

UNTO THE HILLS

A Daily Devotional

BILLY
GRAHAM



THOMAS NELSON
Since 1798

NASHVILLE DALLAS MEXICO CITY RIO DE JANEIRO

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PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION

I am grateful to my longtime publisher, Thomas Nelson Inc., for their commitment to bring this book of daily devotions, *Unto the Hills*, back into print. Over the years many have found encouragement and comfort in its pages, and I am thankful that it will now be available to a new generation of readers. The present volume is essentially the same as the previous edition, although a number of minor changes have been made to provide greater clarity and accuracy to the text.

It has been almost twenty-five years since this book was first published—years that have brought many changes to our world, and to our lives. In the midst of all these changes, however, one great reality remains unchanged—and that is the Word of God, the Bible. More than ever we need its truth, and my prayer is that this book will draw you closer to Christ and help you build your life upon Him every day.

I will never pick up this book without thinking of my late wife, Ruth, whose gift for finding the right quotation or story to illustrate the Bible's truth is woven into almost every page. Soon, I know, we will be reunited in the presence of the Lord she served so faithfully—but in the meantime, I dedicate this book to her memory.

— BILLY GRAHAM
August 2010
Montreat, North Carolina



FOREWORD

Our family has lived for many years in a comfortable log home in the mountains of North Carolina, 3,200 feet above sea level. There is something serene about living in the mountains or on a hill.

When Jesus appointed the twelve apostles, He called them unto the hills and they came to Him (Mark 3:13). Our Lord frequently retreated to the hills or mountains for moments of solitude when the crowds became too great.

But as English devotional writer Oswald Chambers has noted, we were not made for mountaintop experiences alone. We are made for the valleys of life. God will sometimes allow us a view from the hills, but only so that we might be refreshed enough to return to the valleys—where the action is—that we might be of service to Him. Mountaintops are for views and inspiration, but fruit is grown in the valleys.

As much as my wife, Ruth, and I enjoyed our home in the hills of North Carolina, we spent very little time there because God has called us into the valley of life where the lost people are. If we spent all of our time in the hills and on mountaintops, how would we effectively serve our God?

I have compiled some thoughts from more than fifty years as a minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in hopes of better equipping you as you live for Christ in the valley.

Some of you will read this book as you search for answers to the problems in the valley of life. You have tried everything else and have not found satisfaction. It is you that I am particularly interested in reaching.

Others of you who are already believers still need assurance that, as you walk through the valley of the shadow of death, God has not forgotten you and is, in fact, still with you. I hope this book will be a help to you as well.

While the hills and mountains are a wonderful place to “get away from it all,” we must always remember that our ultimate and certain help comes from the Lord who made the mountains and the valleys. David expressed this beautifully in Psalm 121:



*I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills,
from whence cometh my help.
My help cometh from the LORD,
which made heaven and earth.*

(vv. 1–2)

May God bless and direct you as you read *Unto the Hills*.



JANUARY



JANUARY I

A CLEAN SLATE

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

PSALM 51:10

Did you ever have the experience in a school of erasing an entire blackboard? When the slate has been wiped clean, it is as if nothing at all had ever been written on it.

This is what God does for us when we come to Him confessing our sin. First John 1:9 says, “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

How many times in your life have you wished you could start all over again with a clean slate, with a new life? Resolve right now to allow God to wipe your slate clean by confessing your sins and letting Him give you a brand-new start.

The apostle Paul did this when he said, “Forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 3:13–14 RSV).



Our Father and our God, I come to You conscious of my sins and failures but confident in Your love and mercy toward me. Thank You for giving Your wonderful grace and forgiveness to me and for wiping the slate of my life totally clean. Let me start all over with You and live in Your purpose for my life, now and forever, through Jesus Christ my Savior. Amen.

JANUARY 2

LOST AND FOUND

I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but by me.

JOHN 14:6 RSV

Recently, while returning to my hotel in a major city, the driver turned left when he should have turned right, and it took him awhile to figure out how to get to our destination. He had to stop and check his road map.

Often in life just one wrong turn, just one wrong decision can take us where we do not want to go or, more importantly, can keep us from going where we do want to go.

There is an ancient saying that “all roads lead to Rome.” When one is lost on a road to Rome or anywhere else, all that is needed to find the way is a good road map or directions from someone who knows the way.

Not all roads lead to God, as some suggest. There is a roadblock which keeps man from reaching God, no matter what road he takes. That roadblock is sin. But God has provided a map—the Bible—and He has provided One who knows the way and can give directions—Jesus Christ.

