

## The Hand That Rocks the Cradle Rules the World

by Hendrik Joubert

Isn't it remarkable how we often are able to work out issues in the lives of others, while we seem to lack the same logic and ability to initiate change in our own? Many also seem quite capable of recognizing why they consider this *politically correct* society to be on the road to self-destruction, but fail to implement the solutions in their own lives so that we may change the outcome. Consider the role self-control plays in situations where we are emotionally involved. ***Bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ (2Corinthians 10:5)*** requires of us to overcome our personal desires and preferences – we have to control ourselves. (**Acts 24:25; Mark 8:34**)

Feeling guilty about what we consider wrong in our lives is not good for our self-esteem. We may solve this in one of two ways; admit our guilt and resolve to change (**Acts 17:30**), or search for ways to justify our behavior. When confronted with the Bible, it may depend on how that happens. If someone points it out to me I may simply declare it a personal opinion. Finding others who agree with me makes this option effective. If I happen to discover my error by reading it for myself, I may just decide to *interpret* it so that it would eliminate the required change.

If we were to ***hunger and thirst for righteousness (Matthew 5:6)*** a respect for the Scriptures is crucial. If the Bible is the word of God, it must be treated with the utmost respect. How could we declare it such, only to manipulate it through personal interpretation? (**2Peter 1:20**) The role of self-control once again becomes obvious. Our interpretation may amount to a *twist* and cause our own destruction. (**2Peter 3:15-16**)

The crucial role of the Bible in our effort to establish the will of God may be found throughout the Scriptures. One of the places it is specifically addressed is found in **2Timothy** chapters **3** and **4**. Paul is giving advice to the young Timothy as he supplies him with the solution for the eminent digression of society, and the influence this digression will have on the church. The apostle declares the Scriptures as the source to make the servant of God ***complete*** as it ***thoroughly*** equips him ***for every good work***. (**2Timothy 3:16-17; 2Peter 3:15-16**)

In this discourse we learn of the important role of the *mother* over generations. Timothy's father was of Greek descent, while his mother was a Jewish believer. (**Acts 16:1**) We learn from Paul that both his mother and grandmother played a significant role in formulating his attitude towards God – ***from childhood*** he has ***known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus***. (**2Timothy 3:15; 2Timothy 1:5**)

In our society where the father has to leave home to earn a living ***in the sweat of his face (Genesis 3:19)*** the role of the mother cannot be more decisive in formulating the attitude of her children. The saying *The hand that rocks the cradle rules the world* is true in a significant sense, and serves to illustrate the awesome responsibility the father has to make it possible for his wife to be home during those formative years, and beyond. It is therefore also sad to see how the role of a *mother* has been diminished – a role which demands a love not only for God, but also for her children, as well as for her husband. (**1Thessalonians 2:7; Titus 2:4**)

What about the woman who considers herself a career woman, one who simply *cannot*, or *would not* fill this most significant position? *The hand that rocks the cradle rules the world* has an attractive ring (of power) to it; however the moral fiber it takes to fill this remarkable role requires a level of commitment few other roles demand. It calls for a selfless commitment towards securing, not only her personal salvation, but also that of her family. Many desire the power bestowed by the saying, however they want to accomplish that by *remote control*. We trust others to raise our children and then wonder why they misbehave.

Does this mean that a woman can fill no role other than that of wife and mother? After Paul receives a vision to go to Macedonia, they arrive in Philippi and on the Sabbath found women only meeting outside the city by the riverside. Here we meet Lydia, ***a seller of purple from the city of Thyatira***. (**Acts 16:14**) Those who seek to justify infant baptism use the fact that ***she and her household were baptized*** as proof, since a household includes children; however there is no mention made of her husband. A household may include servants, who may or may not have children.

A woman does not have to get married and raise children. In his letter to the Corinthians the apostle Paul explains that conditions may be such that one may not want to consider marriage. Notice that the focus is on the fact that it may interfere with one's relationship with God. (**1Corinthians 7:34**) When she commits to marriage and to having children, she needs to take the responsibility placed upon her by God seriously. (**1Timothy 5:14ff**)