HELL IN THE HOME!

In 2 Timothy 3:1-3 the Bible says,

1 This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.

2 For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, …

The last days! Things are like that now. People today are laughing in the face of God as if they didn't have to meet Him in judgment. They don't care a thing about God or His Word!

3 Without natural affection, truce-breakers, …

These few words cover the problem in marriage today. People are joining together, without natural affection!

When God created Adam and Eve we defined natural affection in Genesis 2:23,24. Adam said a man ought to leave his father and mother and cleave unto his wife, and the two should become one. Now you're still two people with two personalities. But you ought to merge unto one good one in the Lord, one in faith, one in raising the children and one in spending the money. You ought to get together and parents ought to be kept out of it!

Now the Bible says this is natural affection, but in the last days men wouldn't wanna do that anymore.

Today marriage is under attack. And people are bragging about their immorality! The movie stars are setting the pace. A few years ago the governor of Washington D.C. announced to the press as a press conference that he was leaving his wife of 32 years and marrying another woman.

And that same afternoon his wife got on television and said, "he never mentioned it to me. We got out of my bed this morning, I don't know anything about it, I considered myself to be his wife, I'm not gonna have the governors mansion.

Look at what's happening on college campuses today. Single men and women rent apartments together and live like animals. That's not natural for people who were made in the image of God.

Dogs don't even do that! They have seasons. And a goose mates for life. Animals are doing better than humans!

Jesus said as it was in the days of Noah, so shall it also be in the days of the coming of the son of man. And Jesus said in that day there will were marrying and giving in marriage. Then Jesus said likewise as it was in the days of Lot. That's Sodom and Gomorrah (Matt. 24:37-39 and Luke 17:26-30).

These two cities became so full of vice and sensuality and fornication that God had to move to destroy them from the face of the earth! Brothers and sisters whenever a nation gives into the indulgence of fleshy desire, so that men are no more controlled than dogs, then God hast to do something or else society will become beastilized! And these things we see are a sign of the end. Don't you think for a minute that they just happened to happen.

All of this emphasis on sex and the flesh is a part if the devil's design so that men's mind are consumed with it all the time. The devil is working, and people are cooperating with him.

The Bible says in those days before the flood, the imagination of the people's hearts were evil continually. They couldn't even think a clean thought. All day long their minds were on filth and sex and big times and parties. And ladies and gentlemen, if you consider the record of history; whenever this has happened, God has had to move in and stop man. Or the truth of God would be destroyed, and a decent man or woman wouldn't be safe alive!

When J. Edgar Hoover was alive, he said one out of two marriages ends in divorce. Every time two couples marry one gets a divorce. And it's getting worse all the time. God said that it's not good for man to be alone. And I believe that God has more sense than any of us. And God designed that a man and a woman would choose each other after choosing Him.

God made a helpmeet for man. And that word does not mean help meet expenses! It means a companion. Now I believe what the Bible says.

Now I want you to notice men, that Genesis 2:21 says that God took one of Adam's ribs and made a woman. God didn't take a bone from Adam's foot meaning that that woman should be trampled on by the man. Some of us men folk are so insecure that we think we are the boss. Women are not supposed to be our slaves.

Now ladies, God didn't take that bone from Adam's head so that you might boss and "henpeck" him. God took a rib from Adam's side indicating that he could stand equal to him. From under his arm that she might be protected by him and from his heart that she might be loved by him.

And man and woman should love each other so much and be so close together in planning and in outlook that they're like one person when a decision is made. This is a good marriage.

But today movie stars an professors and even some preachers are belittling marriage saying it is outdated. But I wanna tell you something, God instituted marriage. And whatever God does is right. Young ladies, don't listen to these fools who'll make you wake up regretting and wanting to commit suicide. Marriage is still the best thing going. And don't go around scared to get married because so many people get divorced! I wanna tell you that there are some people somewhere who are getting it on!! Don't tell me about all these folks who're having trouble, somebody's making it! And if anybody's gonna be my example it's somebody who's making it!!