Christ said, “No man comes to the Father but by me.” Not only does Christ give directions to the Father through Himself, but He also gives us daily directions as to His Father’s will for our lives. Like directions from a map or a person in our travels, we can follow them and get to our desired destination, or we can ignore them and become lost.

Remember, Jesus did *not* say, “I am one of the ways, or one of the roads you can take to get to the Father.” What He said was, “I am *the* way.” Determine to follow Christ and never be lost!



Our Father and our God, wrong choices and dead ends have often blocked my ability to live my life fully for You. Take away my sin and lead me toward full acceptance of the leadership and guidance that You provide through the Holy Spirit. I will follow Jesus as the way, truth, and life. In His name I pray. Amen.



JANUARY 3

THE ULTIMATE PROTECTION

For he has said, "I will never fail you nor forsake you." Hence we can confidently say, "The Lord is my helper, I will not be afraid."

HEBREWS 13:5-6 RSV

Some years ago when our son Ned entered a new school, he met some boys from the city who thought they were pretty tough. Ned had never had to confront boys from the streets who had much experience in defending themselves and who witnessed fights as a regular occurrence. The boys from the city soon began picking on him.

Another boy, who had befriended Ned, saw that in order for our son to survive, he would have to learn to defend himself; so he taught Ned a few basics of karate and some of the other martial arts. After much practice, Ned demonstrated his new skills on one of the boys who had been harassing him, and the bullies stopped picking on him.

God wants to teach us how to defend ourselves against sin. Satan, the ultimate bully, attacks us at our weakest points and wants to defeat us so that we will not be effective for God.

In the Bible God offers us some spiritual "training," which builds us up inside in much the same way as physical exercise and discipline can build us up on the outside. But, like exercise or training in martial arts, we must be consistent in our reading of Scripture and diligent in its application to the situations and circumstances around us. God has not promised to shield us from trouble, but He has promised to protect us in the midst of trouble.

Nothing can touch us apart from God's will. If something does touch us, we can be sure that it is for the purpose of building us up into a stronger and more effective witness so that God can use us to do battle with the evil bully of history, the devil.

Remember, God will never fail you or forsake you!



Our Father and our God, thank You for Your extraordinary love and concern that accompany me daily. Teach me that You are in control of everything that happens in my life. I'm comforted to know You're always there. Help me apply the truth of Scripture, the fellowship of prayer, and commitment to You in my life daily. Through Jesus, amen.

THE VALUE OF A MAN

What is man, that thou art mindful of him?

PSALM 8:4

A certain rich man died and the question was asked at his funeral, “How much did he leave?”

“He left it all,” came the reply.

Often, I hear someone introduced this way: “This is Bob, and he works for . . .,” as if where a person works determines his or her value. I have noticed that it is usually only the well-to-do or those who are thought of as “successful” who are introduced this way.

Yet God does not judge us by success. He loves each person the same because your value and mine does not come from what we do or have, the clothes we wear, the house in which we live, or the type of car we drive. Our value comes from the fact that God made us and Christ died for us. And so, whether we have things or not, we are just as valuable to God.

God gave all that He had—His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ—because He valued us so highly, even when we did not value Him. Since God thought this much of us, shouldn’t we show that we value Him by putting Him first in all that we do—our family life, our business life, our spiritual life?

There is a song which says, “Put Jesus first in your life, let Him handle all the problems that come your way . . . you have searched in vain for something; now you don’t want that something you’ve found. Put Jesus first in your life, and turn your life around.”

The actual value of an object is that which is placed on it by the owner or buyer. God has shown the value He has placed on you by sending His Son to redeem you.



Our Father and our God, I bow humbly before You, remembering my total dependence on You. Without You I am nothing, but because of Your Son I am sanctified, I am justified, I am saved. Thank You for valuing me enough to sacrifice Jesus in my place. I am Yours because of the blood of Your blessed Son, Jesus. Amen.



JANUARY 5

GOD IS A PERSON

*It is of the LORD's mercies that we are not consumed, because his
compassions fail not. They are new every morning; great is thy faithfulness.*

LAMENTATIONS 3:22–23

When I was a small boy, I thought of God as an old man with a long white beard. After all, hadn't Michelangelo painted Him that way?

Later, as I read the Bible, and after I had accepted Christ as my Savior, I realized that God is a spirit, yet He has the attributes of a person: He thinks; He speaks; He communicates; He loves; He becomes angry; He grieves.

