



Home Mission Work by [John T Polk II](#)

All Scriptures and comments are based on the **New King James Version**, unless otherwise noted.

After He was raised from the dead, Jesus left His disciples with this mission:

"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned." (**Mark 16:15-16**)

It's easy to think of "every creature" as always being out of our own country, but this is as misguided as people who turn to the thief on the cross for their salvation and ignore Jesus' cross in the middle (**Luke 23:33**). In other words, it is too easy to mis-apply a term and miss the point. Jesus' salvation begins with His cross, and world evangelism begins at home!

It always has.

Noah's Salvation Included His "Household": When the world was destroyed by flood in Noah's day,

The Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while *the* ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water. (**1 Peter 3:20**)

Those "eight souls" were the new beginning of civilization on all of the earth.

Then the LORD said to Noah, "Come into the ark, you and all your household, because I have seen that you are righteous before Me in this generation." (**Genesis 7:1**)

If Noah had not influenced his sons to obey God, none of us might be here today!

Abraham's World-wide Blessing Began With His "Household": The LORD promised:

"I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." (**Genesis 12:2-3**)

"For I have known him, in order that he may **command his children and his household after him**, that they keep the way of the LORD, to do righteousness and justice, that the LORD may bring to Abraham what He has spoken to him." (**Genesis 18:19**)

If Abraham had not taught his son of promise, Isaac, to honor God's Promise, Jesus could not have come to save us, for "to Abraham and his Seed were the promises

made. He does not say, 'And to seeds,' as of many, but as of one, 'And to your Seed,' who is Christ" (**Galatians 3:16**).

The Ideal Virtuous Wife Cares For Her "Household":

She also rises while it is yet night, And provides food for her household, And a portion for her maidservants ... She is not afraid of snow for her household, For all her household is clothed with scarlet ... She watches over the ways of her household, And does not eat the bread of idleness. (**Proverbs 31:15, 21, 27**)

The "virtuous" wife makes her "household" job #1 and everything else is secondary! Her "household" begins with her husband, and then children, not vice-versa! Full-time homework would help keep her from learning:

... to be idle, wandering about from house to house, and not only idle but also gossips and busybodies, saying things which they ought not. Therefore I desire that the younger widows marry, bear children, manage the house, give no opportunity to the adversary to speak reproachfully. (**1 Timothy 5:13-14**)

The First Gentile To Obey The Gospel Led His "Household":

There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of what was called the Italian Regiment, a devout man and one who feared God with all his household, who gave alms generously to the people, and prayed to God always. (**Acts 10:1-2**)

When Peter came to Cornelius' house, "Cornelius was waiting for them, and had called together his relatives and close friends" (**Acts 10:24**). Thus, Peter said he would "tell you words by which you and all your household will be saved" (**Acts 11:14**). This pattern seems to have been followed by other Gentiles (**Acts 16:15, 31-34; 18:8**). Before He was a Christian, this good man already knew his obligation to provide for his wife and children! How is it that people in the world before, they become Christians, feel more spiritual duty toward their "households" than people who become Christians?

Obligation To God Begins At Home:

But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever. (**1 Timothy 5:8**)

Seeing that one's "own" are provided for is job #1 for everyone who has a "household." How damnable are the males who sire children without a wedded obligation to their mother and the children they produce, and the females who birth children without a wedded obligation to their father and the spiritual strength he should include! God never intended for children to be produced but raised by one parent! The terms "fornication" and "adultery" (**Galatians 5:19-21**) necessitate the concept of a "wedding" as begun by God.

So Adam gave names to all cattle, to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him. And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he

slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. Then the rib which the LORD God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man. And Adam said: "This is now bone of my bones And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man." Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed. (**Genesis 2:20-25**)

God bringing the woman to the man, and man's accepting statement formalizing that commitment, is what a "wedding" is. If not, why not?

"Good To All" Cannot Overlook The Church:

Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith. (**Galatians 6:10**)

No one will go to Heaven by doing "good to all," while ignoring to "do good" to the church, fellow Christians! Some Christians put so much emphasis upon seeing that their good is done to non-Christians, they overlook the fact that Jesus primarily "had come to His own country, He taught them in their synagogue" (**Matthew 13:54**). Just as "mission work" begins at home, so also do the good deeds in the name of Jesus. "And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him" (**Colossians 3:17**).

Far too many churches and preachers have keenly felt their duty to "the world" to the sad neglect, and failure, of their "own household!" I was asked by a friend, "How's your work going?" I replied, "Great, we're baptizing our own children!" Jesus put this in perspective:

"If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?" (**Matthew 16:24-26**)

One who "gains the whole world" without involving "his own household" is one who "loses his own soul." **World-wide missions** must begin at home, and then, "as we have opportunity," the world will still be waiting for the Gospel.

— JjttjII November, 2021