

THE PLEASANT VIEW PLUMB LINE

A MOTHER'S LOVE

A little boy came up to his mother in the kitchen one evening while she was fixing supper, and he handed her a piece of paper that he had been writing on. After his mom dried her hands on an apron, she read it, and this is what it said:

- For cutting the grass: \$5.00
- For cleaning up my room this week: \$1.00
- For going to the store for you: \$.50
- Baby-sitting my kid brother while you went shopping: \$.25
- Taking out the garbage: \$1.00
- For getting a good report card: \$5.00
- For cleaning up and raking the yard: \$2.00
- Total owed: \$14.75

Well, his mother looked at him standing there, and the boy could see the memories flashing through her mind. She picked up the pen, turned over the paper he'd written on, and this is what she wrote:

- For the nine months I carried you while you were growing inside me: No Charge!
- For all the nights that I've sat up with you, doctored and prayed for you: No Charge!
- For all the trying times, and all the tears that you've caused through the years: No Charge!
- For all the nights that were filled with dread, and for the worries I knew were ahead: No Charge!
- For the toys, food, clothes, and even wiping your nose: No Charge!
- When you add it all up, the cost of my love is: No Charge, Son!

When the boy finished reading what his mother had written, there were big tears in his eyes, and he looked straight at his mother and said, "Mom, I sure do love you." And then he took the pen and in great BI letters he wrote: "PAID IN FULL."

We are indebted to our mothers for ALL that they have done for us. Thank you, Mom!

And, WE are indebted to God for what he offers each of us through His Son, Jesus: Because of our sin, WE owe a tremendous debt—a debt that is TOO GREAT for any of us to pay (Read Matthew 18:23-35). Yet, because of His love for us, God sent His Son to pay the price for our sin through His sacrificial death on the cross. Peter reminded some Christians of the price that was paid for their redemption: "*For you know that it was NOT with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the 'empty way of life' handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the previous blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect*" (I Peter 1:18-19).

For THOSE who accept God's offer by: placing their trust in Him (Hebrews 11:6), repenting of sin (II Corinthians 7:9-10), confessing Jesus before men (Romans 10:9-10), being baptized (immersed) for the forgiveness of sin (Acts 2:38), and continually following Him faithfully (I John 1:7), God writes upon THEIR debt:

"PAID IN FULL."

Has YOUR debt been paid?

God bless you!

-author unknown

"...then said the Lord, Behold, I will set a plumb line in the midst of my people Israel..." (Amos 7:8)

A MOTHER'S HEART

Text: _____

I. A Mother's Heart _____

Notes:

II. A Mother's Heart _____

Notes:

III. A Mother's Heart _____

Notes:

**WAR DECLARED ON THE
WHOLE COUNSEL OF GOD**

Almost two thousand years ago the apostle Paul declared: *“For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God”* (Acts 20:27). Many preachers have diligently followed Paul’s example, and have mounted pulpits even to the point of persecution or being fired because of their decision to preach “the whole counsel of God.” The playing field has changed dramatically as lawmakers quietly pass legislation to silence specific verses. Future sermons are likely to be scrutinized by atheists and homosexual activists who are successfully eliminating the condemnation of homosexuality using our legal system.

While many were attending Wednesday night Bible Study, the U.S. House of Representatives passed bill H.R. 1913, known as the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2009 (often referred to as the hate crime bill).

While all Christians should celebrate legislation against hate crimes (and all crime), this bill gives special punishment to individuals who carry out crimes against homosexuals. In doing so it opens the door to the federal prosecution of crimes that are suspected to be “motivated by prejudice” against homosexuals, bisexuals, or those wrestling with “gender identity” (transsexuals, cross-dressers, sex changes, etc.). This new bill, if passed into law, would allow preachers to be prosecuted if their sermon “motivated” someone to commit an act against a homosexual.

Imagine watching the police and federal agents descend on a preacher’s office and confiscate his files, computer, CDs, DVDs, and any copies of his sermons because someone committed a crime and blamed it on his sermon. This bill would make this scenario frighteningly real.

Openly gay Congressman Barney Frank helped craft the bill and solicited 42 co-sponsors. Christians need to be aware that this bill violates not only God’s Word, but also the U.S. Constitution. As any middle school student knows, the First Amendment of the United States protects religion and freedom of speech. The full working of the amendment states: Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances. Once made law, this bill would effectively muzzle any speech against the sin of homosexuality and could prosecute preachers who teach what the Bible says about the abomination of homosexual behavior. H.R. 1913 also tramples the 14th Amendment, which guarantees equal protection under the law—words that can be found on the entrance to the Supreme Court Building. By enacting this bill into law it would give harsher penalties to someone who commits any crime against homosexuals. This would be the first time in our nation’s history that a minority would receive not equal rights, but special rights in the legal system.