Because God is a person, He feels that which we feel. After all, we are made in His image, so it is to be expected that we would be able to communicate our deepest feelings and emotions to God.

God communicates with us in two ways. First, He communicates with us through His written Word, the Bible. It tells us who God is, who we are, and why we need a Savior so that we might have that relationship with God which sin has broken.

Second, God communicates with us through His Son. Jesus said that no man can come to the Father except through Him. We have that access to Jesus, and thus to God, through salvation.

God is the same yesterday, today and forever. He never changes.



Our Father and our God, sometimes I can't express my deepest emotions. But I know that Jesus can express my very heart to You and that You understand. Thank You, Father, for Your great compassion and faithful love. In the name of Christ, amen.

JANUARY 6

FREEDOM OF CHOICE

Choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your father served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell; but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.

JOSHUA 24:15 RSV

We hear a lot about “freedom of choice” these days. But think about it. The very word *choice* presupposes at least two alternatives.

When Joshua asked the Israelites to “choose this day whom you will serve,” the choice he gave them was between God and the false god, Baal. Before waiting for their reply, Joshua announced his choice, “As for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”

Choices are offered throughout the Bible as they are throughout our lives. Repeatedly throughout the Scripture, choices are made by God and man.

God commands man to make those choices, but only after providing him with sufficient information so that his choices will be informed ones. Because of truth in lending and truth in labeling laws, one cannot apply for a loan or buy a product in a supermarket without being furnished with certain information.

This information is necessary in making intelligent choices. God has given us information about Himself, including His holiness, man’s sinfulness, God’s provision for that sin, Jesus Christ, and scores of promises to man about what will happen if he accepts God’s promises and what will happen if he does not. Galatians 6:6–8 says, “Let him that is taught in the word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things. Be not deceived; God is not mocked; for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.”

Some time ago there was a television show called *Truth or Consequences*. The host of the program used to say to the contestants, “If you don’t tell the truth, you will have to pay the consequences.” It is the same with choices. If you make the wrong choice, you will have to pay the consequences. But if you make the right choice, you receive all of the benefits. So it is best to choose wisely, as Joshua did, because the choices we make have the potential for affecting our lives for better or for worse.



Our Father and our God, I want to serve You with all my heart and soul. Help me, Lord, to always make wise choices that lead me into Your presence. Give me wisdom and discernment so that my life will always glorify You. I need Your guidance and help in walking safely through Satan’s minefield of temptations and sins. In the name of Jesus. Amen.



JANUARY 7

GOD'S POWER REVEALED THROUGH PRAYER

*Pray without ceasing. In every thing give thanks:
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.*

I THESSALONIANS 5:17-18

How many times have you heard someone say, “All I can do is pray”? All I can do is pray?! You might as well say to a starving man, “All I can do is offer you food,” or to a sick person, “All I can do is give you medicine that will make you well,” or to a poor child, “All I can do is buy the toy you most want for your birthday.”

Praying unlocks the doors of heaven and releases the power of God. James 4:2 says, “Ye have not, because ye ask not.” And Jesus said, “And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive” (Matthew 21:22).

Many of us want to do a work *for* God, but few of us want to spend hours in prayer *to* God. It goes against our natural inclinations to pray, which is precisely why prayer counts so much with God. It is unnatural. It is, in fact, supernatural! And it always gets God's attention.

I am sometimes amused when people tell me, “God answered my prayer.” What they mean is that God gave them what they asked for. But if He had not granted their request, He would still have answered their prayer. We forget that “No” and “Wait” are also answers, as is “Yes.”

I have answered every request made by my children to me. The answer has not always been what they wanted, but it has always been in accordance with what I have thought was best for them at the time. God is the same way, except that His answers are always right and good and best, while mine may or may not have been.

And remember, whether prayer changes our situation or not, one thing is certain: prayer will change us!



Our Father and our God, thank You for the incredible blessings You have given me. I praise You for Your great generosity and constant care. Please give me the heart to hear Your answers to my prayers, even when the answer is “Wait” or “No.” Help me to accept Your lordship of my life, knowing that You have only my greatest good in mind. Through Christ, my Lord. Amen.

JANUARY 8

THE STORMS OF LIFE

Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee.

ISAIAH 26:3

Once while flying between cities on the African continent, I began to share my faith in Christ with some reporters who were accompanying me. None seemed interested in hearing the Gospel.

Suddenly, the plane entered a very turbulent storm. The plane shook and began to bounce up and down.

After we had successfully come through the storm, one of the reporters approached me and said, “What were you saying about life after death?”

