



The *Pulpit Exchange*

It pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe. (1 Corinthians 1:21)
So they read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused them to understand the reading. (Nehemiah 8:8) Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend. (Proverbs 27:17)

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Issue # 3

The Influence of the Radio

The Bible says, “Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.” (Psalm 1:1) The radio, do we control it, or avoid it? This is a matter I battle with as an electrician working on construction sites. Many of our contractors are considerate and will turn those things off when we are around, but not always. There are always other contractors coming in, whether painters, plumbers or whatever. We often face it, and it is partly because of these things that I share this. It is

one of the reasons why I am in the process of changing my occupation. I have, for years, not felt comfortable in bringing my children into the same kind of environment that I work in. At the same time it does not seem consistent for me to tell my children that I do not think they should be in the environment that I am working in and then continue in that myself. It is not consistent nor is good for me.

I) The Bible speaks of the ungodly’s counsel. There are a lot of suggestions on the radio. I am amazed sometimes. Most of the music and songs I cannot

IN THIS ISSUE

Nonconformity

The Influence of the Radio

45

understand and I do not try to. However, when they talk, this is a little easier to understand. It is amazing the way that suggestions come across the radio broadcasts. In this Scripture verse it talks about the counsel of the ungodly. The radio is one of the places it comes.

II) *Secondly, it talks about the sinners' way.* The sinners' way, reminds me of the songs and the talk shows that are very common on various stations. Through

those songs and talk shows, we are exposed to the experiences of sinners. Sinners talk about the sinner's life because that is what they are acquainted with. We become exposed to the thoughts and experience of sinners. We learn through the talk shows their values, what they think, why they think and so on. All the time they are talking and giving their opinions and so on, in memory, and we are listening to people who are practicing sin. They are sin-

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ners' ways.

1) *The Scripture also talks about the scornful. On the radio we gather a lot about the attitudes.* There is a lot that is given out about attitudes — attitudes toward home life and marriage. It is a very confusing attitude. We hear the attitudes about city life, entertainment, community functions, immorality, decency, indecency, attitudes about God, and the list goes on. It is the talk of scorners.

As we looked at Psalm 1:1, we asked the question concerning the radio influence. "Do we control it, or avoid it?" Notice what it says in verse 1; the man is blessed that, "walketh not in the counsel." He does not walk with. He does not stand with, or in the way, nor does he sit, "in the seat of the scornful." Do we notice the progression of thought here?

2) *A man will never sit with the scorners, if he first of all does not stand in the way of sinners. A man will never stand in the way of sinners if he does not walk first in that way as well, in the counsel of the ungodly.* As we walk by, we become somewhat drawn in. We know what that is like. When we meet a friend or someone in town or wherever, we walk over to that person. The next thing is we stop to converse. This is the second measure of fel-

lowship. The third measure is where we sit down and talk together.

3) *This describes a principle concerning the way of the ungodly, the way of the sinner or the scornful and that is to avoid it. We are not to try to control it, but rather to avoid it.* People have often said in the past that they can control it. It is common to talk to people about the radio. They find out we do not appreciate it, and that we will not hook up TV wiring in the house. Some will say, "There is a knob on there for a reason." This is true, but what they do not think about, is that it takes effort to turn the knob. It is not that the knob cannot be turned, or the switch cannot be switched off, the failure is in not getting there and getting it done. The Bible teaches that we are to avoid it.

4) *History proves this as well.* We do well, all you young people as well (some of us have a few more years to our advantage to notice that, but young people as well) it is good for us to open our eyes to history. History proves the impact of the media. A lot of us, many of us, I suppose, unfortunately do not have to look very far to see the impact of the world's media.

I believe that there are many who are involved in the broad-

casts of the media who are not intending to do harm. In fact, I suppose they think that they are doing good. We must remember that this is probably because the people who are controlling the media do not have a renewed mind. Thus, while it looks right or good to them, to a certain extent, it is because they have a faulty mind. Their eye is not single. However, there is among those who do operate the media, the radio, an intent on arousing people's emotions. They know that people want their emotions aroused. They do not want something that is dull. They want something that arouses them in various ways. Thus, those who are involved with the broadcasts and such, do that in a way to arouse people's emotions. They want to please people. They often cry, "This is the music that pleases." They do not use that term. They have better words more catchy terms than what I can say. They are trying to please the crowds. Through this all they want to keep the crowds' attention. Through it all, I am sure, they are often unaware of the total effect that this causes.

