

**“CARING FOR WHAT  
BELONGS TO THE LORD”**  
1 Corinthians 7:25-40

## INTRODUCTION

Paul continues to answer questions about marriage, singleness and being called by the Lord. In this section the Lord lays out to us all who are called. He addresses 4 categories of people: 1) married, 2) single, 3) fathers of virgins, and 4) widows and widowers. Please note that there are areas in this letter that Jesus didn't specifically speak of, but Paul gets divine insight, being inspired by the Holy Spirit.

## THE PRESENT DISTRESS

At this time there was a rising persecution of the church. Paul refers to it as the “present distress”. This would have been an excruciating time for husbands and wives. Even more difficult if you have children. Being practical, Paul therefore promotes singleness.

Certainly, singles do have trouble in the flesh. Those who are married have troubles as well! In marriage there could be a battle of 2 opinions clashing with each other. Paul is not criticizing marriage, but he is just getting people to think about it before they jump into it. Marriage should not be an obstacle to answering the call that God has on your life!

## THE TIME IS SHORT!

Job wrote **“Man who is born of woman is of few days and full of trouble. He comes forth like a flower and fades away; He flees like a shadow and does not continue,” Job 14:1, 2.** In other words, here today, gone tomorrow! There are 2 issues to consider: 1) Life is a vapor, and 2) Jesus could take us home at any moment. Are we using our time for Him? **Those who have wives should be as though they had none, v.29.** There is no need to **“wait a year before you go to war”** before going to serve the Lord. That command was given at the time the nation of Israel was being built. Marriage should not be an impediment to serving the Lord. It is the level of sacrifice, not convenience that blesses our God. While it is possible to neglect the marriage, our call should never be neglected and sacrificed for the marriage. We can't place *our* ideals ahead of the Lord's calling.

## PITFALLS TO SERVING

Sorrow is an area that can be difficult, but it shouldn't stop us from serving. We all have it! David had failure at Ziklag, Peter had failure as well. Happiness can hinder us, too. This can't be a motivation for serving. You must answer the call, regardless!

Possessions can be an idol. Society seems to set standards of what we should have. Don't live “life to the fullest” as this life defines it! If this becomes a priority, some will never serve! We have to live in the world, but we can't abuse it and have it take over what we do. We must decide what is really necessary and what we can live without!

## CONSIDER

*Paul's main concern is that we would each have the ability to serve God without distraction!* With marriage there are numerous responsibilities. Those who are single have only one schedule to resolve.

God has given you an assignment. You are “called”. It is a glorious privilege! He loves you, picked you and entrusts much to you, with many opportunities!

As Paul closes, he again talks about the advantage of singleness, the lifestyle that Paul lived. We need to be focused on the things that pertain to God. Paul's encouragement is to serve God in our *current* situations! *In what ways can you simplify your life, adjust your priorities and serve the Lord where you are right now?* That is the challenge we all have!

(All scripture quotations are NKJV).

## PRAY .....

- \* for the Women's' Retreat, “The Way Home”. May the Lord save and deliver those who have been running from Him!
- \* As elections approach, it reminds us to pray for our leaders and soon to be leaders! 1 Timothy 2:1-2.
- \* for the Veterans Day Assembly on Monday, November 12<sup>th</sup>. Many vets need inner rest!