When Jesus was on the Sea of Galilee with some of His disciples, a storm came up and began to toss the boat around. His disciples cried out in fear, but Jesus slept at the stern of the boat, unafraid and unintimidated by the weather.

When they awakened Him, He rebuked them for their lack of faith, and then He rebuked the storm. Both the storm and the disciples were silenced!

There is a wonderful old hymn which says, “He gives us peace in the midst of the storm.” In life there are all kinds of storms: storms of unbelief; storms of materialism (mostly brought about by those who want more material things than they have); storms of secularism, moral degeneracy, and international tensions.

Jesus was at peace in the midst of that storm because He and His Heavenly Father had a relationship that gave Him peace. It is that type of relationship that God wants to have with us.

Are storms in your life making you afraid? You can have peace despite the storms. Stay close to Jesus Christ. Read God’s Word. Pray.



Our Father and our God, I come to You with these frustrations and stresses on my life. I pray earnestly for Your peace to calm my aching soul and soothe my troubled heart. Remind me of Your power to overcome the world and its stresses. In the name of the One who brings peace. Amen.



JANUARY 9

ANGELS

The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them.

PSALM 34:7 RSV

Years ago there was a television program called *Charlie's Angels*. These “angels” were three attractive women who were involved in fighting crime. In the theater, people who finance expensive productions are called “angels” because without them, the shows would never get to the stage. These are modern interpretations of the word *angel*, but the idea is correct, nevertheless.

Angels are beings who help people against evil forces, and they do perform certain duties, without which we could not always be able to achieve a certain goal or station in life.

In the Bible, there are several instances when angels revealed themselves to man. Although these instances occur mostly in the Old Testament, perhaps the most famous appearance occurs in the New Testament, when Mary is visited by an angel and told that she is to bear the Son of God, Jesus Christ.

Mostly, though, angels are invisible. Of course this does not make them any less real than you would be to me if I happened to be blindfolded. Our ability to see angels or not to see them has nothing at all to do with their existence and their role in protecting us from certain harms.

Though we do not pray to angels, and man, for the moment, is only “a little lower than the angels,” they are just one more example of how God cares for and keeps us against the forces of Satan, which are constantly trying to defeat us.

Truly, angels are God’s “secret agents.”



Our Father and our God, thank You for Your angels who protect me daily from Satan's demons. And thank You for all that these “secret agents” do to keep me from harm. Help me to see them with my heart if not with my eyes. In the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

JANUARY 10

THE FOUNDATION OF MARRIAGE

What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.

MATTHEW 19:6

With the divorce rate hovering around 50 percent, will any homes be left in another hundred years? The impact of divorce on children is staggering and is still to be assessed as the psychological and emotional scars break through to harm some future families.

One of the primary reasons for the breakdown in the home is that we have forgotten the biblical commands relating to marriage and the family, commands which never change. Even some “Christian” writers are publishing books today which reject the Bible’s strict teaching on divorce.

The Bible does not allow divorce on grounds of “he doesn’t love me” or “she doesn’t love me.” The Bible says God *hates* divorce. He hates divorce because, as Jesus taught, marriage is a picture of the unity between God and the Father, God and the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. When people get divorced they are tearing at the very fabric of the unity of God.

From the beginning, Satan has tried to disrupt the unity of the Trinity. First, Satan tried to make himself a part of the Trinity by desiring to be coequal with God. It was his sin of pride that caused his expulsion from heaven. Second, Satan was successful in tempting our first parents into sin, thereby breaking the unique relationship between man and his Creator. Third, Satan tried to pry Jesus loose from His relationship to the Father when he tempted Him in the wilderness. Today, Satan is eating away like a large termite at the foundation of marriage and the family.

Satan never changes, but neither does God. God still hates divorce.

There is no marriage that is beyond repair in the sight of God. If we will first submit ourselves to Christ and then our marriage into His care and keeping, nothing is impossible with God. But we must humble ourselves and lay our pride and desire to please ourselves first on His altar. It is only then that God can restore feelings and bring healing to a marriage in trouble.

The first step in healing a marriage is ours. God provides the salve that heals.



Our Father and our God, I lay my pride and selfishness before You. Please forgive me, Lord, for allowing Satan to disrupt the unity of my marriage. Please help me restore love and devotion to my marriage through my relationship with Jesus, my Lord. Amen.



JANUARY 11

THE FAMILY AND THE WORKPLACE

Children are a gift from God; they are his reward.

