fire and the elements will melt with fervent heat.

Nevertheless according to His promise we look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells." 2 Peter 3:10-14

The position we have taken is very unpopular. To many, personal happiness is the goal in life. When all is said and done, we are the ones who must stand before Almighty God and give an account for what we have done in life. The day I discovered the truth was one of the hardest days of my life. Choosing to obey God and not my feelings has been heart-wrenching. But knowing Jesus and having eternal life is worth everything!

The Biblical view of marriage shocks many people today. I tried every way I could to get around the truth - but it is in black and white - the Spirit of God speaks the truth to my spirit. Below are some Q & A's that are most frequently asked.

FAQs:

Q: Doesn't Jesus' sacrifice on the cross cover our sin?

A: Jesus paid the sacrifice that is required for sin - without the shedding of blood, sin cannot be forgiven. That's because the "life/soul" is in the blood. (Lev 17:11) God loved the world so much that He sent His only Son, not of sinful human DNA, to pay the penalty and reconcile us to God if we commit our lives to Him in faith.

Since we have been washed, we cannot continue in a life of sin. Salvation is a free gift. We are given His Holy Spirit to help us walk in obedience. We can choose to walk in our flesh or with the power of the Spirit. If we choose sin it's like throwing Jesus UNDER THE BUS again. Practicing a lifestyle of willful disobedience puts one in danger of God's judgment.

Heb 10:26 "If we sin willfully, we put Christ to shame - there is no longer a sacrifice for sin, but a fearful expectation of judgment."

Rom 6:1,2 "Shall we continue in sin that grace might abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?" See also Ephesians 4:17-24; Galatians 5:16-21

Q: Didn't Jesus give us an "exception clause" for divorce? Like adultery?

A: There is no exception to break wedlock. Moses' law allowed for breaking of the **betrothal** if the woman was not a virgin when they married.

The betrothal period was a year-long "engagement" much like our engagement period. When a man chose a wife to marry, he had to wait one year while he got his house ready for his bride. They were considered husband and wife - betrothed only to each other.

At the consummation - the wedding night - if she were found **not** to be virgin, he could "divorce" her or "break wedlock" because the newly weds were supposed to be virgins.

Jesus said that if a man marries a woman then divorces her, he commits adultery **except if she has committed fornication** with someone else before the wedding day. That word is "porneia" - where we get the word pornography - it is unlawful premarital sexual behavior.

This is the situation Joseph found himself in. He wanted to put Mary (Jesus' mother) away quietly because he thought she was pregnant by another man during their betrothal. "If anyone divorces his wife, except for FORNICATION (Porneia), and marries another, he is committing ADULTERY(Moicheia)." Matt 5:32

The other Gospels do not contain this exception since they were written to people in the Roman Empire - or non-Jews. This also indicates that marriage to one person was lawful in all cultures.

Q: Can we just ask God to forgive us and it will be forgiven without changing our lifestyle?

A: Jesus said remarriage while the spouse is living is adultery. Adultery is when one has taken someone else's spouse, or replaced a spouse with someone else. God will most assuredly forgive us when we repent and turn from the sin. Admit it, and quit it!

"No one who is born of God can **practice** sin. He cannot sin because he has God's seed in him. The one who practices sin is from the devil." 1 John 3:9

"If we confess our sins, God is faithful to forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:9

A thief should stop stealing, a murderer should stop killing; no one likes being lied to. Somehow we don't apply the same standard to the commandment against adultery. Lust no longer has restraint in our society; homosexuality, pedophilia, sex trafficking, bestiality will become more and more commonplace.

Q: God wouldn't keep me out of heaven just for sin, would He? If I am His child, I will always be His child, right?

A: Jesus said these startling words: "If anyone is committing sin, he is a SLAVE to sin. A slave does **not stay long in the house**. A son abides in the house forever." John 8:34,35.

"By this we know God, if we keep His commandments and love one another. He who says he loves God and does not keep His commandments is a liar." 1 John 5:2

Sin is ugly, selfish, unloving, and hateful. Jesus cleansed us and gave us HIS righteousness to be a new creation.