There wasn't even ten decent people in Sodom, ladies and gentlemen. And I want you to know if you follow the crowd you know where you're headed? And a thing aint right just because the crowd says it's right! I wanna tell you the word of God is not subject to popular opinion!

Men can like it or not, the word of God stands! This is not the truth because I preach it, this is the truth whether I preach it or not! This is the truth whether you believe it or not! In Isaiah 40:8 God said "The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of God shall stand forever!"

And the fact that the majority of people don't believe it, doesn't change God's word one iota! When the nations are all dust God's word shall still stand, for He said heaven and earth will pass away but my word will not pass away!

Not only did Sodom go down, but so did Babylon and Rome. And if America keeps going the way she's going, look out! You can't laugh in the face of God forever. The Bible says, "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." Galatians 6:7.

The homes are the foundations of society. And the devil has come along and created "HELL IN THE HOME!" And if the homes go bad, government goes bad, schools go bad, churches go bad! Many people are simply unloading what's unloaded on them at home.

People today will divorce for any reason. One man divorced his wife because she had seven cats. And that was in the newspaper. His problem wasn't cats, it was chicks!

A woman divorced her husband because he snored at night. You can get a divorce for anything today. And if you can't think of anything, your lawyer will call it "incompatibility."

And people are doing it and feeling that they are free, but in the sight of God the are condemned! In fact the Bible only allows one ground for divorce and that's fornication. Selfishness and sin are problems. And I want you to know it is a sad situation there in Clearwater and everywhere else in the United States. It's terrifying! And the divorce is not only an evil between that husband and wife, children suffer; jails are full of young folks who come from broken homes. There was no peace in their homes. Their mothers and fathers fought like dogs! And I wanna tell you as Black people tonight, that there are too many of us who have homes where there is no father! It's time for us to have strong homes!

Well, the problem with most people is that they get a wrong start. In 2 Corinthians 6:14 the Bible says, "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers:" So the first thing God says is if you're a Christian, don't marry somebody who isn't! Now the Bible says that, not Baker. But that text means more than that.

If a man is ninety years old, he shouldn't marry a girl who's nineteen. Too old for her. And he'll turn into a jealous ogre. Everytime she goes out of the house, he'll wonder where she's going. You can't be happy like that!

Now if you're ninety and you want a wife, marry somebody who's eighty nine! You can sit down in twin rockin' chairs and hold each others hands.

It goes even further; if you have a doctors degree from a university, you should't marry a drop out from high school. You don't see eye to eye. You'll spend all your time explaining. And whenever your friends come to your home, that person will sit there with a great, big, fat inferiority complex. It's not kind to the person to do that! So you ought to look for somebody who is in your range, and above all, a Christian. When you find that person, you ought to start praying and ask God!

And don't just look for looks. Because let's face it, this is more lust than love. But character is more important. Somebody who smiles, who's hopeful, who's kind, who's good to other people! One will be good to you.

And when you're looking for somebody who's proving he means business, even if his parents didn't. and don't just depend on love. Love is a principle, but it's also an emotion. And if you ever get to thinking he or she is the only one, you'll need to take a trip and see some more of the world.

Look for somebody who's dependable, and responsible. How can you tell? Does he keep his promises? Does he keep them faithfully? You see he's at his best when he's courting, he's gonna get worse when he's used to you.

You ought to make sure he's healthy and respectable. And when I say he, it means she too. I wouldn't marry anybody who everybody knows the story about! Somebody who's respectful, who's good to his mother and father, who's reasonable, gentle, and loves the Lord!

Now after starting, basic realities must be faced. The two must become one! Now this requires patience and understanding on both parts. And a lot of times it's a painful process.

Now as I have told you, most of us are attracted first by physical appearance. We like the way a person is built. We like the way they look. We like the way they smile. But these physical attractions are not a real basis to make a choice! Once you're married, you get used to that quite quickly. Before the honeymoon is over, you will then know what you've got on your hands.