PSALM 127:3 TLB

Today there are more pressures on the home than perhaps at any time in the history of the human race.

By necessity or by desire, more women are working today than ever before. Many feel guilty about leaving their children in the care of others or having them return to an empty home while they are at work. Many divorced women must work to support themselves and their children, a phenomenon which is becoming more and more common in the age in which we live. But many women (and men, too) devote more time to their working life than they do to their family life. Is it any wonder, then, that so many marriages are in trouble?

To paraphrase the Bible, what shall it profit a man (or a woman) who gains the whole world but loses his or her own family? What achievement in life is equal to a happy home and rearing successful children who grow up in praise of their parents? Every material goal, even if it is met, will pass away. But the heritage of children is timeless. Someone has said that our children are our messages to the future. They will tell others who will never know us who we were.

More importantly, our children have been entrusted to us by God, children made in His image and for whom Christ died. Our primary responsibility is not to make sure they have the best clothes and live in the best houses. It is to make sure they grow up in homes where God is present and the love of Christ reigns so that they will come to know God through His Son.

What could be more valuable than successful children and a happy home life?



Our Father and our God, please hear my humble prayer of thanks for my children. They are the most precious of all the earthly gifts You have lavished on me. They bring me such joy and love. Their innocence reminds me of the innocent Lamb who died on the cross. Help me to guide them to Jesus, the only Way to You. In His name. Amen.

WHAT TO DO WITH PROBLEMS

*Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything;
tell God your needs and don't forget to thank him for his answers.*

PHILIPPIANS 4:6 TLB

What do you do when you have a problem? Do you worry? Most of us do. But does worrying solve the problem? No, it does not. Then if worry doesn't solve the problem, why worry?

Hezekiah gives us an idea for problem solving: "And Hezekiah received the letter of the hand of the messengers, and read it: and Hezekiah went up into the house of the LORD, and spread it before the LORD. And Hezekiah prayed before the LORD, and said, O LORD God of Israel, which dwellest between the cherubims, thou are the God, even thou alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth; thou has made heaven and earth. . . ."

Then Hezekiah prayed: "Now therefore, O LORD our God, I beseech thee, save thou us out of his hand, that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that thou are the LORD God, even thou only" (2 Kings 19:14–15, 19).

Hezekiah's unselfish prayer had a purpose, one that God could not ignore.

Hezekiah, who was used to taking his problems directly to God, took the problem that the king of Assyria was about to attack Jerusalem to the Lord. And God answered and miraculously caused this powerful king to be defeated.

Instead of turning to God as a first resource, we so often turn to Him as a last resort. Follow Hezekiah's formula. Turn to God first with your problems, for only He is capable of handling them in a way that will be in your best interest.



Our Father and our God, thank You for always answering my prayers. Right now I pray for Your protection and salvation. Only You, O Lord, can save me from the many problems brought on by my enemy, the devil. Defeat him in his attack on my life, Father. Keep me close to You through Christ Jesus, my Lord. Amen.



JANUARY 13

DESPERATE CIRCUMSTANCES

And when he had spent everything . . . he began to be in want.

LUKE 15:14 RSV

Signposts along the highway are there to keep us from getting lost and to keep us safe by regulating our speed and warning us of sharp turns, detours, and other hazards. And when we ignore these signposts, we do so at our own peril.

In the familiar story of the Prodigal Son, the young man ignores every signpost God has erected to keep him from desperate circumstances. Long before the young man reached the piggery where he finally “came to his senses,” he had numerous opportunities to turn around, to repent, and to go home.

His problems began long before he asked his father for his inheritance and then threw it away on “wine, women, and song.” He was not satisfied to be in his father’s house with all of his needs met. He wanted more. He believed the lie that something more exciting was in store for him away from his father.

Isn’t this how we sometimes behave? We think that God is holding out on us, that there is something better than a close relationship with our Heavenly Father, that the world has more excitement and fulfillment to offer us than God does. By thinking this way and then by acting as the Prodigal Son did, we create our own desperate circumstances. Then we turn to God and cry out in the midst of our desperation.

Fortunately, like the father in the story of the Prodigal Son, our Father always hears our cries. But it would be so much better if we would not get into desperate circumstances in the first place. That is why God has erected signposts along life’s road—to help keep us out of trouble. They include reading His Word daily, praying “without ceasing,” and determining to seek His will for our lives.

Such a path is sure to see us home safely.