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a NEW CREATION; old things have passed away, behold all things are new." 2 Cor 5:17

"Whoever commits sin, commits transgression of the law. And you know that He came to take away our sins, and in Him there is no sin. Whoever abides in Him does not sin, Whoever sins (practices sin) has never seen Him nor knows Him." 1 John 3:4-6

Q: Why haven't we heard this before?

A: Marriage for life has been a universal cultural institution for thousands of years. Since the mid-20th century divorce and remarriage has become commonplace in the West. The Apostle Paul predicted the time would come when people would turn away from the truth.

It is important to note that many of the new Bible translations do not have the original meaning of words. They have been translated with 20th & 21st century English meanings. A good example is the Greek word "porneia." It is the same as the English word "fornication" - unlawful sexual relations (especially pre-marital.) But this word has been changed in the newer Bibles to say "sexual immorality" which has a much broader meaning.

"The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron." 1 Tim 4:1,2

"For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of **teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear**. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths." 2 Tim 4:3,4

Q: Doesn't the "grace" of God cover someone who sins?

A: God never sanctifies sin. "The grace of God teaches us to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, and righteously in the present age." Titus 2:11-12

"Sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law, but under grace - if you obey sin, you will die. If you obey righteousness, you will live." Rom 6:14

God gives grace when we need it - POWER over sin. Hebrews 4:16 **Grace is victory** over sin, the world and the devil in this life. If we don't take a personal stand for righteousness, then society erodes into the morass we have today. Where is the line drawn? Bestiality (sex with animals) is now legal in Canada. Are we far behind?

Q: People say "two wrongs don't make a right." If the first divorce is wrong, then a second divorce must be wrong too.

A: A first-time marriage vow is a covenant made to God for life. It is serious to God because male and female are His image. Even the spouses' bodies belong to each other. 1 Cor 7:4 Husband and wife cleave together. "Cleave" means to be joined on the **molecular level**. A man cannot take another man's wife. A wife cannot have another woman's husband. The first covenant spouses are bonded together. The **RIGHT** thing to do is to get out of adultery!!



Q: If I marry someone who turns out to be a really bad person, why do I have to stay with them?

A: There is a difference between getting out of harm's way through separation, and ending the relationship through divorce. Part of taking any vow, or promise, is that we intend to stick it out even to our detriment.

It's very easy to give up on marriage today. Couples used to work harder since they knew marriage was for life. Now happiness is expected and hard work is repugnant. The Bible is full of instruction on how to make marriage work and how to engage in spiritual warfare at times to combat the schemes of the devil.

Q: We aren't under the Law now, right?

A. Which law? Christ set us free from the **Law of sin and death** - now we are under the **Law of Christ** through His Spirit. [Rom 8:2](#) Now we are under the power of GRACE to live a godly, holy life, just as Christ is holy. [Rom 6:14](#) The Law of Christ is also called the **Law of Faith in Christ**.

The **Law of the Righteousness of God**. Over-arching, eternal and known to all mankind in their conscience. [Rom 1](#)

The **Law of Sin and Death** - all of mankind is "under" this law - all men have sinned and God's wrath abides on all unrighteousness. [Rom 3:23; 7:21,23](#) **This law requires payment by shedding of blood which Jesus paid for us** because God abounds in mercy and love for us - even when we were sinners, Christ died for us. [Rom 5:8,9](#)

The **Law of Moses & the Prophets** - The **OLD COVENANT** - witness of God's righteousness and foreshadow of God's plan to save all mankind. **Sacrifices & rituals are over.** [Rom 3:21; Heb 7:11](#). This law was weak and could not change the heart of man - [Rom 8:3](#)

The **Law of the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus** - The **NEW COVENANT** - through faith in Christ, we are born again, our sin is purged and we have God's Spirit. Grace is God's power for whatever we need for life and godliness. We are changed from the inside out. [Rom 8:2, Jer 31:31](#) **God's over-arching "law" of righteousness is in our hearts and minds.**

"The days are coming when I will make a **NEW COVENANT** with Israel and Judah, not like the one with Moses when I was a husband to Israel - they broke that covenant. I will put My law in their minds and write it on their hearts - I will be their God. [32:40](#) I will make an everlasting covenant with My people, giving them one heart and one way. I will not turn away from doing good to them." [Jer 31:31](#)

A Final Word

We have decided to follow Christ whatever it costs, for whatever time is left. This life is but a blip on the radar of time.

"Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor has it entered into the heart of man the things which **God has prepared for those who love Him**. But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God." [1 Cor 2:8-10](#)

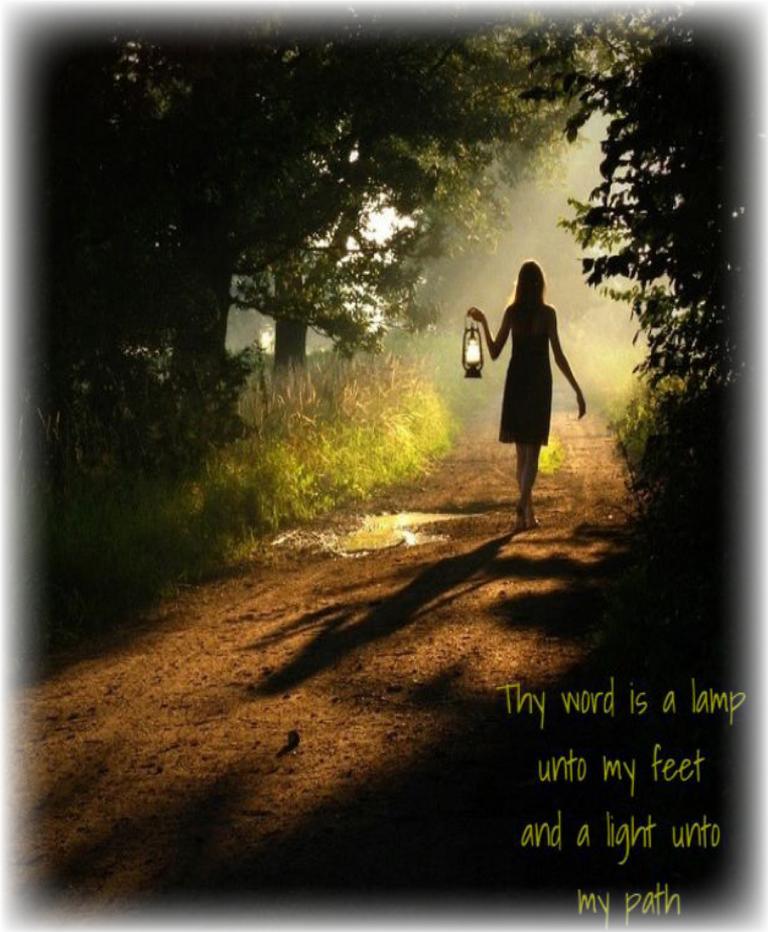
Our Father wants us to live within the guidelines He gave us for our good, and more importantly, to show the world **WHO HE IS** - it is His good pleasure to give us inheritance in His kingdom! But we must come to Him on His terms - not on what we think is right. Proverbs 14:12 says "There is a way that seems right to man, but it ends in death." God is very patient with us, kind and merciful!

God's forgiveness is abundant! He gave His only Son for whoever will believe. Jesus went to prepare a place for us that is beyond our wildest imagination. Jesus will return for us as prophesied when the world has reached its most evil time in all of history - He told us to watch and pray and be ready!

I can't wait to see Jesus Christ with my own eyes! Whatever it takes in your life to find the narrow way and be right with God, I beg you to join me - I want to see you there on that day too!

Nancy Hughes

Resources: "Till Death Do Us Part" Dr. Joseph Webb
Contra Mundum Swagger" Jack Shannon
"Have You Not Read" Casey Whitaker
www.cadz.net



Thy word is a lamp
unto my feet
and a light unto
my path