

WELCOME TO THE MOB!

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (ESV)

Announcements

MOB Website & Resources – www.ibcmob.net

Dec 12-15 – Christmas Concert: The Monarch in the Manger

Dec 24 – Christmas Eve Service

April 24 – May 3: Greece in the Steps of Paul

Please Rise

- **Invocation/Prayer**
- **Song:**

Blessed Assurance

by Fanny Crosby (1873)

Blessed Assurance

1 of 6

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of His Spirit, washed in His
blood.

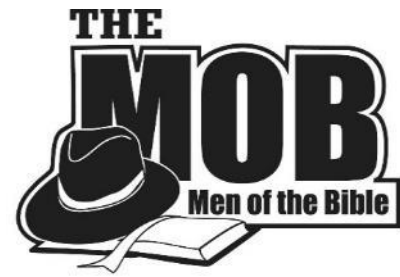
CHORUS

This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day
long;

This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day

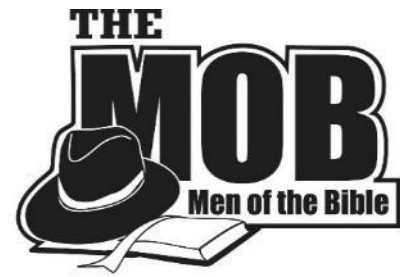
Blessed Assurance

3 of 6



Perfect submission, perfect delight,
Visions of rapture now burst on my
sight;
Angels, descending, bring from above
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

Blessed Assurance



4 of 6

CHORUS

This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day
long;

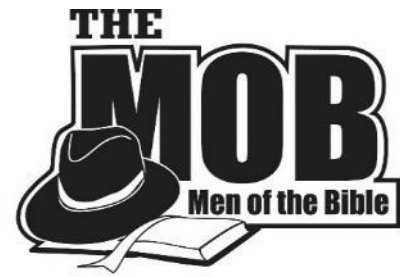
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day

Blessed Assurance

5 of 6

Perfect submission, all is at rest,
I in my Savior am happy and blest,
Watching and waiting, looking above,
Filled with His goodness, lost in His
love.

Blessed Assurance



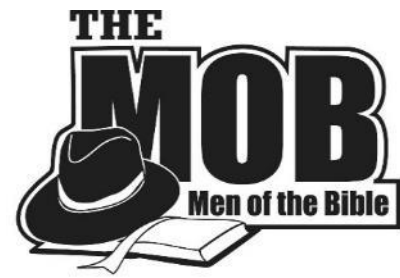
6 of 6

CHORUS

This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day
long;

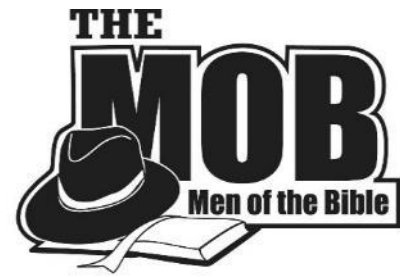
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Praising my Savior all the day

Memory Verse



1 Cor 7:38

Memory Verse

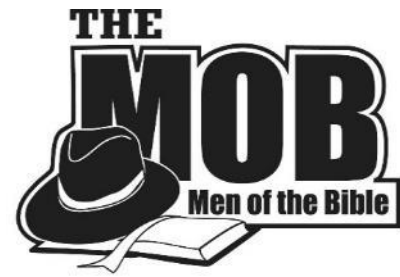


1 Cor 7:38 (ESV)

So then he who marries his betrothed does well, and he who refrains from marriage will do even better.

1 Cor 7:38 (ESV)

Our 1 Corinthians Study



Last Week

- 1 Cor 7:17-24
- Memory Verse: 1 Cor 7:22
- Dr. Constable's Notes, 2022 Ed., pp. 137-41; MacArthur, pp. 169-75
- Refreshment Host: Group E

Tonight

- 1 Cor 7:25-40
- Memory Verse: 1 Cor 7:38
- Dr. Constable's Notes, 2022 Ed., pp. 141-49; MacArthur, pp. 177-86
- Refreshment Host: Group F

1 Corinthians Outline

	1:1				4:21				5:1				6:20				7:1				16:4																			
Divisions	Report of Divisions				Reason for Divisions				Incest				Litigation Between Believers				Sexual Immorality				Counsel Concerning: Marriage				Counsel Concerning: Things offered to idols				Counsel Concerning: Public Worship				Counsel Concerning: Resurrection				Counsel Concerning: Collection for Jerusalem			
Topics	Divisions in the Church								Disorder in the Church								Difficulties in the Church																							
	Concern								Condemnation								Counsel																							
Place	Written in Ephesus																																							
Time	circa A.D. 56																																							