I have thought of this different times as I tried to shut this out while I am working or move to a different room or whatever. 5) *They are trying to please the*

crowd. As we think about it, who is the crowd whom they are trying to please? As the Lord looks down upon me while I am working, I hope the Lord does not see me as being part of that crowd. I do not want to be part of that crowd — the crowd whom they are trying to please. It is another reason why we want to avoid it.

III) *Thirdly, God calls us to unwavering purpose and performance to serve Him.* This is so important in our everyday communications. It is important what is on our minds as we communicate. It is important how we communicate. It is important what communication comes to us. It is important what our values are. It is important what our fellowship is because God calls us to unwavering purpose and performance. For those of us who meet the public or work away from home, what is the tie? Or for all of us, what is the tie of fellowship that we have with the community? This is important to consider. We all desire to make some kind of communication with our neighbours, those we work with, or whomever. What is the common tie of your fellowship?

For some, the common tie may be the same work. For example, a teacher can find a certain amount of tie in visiting or dis-

cussing with another teacher. Is that tie wrong? Not really. Or, if we discuss interests in farming with another farmer, that tie is not wrong. However, we do need to consider what is that tie that is our bond of fellowship, whatever measure of fellowship we have. We do not want our tie of fellowship to be something that is ungodly. This is what the radio is doing continually. It introduces the thoughts, issues and so on. We do not want this to be the tie of fellowship.

Psalm 1:2 says, "But his," (the man that is blessed of God) "delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night." We should never be ashamed to speak to our fellow workers about the Lord because the child of God has "his delight in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night." As the worldling meditates day and night with the menu of the world, so the child of God finds delight in meditating on the Scripture day and night. This brings rest. When we think about the Scriptures, and the things of God as we are working, we can retire in the evening with a peace and a rest as that is coupled with our efforts in being useful throughout the day. It brings us rest. Whereas, it is the opposite when

we have been bombarded with the pollutions of the world. We come to the end of the day and we feel dirty and polluted, and rightly so.

Sometimes there were phrases or subjects that were introduced which we heard that are troubling. Sometimes, it is not a single topic or subject but it is merely the influence of the sound waves. Sometimes, I came home from work, where the radio was blaring all day. I do not know if I hardly understood a word all day. I did not try to. It sounded like a bunch of confusion from people who were scared. I come home and tell my wife, "I feel like I have a headache. I feel wore out." It is anything but a restful feeling. I know that it is something that subconsciously comes because of the type of music. Those kinds of things we are talking about do not bring rest and peace and fruitfulness.

We notice in contrast verses 2 and 3, "But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper." This is a beautiful picture of the person whose mind is resting and established, in the

Scriptures and in the help of God. Those of you who are spared of the influence we are talking about, have much to be thankful for.

IV) *As we are blessed with right thought patterns throughout the day, it leads to fruitful living.* We are blessed to have that. Whereas the opposite — the world's menu and the world's manner — leads to instability and worthlessness. You have the chaff, that is empty and moveable. What loss.

Notice verses 5 and 6, "Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish." We must remember as we consider the subject of the radio, what our response should be in opening ourselves to, or placing ourselves under, the funnel of the world. We must consider what effect this has upon us. Where do we stand? We want to be sure we are clear from these things because as verses 5 and 6 teach, with God it is not a question. There are two classes of people and it is not a question as to which is which. It says, "Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the

righteous. For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish."

What are our involvements? What guides our conversation? What kind of involvements? What kind of conversation? What kind of values do we want to have? What kind of interest do we want to cultivate? The two are completely different. There is a basic principle which we must remember in relation to this subject. We find it in 1 Corinthians 15:33, "Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners." Communication corrupts, and this verse says, "Be not deceived." Why does it say, "Be not deceived?" I suppose, because we are talking merely of communication, it is simply words, sound or music. We might be tempted to think, "It does not bother me." I know I have been tempted to think that already at different times. "It does not bother me. I think I can take it," and so on. The Bible says, "Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners." Even though in hearing these things we may disapprove of what we hear, it still leaves an effect. We cannot stop the fact that it will still have an effect upon us, even though we may

disapprove of it.

