JANUARU, 1970.
WEST SACRAMENTO, CALIF. 95691

DEAR SISTERS IN CHRIST:-

I KNOW EACH OF YOU HAS AT ONE TIME OR ANOTHER ASKED HERSELF, "WHAT CAN I DO IN SERVICE TO GOD?" OTHER CHRISTIANS, WHEN ASKED, USUALLY REPLY: JUST BE A GOOD WIFE AND MOTHER; A GOOD DAUGHTER AND SISTER; A GOOD NEIGHBOR." AND THESE ARE GOOD ANSWERS. SCRIPTURAL AUTHORITY CAN BE GIVEN FOR EVERY ONE OF THEM. SOME MIGHT GO ON TO SAY: "GOD DID NOT PUT THE HEAVY RESPONSIBILITY OF TEACHING THE GOSPEL ON WOMAN'S SHOULDERS; SHE SHOULD BE GLAD SHE IS SPARED THIS RESPONSIBILITY". AND MANY WOMEN ARE LULED INTO COMPARATIVE IDLENESS AND UNFRUITFULNESS BY THESE ANSWERS.

I TELL YOU PLAINLY, WITH ALL SERIOUSNESS, EVERY CHRISTIAN IS RESPONSIBLE BEFORE THE LORD ACCORDING TO HIS OR HER TALENTS, NOT ACCORDING TO HIS OR HER SEX.

THE ONLY RESTRICTIONS IN GOD'S WORD IN REGARD TO WOMEN TEACHING ARE: 1, LET THE WOMAN KEEP SILENCE IN THE CHURCH. 2, I SUFFER NOT A WOMAN TO TEACH NOR TO USURP AUTHORITY OVER THE MAN. 3, BE IN SUBMISSION AS ALSO SAITH THE LAW.

IF THE MAN IS FRIENDLY AND NOT TOO PROUD TO TALK TO YOU; YOU HAVE PRISCILLA'S EXAMPLE TO TRY TO TEACH HIM THE WAY OF THE LORD MORE PERFECTLY. YOU HAVE THE EXAMPLE OF PHILLIP'S DAUGHTERS (PROPHETESSES) WHO PROPHESIED (SPAKE TO EDIFICATION, EXHORTATION AND COMFORT, 1 COR. 14:3) WHEN PAUL AND HIS GROUP WAS VISITING IN THEIR FATHER'S HOME. YOU HAVE THE EXAMPLE OF DEBORAH IN THE OLD TESTAMENT WHO JUDGED ISRAEL THROUGH THE MEN WHO CAME TO HER WITH QUESTIONS. ALSO THE PROPHETESS, HULDAH. IF YOU KEEP YOURSELF MEEK AND HUMBLE IN YOUR WORK, YOU ARE NOT USURPING ANY MAN'S AUTHORITY. YOU ARE DOING YOUR DUTY ACCORDING TO YOUR TALENT; AND YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE TO EVERYONE WITH WHOM YOU COME IN CONTACT.

BUT ANY TIME A MAN TELLS YOU HE DOSEN'T WANT YOU TO SPEAK TO HIM ON BIBLE SUBJECTS; THEN YOU SUBMIT TO HIS DECREE, SO FAR AS TALKING TO HIM IS CONCERNED. HE HAS THE AUTHORITY TO DO THIS, AND YOU MUSTN'T USURP. BUT HE DOES <u>NOT</u> HAVE AUTHORITY TO TELL YOU NOT TO TALK TO OTHERS. HE DOES <u>NOT</u> HAVE AUTHORITY TO TELL YOU <u>NOT</u> TO LIVE <u>AND TEACH</u> OTHERS ACCORDING TO THE NEW TESTAMENT LAW, AND YOUR TALENTS.

THIS IS A LETTER BY WAY OF EXPLAINING WHY I AM TRYING TO REACH ALL OF YOU I CAN BY WRITTEN ARTICLES. IF WE CAN AROUSE <u>ALL THE SISTERS</u> TO THE TRUMPET CALL OF CHRIST TO A ZEALOUS CLOSER TO GOD WALK; MAYBE SOME OF THE SLEEPING BRETHREN LOOKING ON WILL BE FIRED WITH MORE ZEAL AND LOYALTY TO "WHAT HATH THE LORD SAID? AND WHAT HATH THE LORD SPOKEN?"

TEACH BY EXAMPLE, BY ALL MEANS, THIS IS SCRIPTURAL. BUT YOUR RESPONSIBILITY DOES NOT STOP THERE. TO CONFESS BY THE MOUTH, YOU MUST TEACH BY WORD ALSO. UNDER THE OLD LAW, THE MAN WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS WIFE, DAUGHTER, AND TO SOME DEGREE HIS SISTER. BUT IN THE NEW TESTAMENT EACH SOUL, MALE AND FEMALE IS EQUALLY RESPONSIBLE TO GOD. WE ARE SUBJECT TO OUT HUSBANDS AND FATHERS IN EVERYTHING "AS IT IS FIT IN THE LORD." WE PAY FOR OUR SIN WITH DEATH, IF WE ARE SUBMISSIVE TO THEM AGAINST GOD'S WILL. REMEMBER SAPPHIRA.

ANYONE WANTING SCRIPTURE STUDIES ON ANY PHASE OF THE THINGS IN THIS LETTER, PLEASE DROP ME A LINE. I WOULD BE GLAD AND PRIVILEDGED TO ASSIST IN FURTHER STUDIES OF OUR DUTIES AS CHRISTIANS. IF OUR HEARTS CONDEMN US NOT, THEN HAVE WE CONFIDENCE TOWARD GOD.

WISHING YOU ALL A BLESSED AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR, I REMAIN
IN CHRISTIAN LOVE

LURANA MC CLUSKEY
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