

May, 2011

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ at Gilead Bible Church,



Last month when Annie's mother went home to be with the Lord, I was reminded of my mother. My mother also went home to the Lord in April, but it was in 2000. God blessed Annie's mother with 101 years and my mother with 93 years! May we praise the Lord for all the years of life that God gives to all mothers!

As we observe Mother's Day in Sunday, May 8, I trust that we would be thankful for all that a mother is and all that she does. *Proverbs 31* is often labeled as a description of a *wife* of noble character. However, I would like to have it re-labeled as a description of a *wife and mother* of noble character, because she both in *Proverbs 31*.

What makes a *wife and mother* to be of noble character? After all, her nobility is "...worth far more than rubies (Prov. 31:10)."

First, she is a **blessing to her husband**. As a matter of fact, her husband "...has full confidence in her and lacks nothing of value (Prov. 31:11)." The reason is because, "She brings him good, not harm, all the days of her life (Prov. 31:11)." These days, there's so much temptation to bring harm; it doesn't take much to set someone off. The *wife and mother* of noble character choose to bring him good, not harm not matter the temptation or occasion.

Second, she is a **blessing in doing her duties well**. There's no way one can avoid duties in the family, and the *wife and mother* of noble character is successful in all of them. She, according to Prov. 31:12-24:

- Buys and makes her materials
- Buys food for her family and workers
- Buys land to grow food
- Trades successfully/works into the night
- Makes clothes/furnishings for the family and the poor, as well as to sell

In these times, we might not be doing exactly what is recorded in Prov. 31, but there are comparable duties. May wives and mothers strive to do all of them well! There will be days when we are overwhelmed by all that we have to do or the monotony of doing them over and over again. In those

times, trust the God will provide you the wisdom and strength to get through them one duty at a time and one day at a time.

Third, she is a **blessing because of God's work in her**. I believe that this is the real secret of why a *wife and mother* are of noble character. When God works in a person, the person becomes a blessing. God provided the *wife and mother* of noble character with the following (Prov. 31:25-30):

- Strength and dignity
- Wisdom and faithful instruction
- Watchfulness and no idleness
- Encouragement from her children and husband
- Fear of the Lord

It is true, one needs the right character to be of noble character, and God alone is ready to provide it. The *wife and mother* is of noble character sought it, and that is why she is blessing. On the other hand, when we do not seek God's character, Satan will be ready to fill the void with his destructiveness. Satan can destroy a family and marriage!

Fourth, she is **blessed**. Prov. 31:31 says, "Honor her for all that her hands have done, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate." Indeed, a *wife and mother* is of noble character is blessed. No one is perfect. Neither wife nor mother is perfect. Proverbs 31 provides a glimpse of what it takes to be a *wife and mother* of noble character. On this Mother's Day, honor your wife and mother just as she is. On the other hand, may wives and mothers strive to be of noble character so that we may be a blessing!

God Bless,

Pastor David and Helen Moy

2011年五月



親愛的基列主內弟兄姊妹,

上個月, 即四月, Annie的母親安息主懷, 令我想起我的母親。她也是在四月回天家, 那是在2000年。上帝祝福Annie的母親活到101歲。而我的母親, 也安享到93歲! 感謝讚美神, 願祂賜與所有母親都有美好的歲月!

五月八號, 星期日是母親節, 我們都要為著有一個母親及她所做的一切而感恩。箴言三十一章常被認為是描述一個賢德妻子應有品德的經文。不過, 我會將它重新訂為是描述一個賢妻和良母品格的經文, 因為它兩者都有論及。

一個妻子和母親怎樣才有賢德的品格? 畢竟, 她的高貴 "... 價值遠遠超過紅寶石 (箴31:10) 。”

首先, 她帶給丈夫祝福。因為事實上, 正如箴言31章11節所描述的, "... 她丈夫心里依靠她, 必不缺少利益; ", 她一生帶給丈夫的都是有利而無一害。現今的世代, 太多的誘惑會令人容易犯錯, 甚至跌倒。但一個賢妻良母無論在任何情況下, 都不會給丈夫帶來傷害。

第二, 她所作的一切事都蒙神祝福。雖然家務繁多, 但賢妻良母都會把它們處理得井井有條。正如箴言31章12-24節對她們有以下的描述, :

- 購買及製做原料
- 為家人及工人買糧食
- 購買土地來耕種
- 她工作至深夜, 成為一個成功的商人
- 她為家人及貧窮人製做衣服及家具, 更賣與商家

今天雖因環境不同, 她們不一定會照足箴言的引章去做, 但也有類似的責任。願妻子及母親們都盡力將一切做到最好。有時她們也會因沉重及單調的工作引致有挫折感。在那些日子裏, 相信神會賜給她們智慧和力量去完成每一日的事情。

第三, 她是蒙福的, 因為神在她生命中動工。我相信這是妻子及母親能有賢慧德行的秘要。箴言31章25-30節對賢妻良母有以下的描述:-

- 能力和威嚴
- 智慧和忠誠的法則
- 勤奮工作
- 鼓勵她的孩子和丈夫
- 敬畏神

唯有神才能令一個人有高尚的品格。這也是賢妻良母所渴求的, 所以她才成為別人的祝福。假若我們不尋求神的性格, 魔鬼便乘虛而入, 甚至摧毀婚姻及家庭。

第四, 她是被祝福的。31章31節說: “願她享受操作所得的, 願她的工作, 在城門口榮耀她。” 的確, 賢妻良母是神所祝福的。沒有人是十全十美的, 妻子和母親也不例外。箴言三十一章的經文探討怎麼樣才能成為一個賢妻良母。在這個母親節, 稱讚及欣賞你的妻子和母親。另一方面, 願妻子和母親努力達到高尚的品德, 以致我們都能蒙福!

願主祝福你們,

梅牧師及師母