In the context here, it is speaking of false teaching. I Corinthians 15:12, “Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead?” It speaks about that subject — a wrong teaching and wrong words. We read verse 33. Verse 34 says, “Awake to righteousness, and sin not.” What does wrong communication lead to? It leads to sin. It corrupts our minds. Wrong statements lead to wrong thinking patterns and values. Wrong values lead to wrong living. V) *The media system is very effective in manipulating people’s thoughts. We see evidence of that in those around us.*

1) *The media system is very effective in diverting one’s thoughts.* It is powerful. I have shared with some already that sometimes there are a few songs (I cannot think of the one now, I do not even care to) that I recognize. There have been times when I am working and I hear this song starting; I know it has some words and messages that I do not want to be reminded of. I try to sing while the radio is going, and I know it is hard. It is really hard. I have tried to quote some very familiar passages like Hebrews 1, that we may know

very well or Psalm 1, I try to quote these passages while I am working to drown out that song. It is very hard. The media system is very effective in diverting people’s thoughts.

2) *The Media system is very effective in controlling people’s thoughts.* It is effective in controlling what they think, how they think and why they think.

3) *The media is very effective in gradually shaping the pattern of thinking of people.* The media systems continual exposure tends to lessen a person’s disapproval. I mentioned earlier the Bible says, “Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.” Even though we may disapprove of what we hear, when we hear it, it has an effect on us. Within time it tends to be less objectionable. I will give you one example. I remember one time hearing a Christian brother commenting about the different types of radio stations and such. He mentioned one time, “That one is not so bad.” He kind of likes that one. That really scared me. It really scared me for two reasons. One was, I was alarmed to hear him say and for him to register that he had a liking for it. The second reason I was alarmed was that this was the way I felt too. It reminded me of something that was taking place in my

own life.

Continual exposure tends to lessen one's disapproval of such. Let us think a little bit about Lot. "And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked: (For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds)." (2 Peter 2:7, 8) Lot was a righteous man vexed with the filthy conversation. I suppose we all would tend to ask the same question, "Why Lot, would you stay where you were continually being disturbed? Why? Why stay where you are continually being bothered or vexed?" There was something that was appealing in Sodom or he would not have been there. Likely it was something different from the filthy conversation. There was something there that was appealing, that held him there and he tolerated the filthy conversation of what he saw and heard.

As Bible students, we know that this good man was disturbed, but he lost his family. He made a very poor choice. We know the story that as Sodom was near being destroyed, God delivered Lot and his two daughters from Sodom. Evidently Lot had children who were not delivered and his wife was not delivered.

Though the two daughters were delivered from Sodom, Sodom was not out of them. This was very tragic. Those daughters were taken from Sodom but Sodom was still in their hearts. We find that although the Bible speaks of them as virgins those two daughters had immoral hearts. Why? I believe it was because of the effects of Sodom on those growing girls that caused them to have immoral hearts. I give that example because I believe that the effects of the radio today are like Sodom. It brings a knowledge and a boldness toward evil, and it leaves very little faith.

Quite a number of years ago when I was a youth, and rather young, an older minister told my father, while we were visiting in that home, "If you allow the radio in the home, do not expect much depth of spirituality in the children." I believe he is right. If we allow the radio in the home, do not expect much spirituality in the children because of the influence of the radio. It gives a knowledge of evil and a boldness toward it. It gives many confusing signals so that the eye, or our perception becomes evil, confused and blurred.