Our Father and our God, hear my cry for help! I have followed a foolish path, and now I'm in trouble. Rescue me, O Lord, from my foolishness, and save me from my sin. I can't survive without You. You are the source of all comfort and forgiveness. And I know You will welcome me home with open arms because of my Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

JANUARY 14

JOY

For the joy of the LORD is your strength.

NEHEMIAH 8:10

What is joy?

Some of us think that joy is a state of perpetual happiness, a bubbling personality, a person who is always smiling and laughing. These can be expressions of joy, but true joy is something far deeper than that.

Joy is produced in our hearts when we know that God loves us, when we have a close relationship with Him through reading His Word, praying, and desiring to honor Him in all that we do, and by serving others.

Joy does not mean that we are never sad, that we never cry. Instead, joy is a quiet confidence, a state of peace in the heart of the believer. Sometimes it manifests itself in an impromptu song while riding alone in a car. Sometimes one is so overwhelmed by the love of God that tears of gratitude form in the eyes. At other times, it is a wonderful feeling of peace in the midst of war and turmoil.

Paul said, “We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed” (2 Corinthians 4:8–9). Paul had joy. So did Jesus, even under the shadow of the cross.

Like happiness, joy cannot be pursued. It comes from within. It is a state of being. It does not depend on circumstances, but triumphs over circumstances. It produces a gentleness of spirit and a magnetic personality.

It is easy to tell who the joyful people are. They are the ones whom others like to be around.



Our Father and our God, thank You for the Holy Spirit who lives in me. Thank You for the peace and joy He brings me. You are the laughter of my heart, O God. You are the joy and celebration of every day. You are the One who deserves to be praised. Thank You for the gift of Your Son, who makes my joy everlasting. Amen.



JANUARY 15

PREJUDICE

Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in You?

I CORINTHIANS 3:16

*P*rejudice is a word that so often is used in connection with the race of a person. In this sense, prejudice is always wrong because it judges a person's value by the color of his skin, and God has no favorites.

But there is another sense in which the root of the word *prejudice* is a good thing. To prejudge something is sometimes necessary.

While it is not good to prejudge a person by appearance, social status, or the lack of education, we can and *should* prejudge some "entertainment" establishments by what they advertise on the outside and know not to go in.

We can prejudge drugs, which have become such a terrible problem in our culture. By seeing what drugs have done to others, we can avoid them. Besides, we know that the body is God's temple, and we ought not to cause it to become dirty by doing things to it, like taking drugs, which can cause harm to it.

So, let us avoid prejudice when it comes to a person's race or ethnic background or circumstances over which he or she has no control. But let us correctly prejudge those persons and places God has warned us about avoiding in His Word so that we do not get into trouble.



Our Father and our God, I know You are the righteous Judge. Please give me Your eyes to distinguish good from evil, right from wrong, helpful from harmful. I want to be pure in Your sight, O Lord. I want to walk a holy path through this life to everlasting joy with You. Through Jesus, the only Way. Amen.

HOME SECURITY

Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

EPHESIANS 6:11

Is your home built on a solid foundation? Is your home secure? Or is it filled with tension? Is it about ready to break up?

The family is the most important institution in the world. It was God's idea in the first place. It was not the idea of sociologists who thought it might be a good way to deliver the mail!

Families existed before cities and governments, before written language, nations, temples, churches.

In the home, character and attitudes are formed, integrity is born, values by which we live are made clear, and goals are set.

These last a lifetime.

Many people today are wringing their hands with fear and insecurity because far more than what they see happening on Wall Street or in Washington, D.C., is happening to our families and our homes.

The prophet Nehemiah said, "There is much rubbish; so that we are not able to build the wall" (Nehemiah 4:10).

We see rubbish everywhere—rubbish on television and in films and magazines making fun of the home, making fun of marriage, one of the holiest of all institutions. (A well-known woman was asked on a national television program whether she believed in the institution of marriage. "Sure," she said, "but who wants to live in an institution?" This is typical of the ridicule now being heaped on the home and on marriage, particularly by those who are divorced or live together without being married.)

Today, Satan is attacking the family as never before. But what are our defenses against such attacks?

As always, our best defense is the Word of God, referred to by the apostle Paul as the "sword of truth." Put on the whole armor of God. Read the Bible together as a family. Have family devotions. Pray for one another daily by name. And most importantly, commit your marriage to Christ and make Him the center of your home.



Our Father and our God, I lift up to You my family and my home. Please build a solid wall of protection around us, Father, so that Satan cannot break through and steal our unity and joy. I commit myself, my marriage, my children, and our home to You. Keep us in Your care through Christ our King. Amen.