And so when these two are trying to become one, the man comes home, and suddenly instead of being patient and kind, there's a tendency on both parties to follow feelings!! And what began as heaven on earth, begins to become "HELL IN THE HOME!" There's no effort to understand each others needs.

The husband who used to bring home flowers, comes home empty handed. No flowers, no ice cream, no nothin'. The wife who used to meet him at the door in her nicest house dress with her hair all done. Comes to the door with her hair every which-a-way! Got on his shoes. Now I'm being practical. And when he looks at that, and he ain't feeling too good anyhow. Then they're cross. Nobody's smiling. And the first little thing that goes wrong, they explode. And that's how it begins. And you keep on exploding and apologizing. And the first thing you know, you've lost respect for one another. Then you're in trouble.

I wanna tell you something. Christianity is the only religion that makes a woman a lady. In most religions a woman is secondary. The man is number one. The man will ride a donkey, the woman will come behind with a load on her head. Christ commanded us to give honor to the woman as a weaker vessel. A woman has a need to be loved. She should make herself lovely, and a man should respond to that.

If you've been home working hard all day, we understand. But when it's time for your husband to come home, and he's been working in the office with attractive people, make yourself attractive. Plan your day so that you can take a shower about 4:30 p.m. Set your hair fixed up. You don't have to dress like you're going out for dinner. But just clean yourself up neat the way you used to when you were trying to get him. Put on a little Channel no. 5 or Estee Lauder.

Husbands go home! And when you open the door, don't drag all your problems into the house, leave 'em outside. And whatever meets you at the door, Hug. You know a lot 'a wives are crabby and naggy. And one psychiatrist said that "female nagging is adult crying." They wanna cry, but they're too big to do that so they nag. And most of that comes because they don't feel loved. And you don't have to bring home a Cadillac. Just bring home some flowers, and you'll set her on fire. Men are getters; women are givers.

I'm preaching the gospel, this isn't just something social. If you love your wife, tell her. If you don't mean it, tell her anyhow. Because she'll respond to you in such a way that you'll start to mean it. Learn to do it, you don't loose anything by doing that. And sometimes she wants to be kissed. Nothing wrong with that. If folks did a lot of that after marriage, and not much of it before marriage, we'd have some beautiful homes in ____ city.

When people are courting, you know, they sit close together that you can hardly tell they're two people. So as they get married they try to push the two doors off. One man said, "I hate to go home." And his wife said, "Yea, and I hate to see him comin'."

A happy home means that the children are happy. You ever see how some children are full or nerve and willing to do anything. And others are cowards. You know why they are coward? They're scared, somebody's cursing in the home. Children can't stand that. Children with healthy minds and healthy bodies deserve a home where love is, and a home where parents are agreed on decisions. Children need that in order to be healthy, in order to do well in school, in order not to worry you half to death.

In The Medical Journal, one author wrote that "some women are walking doctor bills, sick from worry and tension and fussing. They do not need a doctor, all they need is a husband to love them." Now gentlemen that's the truth. The medical profession reports that 95% of all the illnesses they treat is psychosomatic. And these physicians say that if men would simply love their wives, make it known to them, hug them, be thoughtful of them, they'd stop going to the doctor. Now some women are spending $15.00 and $20.00 a week. Men, it's a lot cheaper to hug and kiss, and a lot more fun.

Criticism will make your wife sick. She doesn't know whether she's pleasing you or not. Psychiatrists say most people become what you want them to be, and what you say they are. Your wife might be the worst cook. But find something about her cooking to compliment.

Now a man that fights his wife has mighty little to do, and less to prove. If you beat her what do you want? Somebody to slap. If you wouldn't beat her it would be something else.

In 1 Peter 3:7, God says if you abuse your wife, He wouldn't hear your prayers. Now you woman, don't go around asking for trouble. Don't provoke your husband and drive him to the point of violence.

And husband, if you've done it in the past, make a decision that you're not gonna do it again. For you won't have Christ in your home if you abuse your wife.