VI) *Throughout Bible times, God called His people to make a difference.* We could look back

in the Old Testament in the books of the law and find, for example, in the book of Leviticus 11–15, the law concerning the clean and the unclean, and the pure and the impure. It was God’s call for His people to make a difference between the clean and the unclean. That was important for them in a physical sense as well as in a social sense, as far as the intermixing with other people, and also for their spiritual well-being. We have this in the New Testament as well. We all know the verse very well in Romans 12:2, which says, “And be not conformed to this world.” Verse 1 speaks about giving our bodies, “a living sacrifice,” unto the Lord. Verse 2 says, “And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.” Thus, God calls us today to make a difference. We must do that. We must continually, whether we are young people or whoever we are, make a difference between what is right and what is wrong, what is pure and what is impure, what is decent and what is indecent, what is God honouring and what is scornful toward God. We must do that.

Ephesians 5 tells us about fellowship. “And have no fellow-

ship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them. For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret.” (Ephesians 5:11, 12) Yes, it is a shame to even speak of those things — the unfruitful works of darkness. Sometimes a person might hear some things which do not sound so bad, but we must remember that the package is unfruitful. The whole package is unfruitful. We are told here to “have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness.” We do not want to fellowship. We do not want to have a common bond. When we have fellowship, we have a common bond. “Have no fellowship,” have no common bond with the unfruitful works of darkness. It does not work to fellowship with someone when the connection is ungodly. The ungodly have wrong channels of thinking. This is probably one reason why in our work (we work with various construction crews) we almost always eat our lunches separately from the others. I do not always know how these men feel.

Remember we read in Psalm 1:1, “Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.” Sitting is worse

than standing. Standing is even worse than only walking. It is progression. We have found that it does not work to sit down with many of these workers and eat lunch with them. Often what people talk about when they are in an idle mood is even worse than when they are working. It is one thing to talk with a fellow construction man, when you are talking about your work, it is entirely different when you are eating lunch together, and they begin to talk what is on their mind. It can be anything from sports, to a lot of other things. It makes for a wrong bond of fellowship. The Bible says, "Have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness." There are sometimes (I often work alone) when I am with such people that I find it a blessing to eat with such if there is maybe only one other worker. If you eat with one person, it is much easier to have a productive time of fellowship. Then you can talk in right channels. Suddenly if a subject comes up that is wrong, it is easier to steer away from that. The Bible says, "Have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them." Thus, we need to do that. We need to unashamedly disapprove even of the use of the radio because of that which comes

across it.

VII) *Let us think a little more yet about some specific objections.* What are some objectionable features of the radio? Some of these we are very familiar with, I am sure, no doubt. 1) *Let us think about the speakers or the persons who are guiding the broadcast.* I do not know what better word to use. I speak of those who are guiding the broadcast, who often break in and talk between the songs or between the announcements and the advertisements or whatever. Do we ever think about their style of speech? Their style of speech is different from ours. They have a style of speech which appeals to the crowd. It has a little bit of a different twist to the way they talk. It may be western or something else, but it has a little different style. Would you want the country western lady or the fashion man to sit at your table at dinner and guide your conversation at the dinner table? Of course not. We would feel very uncomfortable. We would lose our appetite if such a person was at the table and guiding the conversation. We would not even feel like eating. It would be so foreign, so different to us, and so uncomfortable. We would not want such a person sitting at our table eating and guiding the con-

versation and getting the attention, Subconsciously on the radio, they are the ones getting the attention and they are guiding hundreds of people's minds, simply by their comments, or what they say.

A) *Secondly, on the same line concerning the "Bible Channel."* It has gospel stations. Do you want the partial Gospel preacher with all his good comments invited into your pulpit? Do you want to be a member of his church? You need to consider his following. Let us look at Matthew 7. There are a lot of people who can give a lot of good comments across the radio. Some people, because they know we do not appreciate the radio, will try to put on some kind of gospel/religious channel. It is so hollow and false. It is such a poor sample of what the Bible teaches. Matthew 7:15–20 says, "Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that

bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them." This is so true as we think of the partial Gospel preacher that we can hear on the radio. Consider his following. This is his fruit. Consider the people who are really enjoying what he says, and agree with him. His members, and the people who follow him, reveal the soundness of his preaching, his church discipline and his administration.

