**Christ Companion Bible Church**

**Weekly Bible Study**

**Study Location: Date: 5th November, 2019**

**GETTING THE BEST IN MARRIAGE (PART III)**

***Judges 9: 8-15; Psalm 144:11-15; Song of Solomon 6:8-13***

 Nothing exists for its own sake. The sun is to give light and warmth (Psalm 84:11), the herbs provide food for man (Hebrew 6:7), every creature of God is created to give and provide services in a peculiar sense. The best giver in nature is the earth; it is interesting to know also that the best receiver is the same earth! Ecclesiastes 3:20.

 Our Lord Jesus said***, “Give, and it shall be given unto you… Luke 6:38***. Marriage is the beautiful creation of God, where vast opportunities are provided: to give and receive. Receiving alone is burdensome and we never forget that giving in itself is a blessing! Acts 20:35.

Before marriage is sought, it is important to understand that growth, maturity, fruit bearing and service are basic necessities that will support, sustain and sweeten the marriage. Psalm 144:12. These responsibilities lie on both party involved in the marriage deal.

**PREREQUISITES FOR SUCCESSFUL MARRIAGE.**

***Hebrew 13:4; Matthew 6:33, 34. Judges 9:8-15. Jeremiah 29:11***

A living seed when planted by a wise man on the right ground, provided with needed good condition will germinate, grow to maturity and bring forth fruit. Matthew 13:31-32. This is the case with successful Christian marriage as it has its prerequisites too.

***1. Spiritual Readiness:*** The individual involved must carry the living seed, which is Christ within! Colossians 1:27. Both must be born again with proof of the fruit of repentance and faith. (Matthew 3:8-10). Unequal yoke for any reason whatsoever is unacceptable before God. ***2 Corinthians 6:14:18***. A believer cannot marry unbeliever! Spiritual growth and development are foundational to successful marriage. Galatians 5:22. The fruit of the spirit provides quality love and peace, quality faith and prayerfulness, quality temperance and other virtues that make home functional Christ centered. ***2 Peter 1:3-10.***

***2. Physical Readiness:*** Genesis 24:55-66. Marriage is not for children or adolescent at all! There must be physical development in terms of physiological maturity, emotional maturity and mental strength good enough to sustain marital relationship. Marriage is a responsibility that requires good physical stamina and wisdom in decision both to keep and make it work. Isaiah 11:1-5.

***3. Financial Readiness:*** Ephesians 5:24-29. Ecclesiastes 7:12. The role of money in marriage cannot be underplayed. It is true that one must not marry for money sake, yet good and sustainable means of provision must be ensured. Diligence, result oriented plan and hardworking spirit that can yield family provision must not be compromised. Otherwise, hardship, lack and emotional strains can make marriage a bitter experience! Ecclesiastes 10:17-19.

***4. Matured Relationship Readiness:*** Matthew 1:18-25. Ruth 1:16-18. Ability to relate well is a key to successful marriage. To handle issues, problems and domestic challenges that attend marriages, each party must possess wisdom and emotional maturity. With these in place, many obstacles that plaque family relationship can be easily overcome. Couples to be, must invest good time in acquiring knowledge. Read good books and study the scripture to grow in wisdom and strength. 2Peter 1:5-10. Learning to act in love and respect for others is the key. (see 1 Peter 2:17).

***5. Readiness for Service and Commitment:*** Proverbs 31:10-31. A true friend loves at all times (Proverbs 17:17). Marriage is rooted in commitment. i.e. keeping trust and loyalty to the other party. Love serves, love seek the best interest of others, love gives, love believe and hope for best etc. As Christ gave Himself, to make us, and perfect us for Himself as with the porter and the clay (Jeremiah 18:1-6), so must individual hoping to marry learn to love, forgive and keep trust!

***6. Readiness to Adjust and Transform:*** 1Corinthians 13:11. Romans 12:1-2. Some of the single (i.e. unmarried) life, bachelor or spinster’s philosophy and practices must undergo real transformation at marriage. Change and adjustment to changes will be a common experience at different stages of marital journey. The newlywed, parenting couples, old aged couples etc. will be of requirement to adjust the rule of ethics as time progresses. So, think ahead!

***7. Prayer, Purity and Heaven***: Hebrews 4:16; 12:14. Prayer keeps you connected with God. Purity attracts Him to you, and heaven is the final pursuit and destination you dare not miss! These are factors you must keep on focus before and along your marital journey. With these, mercy, grace and divine help are constant! Hebrews 4:14-16. Amen.

**CONGREGATIONAL HYMNS**

**CHS 148 IN TIMES LIKE THIS**

1. In times like these you need a Savior
In times like these you need an anchor;
Be very sure, be very sure
Your anchor holds and grips the Solid Rock!

*This Rock is Jesus, Yes, He's the One;
This Rock is Jesus, the only One!
Be very sure, be very sure
Your anchor holds and grips the Solid Rock!*

1. In times like these you need the Bible,
In times like these O be not idle;
Be very sure, be very sure
Your anchor holds and grips the Solid Rock!
2. In times like these I have a Savior,
In times like these I have an anchor;
I'm very sure, I'm very sure
My anchor holds and grips the Solid Rock!

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