It's not the purpose of God that we should have "HELL IN THE HOME!" God loves a home where love is. Jesus cherishes an atmosphere of love. Angels will come and live in the rooms of your homes where love is.

There are people with a million dollars, would give it all, if they could have love in their homes. John Paul Getty III, one of the richest men on earth, killed himself a few years ago. And it's happening all the time. They're unhappy. HELL IN THE HOME. Because there is no love, and where the is no love Christ does not abide, for God is love. I don't wanna do anything that will hinder my prayers. And if you're cruel to your wife, the Bible says God won't listen to you. Some of the meanest devils you ever saw sit up in church on weekends praying.

Ladies and gentlemen, we might as well settle one thing tonight. That is, sooner or later, if we're gonna be happy we're gonna have to come right back to God's word. People can say what they please and do what they please, but they're gonna have to come right back to God's word. Because He made, He knows what's good for us, we gonna have to do it His way, or else the Bible says in Isaiah 57:21, "There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked." But we can have it in our hearts and in our homes.

Somebody invented a slogan, I don't know who did it, but the slogan is "the family that prays together stays together." Kneel down with your wife, and if it doesn't embarrass you, hold hands. And when there are children in the family, put them in the circle. It'll do them good. Prayer is one thing, but piety and practice is another.

A man who goes to church all dandied up and then mistreats his family is a terible kind of a hypocrite! And a terrible representative of Christ . In fact, one way to destroy your children is through criticism all the time. And I wanna tell you something tonight. It's true that we young people get into a lot of problems. But we face temptations that the older people didn't have to face. Now there are things that we have to do, but you don't have to scream your head off at us. Encourage us! Help us, don't fight us. Do you believe in us? Then let us know you're speaking out of love and not harsh criticism. God hates cruelty!

What we need in our homes and in our hearts is Jesus Christ the Lord. Christ is the Christ of the family. He loves a husband and a wife. He loves to come into a home and help you with your plans. Jesus is the necessity of life. Not a luxury. Not someone who takes a leave. You need Jesus in your home. You need Jesus in your hearts. You need Jesus in your thinking. You need Jesus to raise your children right. You need Jesus to know how to treat your wife or husband.

Christ said, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone (will) open the door, I will come in and sup with him, and he with me." Jesus, the Son of God suffered a cruel death, but He's not a dead Christ. He went to the cross and He gave up His life,

but He lives! I serve a risen Savior, He's in the world today. You ask me how I know He lives, He lives within my heart. He lives in my house. And no home is happy, unless that home has Jesus living in it. Our one indispensable friend is Jesus.
There are broken homes represented here. There are homes represented right here, where children are abused, where wives are mistreated. Do you want to pray for your home? Even a good home needs prayers. Do you have a son or a daughter whose home needs prayer? Do you have a cousin or an aunt whose home need prayer? I think we can ask God to bless our homes as we close this service. If you wanna join me in this prayer, stand up now and bow your heads.
A Prayer for Homes
Lord Jesus, lover of souls, lover of the home. We thank you that you have a better way than most of us are accustomed to. We're thankful that you are willing to come into us. And through us into our homes. We thank you that you love us, Lord. You're willing to help parents with their sons and daughters. Willing to help married people with their husbands and wives. If we've been unkind, O Lord, forgive us now. Give us a determination that by the grace of God our homes are gonna become what you want them to be. Our society is falling apart; our race is breaking down because of instability in the home. O Lord, if those of us who are here tonight can do something about it, we can see a might change.
I pray for the homes all over this city. I pray that thou would be with them. And bless our people and draw us together. Help us to get ready, husband and wife together, children together, for the coming of the Lord. May we do nothing or do nothing that will keep us out. I humbly pray in the name of Christ the Lord.

There is hope for you, when your marriage starts falling apart.
There is hope for you, when coldness fills the heart.
There is hope, I say, let Jesus do his part.
There is hope for you, when your home is full of strife.
There is hope, I say, when demons plague your life.
There is hope through Christ, when He joins husband and wife.