

## Thoughts on Ministry of Healing

### (30) Choice and Preparation of the Home (pages 363-370)

#### Summary:

The ultimate purpose of our homes on earth is to be a symbol of and preparation for the heavenly home.

#### Thoughts:

The location of the home should be decided on the basis of what will best aid preparation for the heavenly home. Life in the cities is complex, false, artificial and full of temptations. These temptations have an almost irresistible power on youth. In addition to the distractions and temptations, cities are often a peril to health on account of crowding and pollution. (363-365)

The life of Jesus and many Bible characters encourages us to chose simple houses, relatively free of display. The best home life is in a country setting characterized by simplicity, physical labor, service to others and daily encounter with some hardship and difficulty. Youth should learn to work rather than spend their time amusing themselves. Better than any wealth you can pass on to your children is the gift of a healthy body, a sound mind and a noble character. (365-367)

Elaborate and expensive furnishings are not only costly, but they require extra effort to maintain. Through the exercise of good taste, simple and economical furnishing can make a home attractive and inviting. (367-370)

A yard with lawn and flowers will do more to bring happiness to the household than expensive furnishings. (370)

Ellen White exhibits a strong tendency in her day to prefer the country over the city for reasons well expressed in this chapter. But today country living is not as ready an option as it was 100 years ago. Back then 80% of people lived in the country, soon 80% will live in urban areas. So some reflection on how to approach this counsel today should be of value.

Cities are concentrations of humanity in all its aspects. Cities concentrate the bad and the ugly, they also concentrate the good and the beautiful. Cities contain libraries, museums, great universities, beautiful architecture, and spectacular gardens. In these things one catches a glimpse of the human potential granted in the image of God. On the other hand, cities also concentrate the darkness of the human condition, vice, corruption, crime, squalor, artificiality.

In a perfect world, perhaps, all could choose to live in country places. But if everyone tried to do so today, it would be an ecological disaster, eliminating forests and wilderness areas in favor of human residences. On the other hand, the mass farming methods that enable most people to live in cities concentrate food production in the hands of a powerful few and also challenge the environment. So there is often no perfect answer to the question of Where shall I live? All other things being equal, follow the guidelines in this chapter. When things are not equal, follow to the best of your ability in that situation.

The above summary and this chapter are ideals. The Bible is full of godly characters who had dysfunctional families. Grace and patience are needed as we all seek to emulate the ideal.

### **Quotable Quotes:**

“The gospel is a wonderful simplifier of life's problems. Its instruction, heeded, would make plain many a perplexity and save us from many an error. It teaches us to estimate things at their true value and to give the most effort to the things of greatest worth--the things that will endure.” (363)

“Better than any other inheritance of wealth you can give to your children will be the gift of a healthy body, a sound mind, and a noble character.” (366)

“Instead of dwelling where only the works of men can be seen, where the sights and sounds frequently suggest thoughts of evil, where turmoil and confusion bring weariness and disquietude, go where you can look upon the works of God. . . . Go where, apart from the distractions and dissipations of city life, you can give your children your companionship, where you can teach them to learn of God through His works, and train them for lives of integrity and usefulness.” (367)

“Our artificial habits deprive us of many blessings and much enjoyment, and unfit us for living the most useful lives. Elaborate and expensive furnishings are a waste not only of money, but of that which is a thousandfold more precious. They bring into the home a heavy burden of care and labor and perplexity.” (367)

“Furnish your home with things plain and simple, things that will bear handling, that can be easily kept clean, and that can be replaced without great expense. By exercising taste, you can make a very simple home attractive and inviting, if love and contentment are there.” (370)

### **Tweets of Healing:**

The gospel is a wonderful simplifier of life's problems. (363)

The home on earth is to be a symbol of and a preparation for the home in heaven. (363)

The gospel teaches us to estimate things at their true value and to give the most effort to the things of greatest worth. (363)

An expensive dwelling, elaborate furnishings, display, luxury, and ease, do not furnish the conditions essential to a happy, useful life. (365)

Better than any other inheritance is the gift of a healthy body, a sound mind, and a noble character. (366)

Our artificial habits deprive us of many blessings and much enjoyment, and unfit us for living the most useful lives. (367)

Elaborate and expensive furnishings are not only costly, but they require extra effort to maintain. (367)

God loves the beautiful. He desires us to surround our homes with the beauty of natural things. (370)

A yard with lawn and flowers will do more to bring happiness to the household than expensive furnishings. (370)

By exercising taste, you can make a very simple home attractive and inviting. (370)