1 COR 7:25-31 (ESV)

25 Now concerning the betrothed, I have no command from the Lord, but I give my judgment as one who by the Lord's mercy is trustworthy. **26** I think that in view of the present distress it is good for a person to remain as he is. **27** Are you bound to a wife? Do not seek to be free. Are you free from a wife? Do not seek a wife. **28** But if you do marry, you have not sinned, and if a betrothed woman marries, she has not sinned. Yet those who marry will have worldly troubles, and I would spare you that. **29** This is what I mean, brothers: the appointed time has grown very short. From now on, let those who have wives live as though they had none, **30** and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no goods, **31** and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

1 COR 7:32-35 (ESV)

32 I want you to be free from anxieties. The unmarried man is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to please the Lord. **33** But the married man is anxious about worldly things, how to please his wife, **34** and his interests are divided. And the unmarried or betrothed woman is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to be holy in body and spirit. But the married woman is anxious about worldly things, how to please her husband. **35** I say this for your own benefit, not to lay any restraint upon you, but to promote good order and to secure your undivided devotion to the Lord.

1 COR 7:36-40 (ESV)

36 If anyone thinks that he is not behaving properly toward his betrothed, if his passions are strong, and it has to be, let him do as he wishes: let them marry—it is no sin. **37** But whoever is firmly established in his heart, being under no necessity but having his desire under control, and has determined this in his heart, to keep her as his betrothed, he will do well. **38** So then he who marries his betrothed does well, and he who refrains from marriage will do even better. **39** A wife is bound to her husband as long as he lives. But if her husband dies, she is free to be married to whom she wishes, only in the Lord. **40** Yet in my judgment she is happier if she remains as she is. And I think that I too have the Spirit of God.

Section Overview

REASONS FOR REMAINING SINGLE

- The Pressure of the System **25-27**
- The Problems of the Flesh **28**
- The Passing of the World **29-31**
- The Preoccupations of Marriage **32-35**
- The Promises of the Fathers **36-38**
- The Permanency of Marriage **39-40**

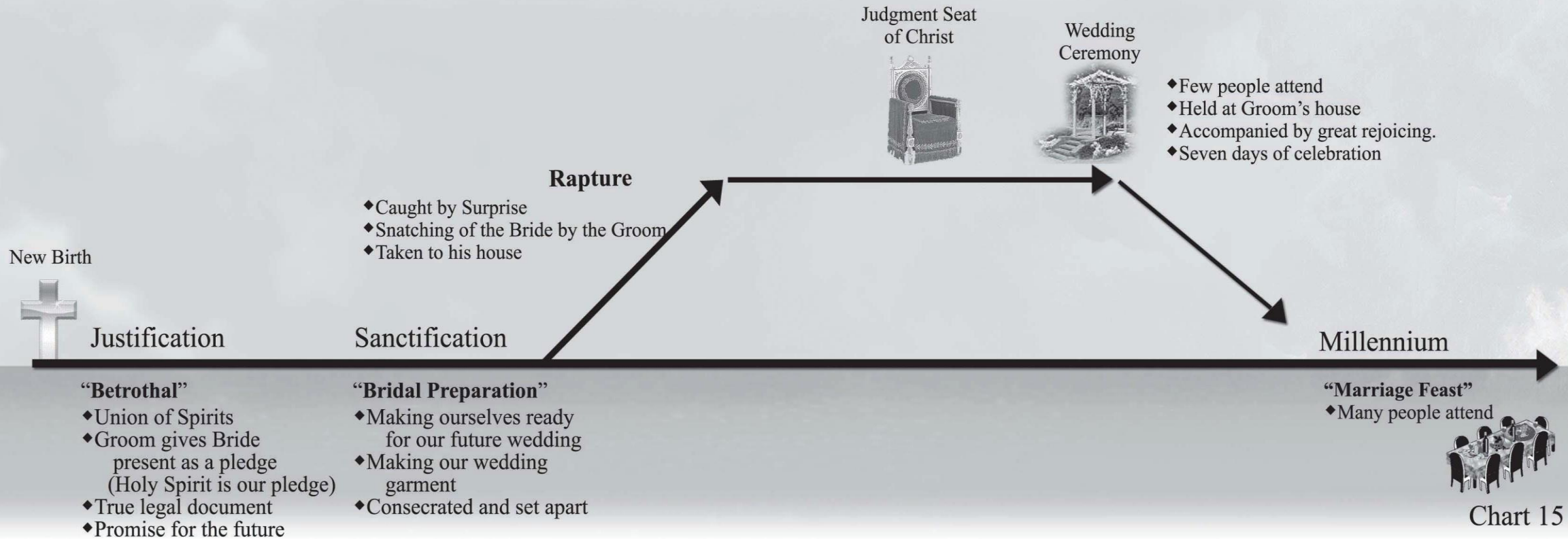
1 Corinthians 7:25-27 (ESV)