The obvious question is: What can we do about it? The bill was passed by the House, but it still needs to go through the Senate and be signed by the President. Let your voice be heard. You can find your Senator’s contact information here: <http://www.senate.gov>. Contact them by phone, email, and letters. We encourage you to pass this message on to all of your friends. The statesman Edmund Burke once said: “All that is necessary for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing.” Can we afford to continue to do nothing?

-Brad Harrub

A MOTHER'S MANIFESTO: HER CHILDREN WALKED IN TRUTH

There was no fan-fare. There was no parade. Her profile was not written in the local paper in recognition of her achievements. In fact, very few at the time might have even known or cared. But it was her duty. As far as she knew or was concerned, it was just the way it was supposed to be. It was not out of the ordinary, but common among all who truly cared. She did not know she was different. She did not know her accomplishment deserved commendation. She was a Christian mother.

The apostle John began his second general epistle by addressing this dear woman, and said:

“The elder unto the elect lady and her children, whom I love in the truth; and not I only, but also all they that have known the truth; for the truth’s sake, which dwelleth in us, and shall be with us for ever. Grace be with you, mercy, and peace, from God the Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love. I rejoiced greatly that I found of thy children walking in truth, as we have received a commandment from the Father. And now I beseech thee, lady, not as though I wrote a new commandment unto thee, but that which we had from the beginning, that we love one another” (II John 1-5).

We know nothing about who this lady was or where she lived. Yet it is all too evident why she was the one too whom John addressed and about which he wrote this epistle—she was a successful Christian mother. She did not personally promote it or announce it, but her success was self-evident. Her children walked in truth. That single truth is her manifesto, and is the desire of every Christian mother. What, though, can be said of the mother who commits her life to the faithful upbringing, education, and future obedience of her children?

First, I believe it can be said that such a mother has hands that have wrung themselves to pain in prayer for her children. A loving mother will always be a praying mother; one who prays earnestly and ardently for various things, but primarily that her children come to know the truth. Prayer is an effective tool with which all children of God have been blessed that we might address the God of heaven with petitions and praise. A mother’s prayer life is saturated by petitions especially for her children. Just as Jesus’ prayer for His apostles was that the Father would *“sanctify them through thy truth”* (John 17:17), the Christian mother wears out her knees with the prayer that her children will come to know that truth. Though the scriptures do not indicate, it cannot help but be assumed that the elect lady of II John was not willing to leave the souls of her children to chance, but took an active role in teaching them the gospel, a role that would include praying for them. Thus, her manifesto would include an active and obsessive prayer life that her children might know truth, and allow that truth to make them free (John 8:32).

Second, it must be the case that such a mother will have a heart that aches for her children to believe and obey the gospel of Jesus Christ. Long before they are born, that mother likely worries with anticipation, “Will my children become Christians? Will they accept the truth they are taught and obey it?” Paul had a heart ache. His heart’s desire and prayer to God for Israel was that *“they might be saved”* (Romans 10:1). Such an earnest hope encompasses the expectations of a Christian mother. And that expectation is of such important that she, like Paul, perhaps would even conclude the desire to herself be accursed from Christ if it meant they would be saved in the end (Romans 9:3). Yes, the mother’s heart is one that always wants and pursues the best for her children in all things that pertain to life; but even more, those things that pertain to godliness. Thank God for such mothers who concern not only about the future of their children, but their eternity as well. And, thus, her manifesto would also include an emotional longing for her children to weigh the evidence of truth carefully and allow it to direct their lives.

Then, third, the mother under consideration is going to have eyes that long to see her children in heaven. David, after losing the child that resulted from his illicit affair with Bathsheba, found comfort in the fact that even though the child could not return to him, that he could go to the child (II Samuel 12:23). David knew something about heaven—that we will know one another there. And a true mother who abides in love for her children will have that single opportunity as her goal, to one day see her children in heaven. To have the eternal comfort not only in her own salvation, but in the knowledge that her children are saved as well. Therefore, one day, when she herself gets to heaven, her eyes will strain and her pulse will race with anticipation, longing to see the babes she bore now babes in Christ who will die no more. When the voice she used to sing sweet lullabies of the evening will join with their voices to sing sweet songs of praise in the place where there is no night. Then she will be content, and then will her mission be complete. And such longing eyes summarize not only what she wants but who she is. Thereby completing that maternal manifesto, with eyes anticipating a great reunion in the clouds.

Though she had no book deal, the memoirs of the elect lady are continuing to impact the lives of people today the world over. It is her manifesto that sets the standard for what true, godly mothers will seek in their task of motherhood. Thanks be to God for such a standard, and thanks be to God for such mothers. -Andy Brewer