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1 Corinthians 7:25-31
**Paul's Marriage Advice
in Trying Times**
by Bob DeWaay
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To Those Not Yet Married
1 Corinthians 7:25 (NASB)
Now concerning virgins I have no command of the Lord, but I give an opinion as one who by the mercy of the Lord is trustworthy.

- "Now concerning" is *peri de*: new topic
- "No command" implies no binding revelation on this matter
- Paul's opinion is an informed one which he believes will be to their advantage

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Paul's Advice: Remain as You Are
1 Corinthians 7:26 (NASB)
I think then that this is good in view of the present distress, that it is good for a man to remain as he is.

- There is much discussion about the nature of "present distress" (or 'present crisis')
- Is this about 'eschatological woes' or a temporary crisis such as a famine?
- The last days cover the church age but there are severe situations within that age

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Marriage Advice in a Time of Trial
1 Corinthians 7:27-28 (NASB)
Are you bound to a wife? Do not seek to be released. Are you released from a wife? Do not seek a wife. But if you marry, you have not sinned; and if a virgin marries, she has not sinned. Yet such will have trouble in this life, and I am trying to spare you.

- This may be about betrothal
- Pastoral advice from Paul is not God's law

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Christians in a Temporal World
1 Corinthians 7:29-31 (NASB)
But this I say, brethren, the time has been shortened, so that from now on those who have wives should be as though they had none; and those who weep, as though they did not weep; and those who rejoice, as though they did not rejoice; and those who buy, as though they did not possess; and those who use the world, as though they did not make full use of it; for the form of this world is passing away.

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Implications and Applications

- We must live in light of the values of Christ rather than those of the world which is passing away
- We live in the last days and must make faith in Christ and His promises our highest priority.

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The Great Banquet Invitation

Luke 14:15-17 (NASB)

When one of those who were reclining at the table with Him heard this, he said to Him, "Blessed is everyone who will eat bread in the kingdom of God!" But He said to him, "A man was giving a big dinner, and he invited many; and at the dinner hour he sent his slave to say to those who had been invited, 'Come; for everything is ready now.'

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Three Insulting Excuses

Luke 14:18-20 (NASB)

But they all alike began to make excuses. The first one said to him, 'I have bought a piece of land and I need to go out and look at it; please consider me excused.' Another one said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to try them out; please consider me excused.' Another one said, 'I have married a wife, and for that reason I cannot come.'

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People of Low Status Brought In

Luke 14:21-22 (NASB)

And the slave came back and reported this to his master. Then the head of the household became angry and said to his slave, 'Go out at once into the streets and lanes of the city and bring in here the poor and crippled and blind and lame.' And the slave said, 'Master, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room.'

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Unexpected People Will Dine

Luke 14:23-24 (NASB)

And the master said to the slave, 'Go out into the highways and along the hedges, and compel them to come in, so that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste of my dinner.'

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This Crucial Time Calls for Repentance and Faith

Mark 1:14b-15 (NASB)

Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."

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