25 Now concerning the betrothed, I have no command from the Lord, but I give my **judgment** as one who by the Lord's mercy is trustworthy. 26 I think that in view of the present **distress** it is good for a person to remain as he is. 27 Are you bound to a wife? Do not seek to be free. Are you free from a wife? Do not seek a wife.

- **THE PROBLEMS OF THE FLESH**
- “**Judgement**” (gnōmē)
- ASCETICISM. The practice of strict self-denial. It's a noun for severe self-discipline and avoidance of all forms of indulgence, typically for religious reasons.
- ESCHATOLOGY. Branch of theology concerned with final events in the history of the world or of humankind.
- “Having” (**echein**) the Spirit of God (1 Cor 7:40) with “having” (**echomen**) the “mind of Christ” (1 Cor 2:16).
- Anankē (**distress**) “the impending/present distress” (tēn enestōsan anankēn).

Jewish Wedding

The Jewish Wedding - Parallels to the Christian Life



1 Corinthians 7:28 (ESV)

28 But if you do marry, you have not sinned, and if a betrothed woman marries, she has not sinned. Yet those who marry will have worldly **troubles**, and I would spare you that.

- **THE PROBLEMS OF THE FLESH**
- **Trouble** (thlipsis), pressed together, or under pressure.
- Marriage of Katharina & Martin Luther.
- Swindoll counseled 1 single person for every 25 married.
- Paul found himself agreement with Stoic asceticism, but for entirely different reasons.
- Paul's Marriage History

10 Cesar-Tyrants (250 Years)

- Nero (54-68) beheaded Paul & crucified Peter upside down
- Domitian (95-96) exiled John
- Trajan (104-117) burned Ignatius at the stake
- Marcus Aurelius (161-180) martyred Polycarp
- Septimus Severus (200-211) killed Irenaeus
- Maximinus (235-237) killed Ursula and Hippolytus
- Decius (249-251) carnage known as “The Decian Persecution”
- Valerian (257-260) only Diocletian was worst
- Aurelian (270-275) beheaded first martyr Felix (bishop of Rome)
- Diocletian (303-313) the Worst

Luther's Marriage



In Eisenack between Frankfurt and Berlin

1 Corinthians 7:29-31 (ESV)

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away

- **THE PROBLEMS OF THE FLESH**
- **Time** (kairos) is definite period, fixed, appointed time. That period has been shortened. Human life at its longest is brief, “a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away” (James 4:14). (MacArthur)
- **Short** (sustello) means, “furled up, like sails when the mariner comes near his port.” (Guzik)
- Marriage, Sorrow, Rejoicing, Possessions, and Pleasures are **passing away**. Invest in eternal matters. (Swindoll)
- Therefore, you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect (Matthew 24:44).
- **ESCHATOLOGY** keep priorities and perspectives right.

1 Corinthians 7:32-35 (ESV)

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- **THE PREOCCUPATIONS OF MARRIAGE**
- **Anxiety** (amerimnous)
- Merimnaō (be anxious about)
- **Unmarried** person has to be gifted. (Smith)
- Basic premise is married life automatically creates a set of concerns and anxieties because it is not always possible to simultaneously please both God and a spouse. (Brown)
- Paul was not putting a legalistic noose (the literal meaning of **restraint**) around the necks of single Christians. (Brown)
- **Agamos** (unmarried) and **gamos** (marriage).

1 Corinthians 7:36-38 (ESV)

36 If anyone thinks that he is not behaving properly toward his betrothed, if his passions are strong, and **it has to be**, let him do as he wishes: let them marry—it is no sin.