Furthermore concerning the radio preacher, Paul writes in 1 Thessalonians 5:12, "And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which . . . are over you in the Lord." This is an important principle. We need to know those who are giving us direction for our spiritual life. We need to know their life. It is not wise for us to receive spiritual direction from a person whom we do not know. All we know is his voice. That is not sufficient. Paul said this is not safe. Furthermore, do we remember what Jesus said in John 10:27? Jesus said, "My sheep hear my voice." He has also said, "And a stranger will they not follow. . . for they know not the voice of strangers." (John 10:5) May that be true of all of us. We follow the Lord, and not

the voice of a stranger because we do not know them. They are not familiar to us. We are not comfortable to hear them, nor to follow them.

2) *Again, with the majority of communication on the radio, A) the songs are evil, sensual, and man centred.* I have been often impressed and blessed that we have songs to sing that direct our minds toward God. There are a lot of songs on the radio. Some of the best songs that you will hear (if I can use that term) that are not sensual and devilish are about people, and that is about as high as they can think. It is man centred. It is very sad. To them that sounds good. It seems right to them, but it is not. It still falls far short because the focus is on man and the physical aspects of life. We will never rise above that unless our focus is above that, that is, on the Lord.

B) *The advertisements.* The advertisements stir a covetous spirit. The Bible condemns covetousness, but the advertisements stir a covetous spirit. "You have to have this. There is no better time to buy a car than this week. This is the best sale we have ever had." However you know you hear the same thing next week, and so on. Furniture sales are promoted, "Buy this furniture and have no payments for a year.

It is only for a twelve hour sale," and such like. It is designed to make us want to buy something. It stirs a covetous spirit. God hates that, and the Bible condemns it. We should not approve of, nor open ourselves to what God disapproves of.

C) *The News.* The news is often given in a way that is unsettling. Whether people realize this or not, it is what they want. I mentioned earlier that the crowd warrants something that will stir them. The news makes people more inquisitive and hungry for more. Also, the news can be very entertaining and very corrupt. There are a lot of things that are shared as news that really should never have been spoken. We must remember who it is that is giving the news and that is why it is corrupt as it is. The news is such that it draws you to want to hear more. It is not surprising that many people feel they have to hear the news. Though they do not have to, they feel they do.

D) *The Media system* (I talked earlier about how it has a way of shaping peoples' thought, minds, and thought processes.) *The media system is very effective in developing a dependence upon itself.* People feel they have to have the radio or TV or whatever. They have to have it and it must be going. One of the reasons for

this is because of the public alert system. No one had ever told me that, but I wondered sometimes if that is one of the reasons. There is a nationwide public alert system. Sometimes they test it and they will tell you ahead of time that they will be testing it. We hear this. This is one thing that I usually understand because that comes across clearly. They will say, "This is a test. The public alert system. This is a test." They will mention it several times that it is a test. Then there is a loud buzz or blaring. It is different from the other noise you hear. It is a loud, long, hornlike sound. Then, after that, they will say, "This has been a test." I understand the purpose of this is so that in the event there is a sudden pending disaster, bomb attack, or something, they will use this alarm to alert people. As I understand, this goes across all media systems immediately at the same time to alert all people of an impending attack, for example in 15 or 20 minutes, or whatever. They will tell what to do or to go and find shelter. This has to do especially with, military attacks and such. I believe people become afraid to not have the media system on, because if there will be an alarm, they want to hear it. By developing this system they have instilled fear

into people, and they have become afraid not to have some device going so they can be alerted when this thing happens.

3) *We must consider yet the structure of the broadcast.* The broadcast is purposely arranged to be changing. The subject considered in one song may be completely different from the previous song and, in fact, may even be contradictory in message to what was aired minutes earlier. This changing structure of the broadcast is both broken in subject, and interruptive in nature. People are less able to sort out the objectionable from the less objectionable because it is so changing. Before a person can dwell on a certain subject long enough to evaluate it, the broadcast is already presenting something entirely different. Why the changing in subject matter? The change is so a person will not turn off the radio, yet the intention is to please the interests of all of their hearers.

Closely associated to the ever changing structure of the broadcast is that it is moving. In other words, the structure of the broadcast is fast paced and arousing. Our society is in bondage to entertainment. Such people desire, whether consciously or subconsciously, to be drawn from one matter to another, and then to

something different. Such people incline toward an external source that arouses them.