37 But whoever is firmly established in his heart, being under no necessity but having his desire under control, and has determined this in his heart, to keep her as his betrothed, he will do well. 38 So then he who marries his betrothed does well, and he who refrains from marriage will do even better.

- **THE PROMISES OF FATHERS**
- Is the **man** the father or the groom?
- Jewish & Roman fathers play a dominant role in whom their children marry. Historians a reason Rome fell was their loss of parental control in arranging marriages. (MacArthur)
- Some fathers in Corinth dedicated their daughters to the Lord as permanent virgins.
- Necessity. With men (prime of life) and with women (coming of age). Fee
- Constraint is better translated “necessity.”
- **Hypergamous**: prime of life or coming of age.

1 Corinthians 7:39-40 (ESV)

39 A wife is bound to her husband as long as he lives. But if her husband dies, she is free to be married to whom she wishes, only in the Lord. 40 Yet in my judgment she is happier if she remains as she is. And I think that I too have the Spirit of God.

- **THE PERMANENCY OF MARRIAGE**
- Paul shifts attention from virgins to widows.
- Corinthians asked about remarriage of widows and widowers. Considerable pressure in Graeco-Roman society for men and women to remarry, and the low life-expectancy of women in the first century suggests there was greater pressure on widows than widowers. (Brown)
- With a touch of sarcasm he was saying that he, too, had access to the leading of the Holy Spirit.
- Paul once again suggests that widows consider devoting their single years to the Lord's service
- They must marry a Christian if they do remarry.

Conclusion

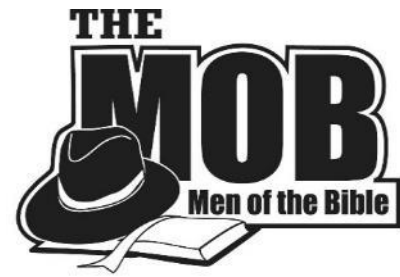
The solution to being single is ...

“Redirect your focus and rechannel your energies. Instead of focusing on the horizontal plane of this temporary world, focus on the vertical—God’s eternal calling. Reorient your priorities and your energy to devote yourself totally to God and His work. When you’re seeking first His kingdom and His righteousness, whatever else you need will be added to you—from contentment in the single life to the right mate at the right time (Matt. 6:33).”

— Swindoll, C. R. (2017). (Vol. 7, p. 123). Tyndale House Publishers.

Discussion & Application

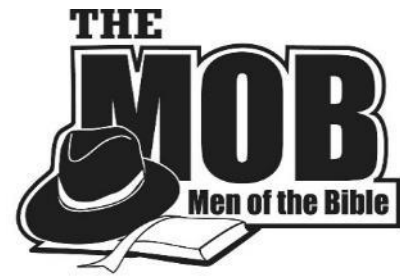
Lowell's Notes
1 of 2



- 1...How would you describe the apostle Paul's opinion and reasoning—and pressure(!)--for advocating that some brothers and sisters (“virgins”) not get married?
- 2...How might his teaching here have influenced Roman Catholic thinking for designating priests, and monks, and nuns?
- 3...What might have been the “present distress” and “shortness of time’ that Paul cited?
- 4...Why did he describe marriage as only a “temporary thing”?
- 5...Why would being married make a man, and a woman, more “concerned about the things of the world” than a man or woman not married?

Discussion & Application

Lowell's Notes
2 of 2



6...What does Paul suggest a father's influence should be over allowing his virgin daughter to get married? And would it work today?

7...What does Paul suggest for a woman who loses her husband to death?

8...What's your personal feeling about the role Paul seems to suggest for the father over his daughter's choices for considering marriage—particularly as it might apply in a Christian home today? Your home?

9...How might a father's influence over his son about marriage differ, if at all, from a father's influence over his daughter—based on what Paul writes here?

10...What are some practical applications that you might take from this lesson—and particularly as a Christian father seeking to follow God's will?

Next Meeting 12/17

Review

- 1 Cor 7:25-40,
- Memory Verse: 1 Cor 7:38
- *Dr. Constable's Notes, 2022 Ed., pp. 144-49; MacArthur, pp. 177-86*
- Refreshment Host: Group F

Next Week

- 1 Cor 8:1-13,
- Memory Verse: 1 Cor 8:9
- *Dr. Constable's Notes, 2022 Ed., pp. 149-62; MacArthur, pp. 187-97*
- Refreshment Host: Group G

Closing

- **Benediction**
- **Small Groups**

Bibliography

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