The structure of the broadcast is both changing, moving, and continuous. It is intended to be unbroken and never ending to keep a hold on people’s attention.

The structure of the broadcast ought to be both foreign, and unacceptable, to every one of us. we want to follow the Bible as it teaches us “Ponder the path of thy feet and let all thy ways be

established;” (Proverbs 4:26) “He leadeth me beside the still waters;” (Psalm 23:2) “O how love I thy law! It is my meditation all the day.” (Psalm 119:97)

In conclusion, we read in 1 Timothy 6:3, “If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness;” “from such withdraw thyself.” (verse 5b)

Scripture References

Leviticus		Matthew		Ephesians	
11–15	53	7:15–20	55	5:11, 12	53
Psalms		John		1 Thessalonians	
1:1	45, 47, 53	10:5	55	5:12	55
1:2	49	10:27	55		
1:3	49				
1:5	50			1 Timothy	
1:6	50	Romans		6:3	58
23:2	58	12:2	53	6:5b	58
119:97	58				
		1 Corinthians		2 Peter	
Proverbs		15:12	51	2:7, 8	52
4:26	58	15:33	50		
		15:34	51		

From the Previous Issue:

Parental Responsibility in Developing Youth With a Vision

From a message by Stanley Wine
Antrim Mennonite Church
Sunday, October 3, 2004

The Ministry Table of Contents

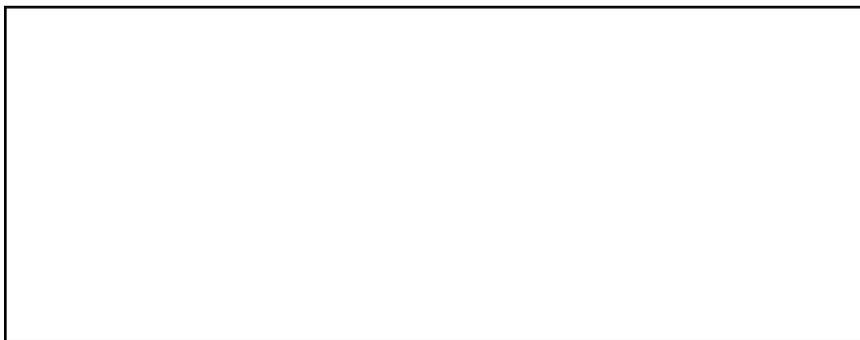
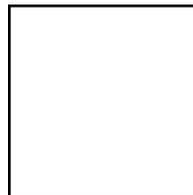
- I. The Minister as a Man.** — J. S. Shoemaker.
- II. The Minister as a Preacher.** — J. W. Weaver.
- III. The Minister as a Pastor.** — J. S. Shoemaker.
- IV. The Minister as an Example.** — J. S. Shoemaker.
- V. The Preachers's Equipment.** — J. S. Shoemaker
- VI. The Young Preacher's Problems.** — S. G. Shetler.
- VII. Problems for all Preachers.** — S. G. Shetler.
- VIII. Encouraging Features in the Minister's Experience.** — S. G. Shetler.
- IX. Evangelistic Work of the Church.** — J. W. Weaver.
- X. The Christian Home.** — J. S. Shoemaker.

The Ideal Christian Home Table of Contents

Introduction

- I. A PICTURE OF AN IDEAL HOME
- II. MARRIAGE THE FUNDAMENTAL REQUIREMENT IN ESTABLISHING A HOME
- III. THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HUSBAND AND WIFE
- IV. THE HUSBAND'S DOMESTIC COMMISSION
- V. THE WIFE'S DOMESTIC SPHERE
- VI. THE PARENTS' RELATION TO THEIR CHILDREN
- VII. THE CHILDREN'S RELATION TO THEIR PARENTS
- VIII. THE RELATION BETWEEN MASTERS AND SERVANTS
- IX. PROBLEMS TO BE SOLVED IN THE HOME
- X. THE MORAL AND RELIGIOUS ATMOSPHERE OF THE HOME
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