

Psm. 11:3

Baptists For Liberty

Prov. 29:2

"Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage." Galatians 5:1

NEWS LETTER

Issue #20

May 2014

Monthly Verse: *"And I intreat thee also, true yokefellow, help those women which laboured with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and with other my fellowlabourers, whose names are in the book of life." ~ Philipians 4:3*

*"Waiting for
Thunder"*
by Sis. Courtney
Huffman



God teaches us in many ways. One night, He used a thunderstorm to remind me of something. When the clouds first started getting dark, and the thunder could be heard, and the lightning seen, I went to sit outside on our covered porch swing. Now, you have to know that I love watching storms, and listening to thunder.

While I was talking with the Lord, I asked Him to put forth a crack of thunder. A silly request? Maybe... Anyway, not just a roll, or clap of thunder; but a huge, loud, ground-shaking crack. It didn't come right away, though there were a lot of rolls and claps of thunder. I had to wait about five minutes or so before I heard my crack of thunder.

I asked for this a few times, and each time, I had to wait a little longer. At one point I went in the house, but I continued to listen for the thunder. But wherever I went in the house, there were other noises drowning out the sounds of the storm.

But then I had a thought: Go to where I know I'll be able to hear. So back out I went to watch the rain, and listen. But this time I stayed in the garage, out of the rain. Shortly after I went back out, there were three or four cracks of thunder, all very close together. I had to smile at that.

We must be listening for the Lord. It won't always be a crack of thunder, or a flash of lightning. But we must listen; and we must wait. Wait for however long it takes to hear the voice of the Lord. And when things around you grow too loud, go to where you know you can hear His voice. Come away from the loud noises and distractions of the world, to a place where you can sit, and wait, and hear His wonderful voice.

Are you listening?

Psalm 77:18 *"The voice of thy thunder was in the heaven: the lightnings lightened the world: the earth trembled and shook."*

Psalm 25:5 *"Lead me in thy truth, and teach me: for thou art the God of my salvation; on thee do I wait all the day."*

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There's a war on women!

Yes there is, there is a war on women's God given dignity! The month of May we celebrate "Mother's day" here in the U.S.A. so we've chosen for our topic this month the subject of Godly womanhood.

Thanks to all the women who've helped make this issue extra special.

Sermon: "Making Of Great Women"

by Bro. Cecil Fayard



Text: 2 Kings 4:8-37

Intro: The Bible says the lady from Shunamite was a "great woman." The NIV says: "and a well to do woman was there."

This is not what the Hebrew word for great *gadol* means. This woman was great not because she was well to do, for she was not, but because of her godly character. You see God is very careful when He uses adjectives, and He was careful here. This woman was an unusual woman, a woman distinguished from others by her quality way of life. What is it that distinguished this woman from others in her community? What can mothers today glean and learn from the Shunemite?

I. Vss. 8-10, SHE HAD COMPASSION AND BENEVOLENCE FOR THE MAN OF GOD

A. Vs. 8, The prophet often traveled through Shunem, was acquainted with the family, and knew that a friendly welcomed awaited him on his journey.

1. Her benevolence is seen in that "she constrained him to eat bread." What a different world we live in today on the most part. We are all too busy to eat at our own homes. The day of true country living is about gone. But benevolence should not be forsaken.
2. Her love for God and the ministry was more than that of "sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal." Love that is real is active love.
3. The love that God had for His own was an unsolicited love (Romans 5:8).
4. The Christian is different from the world "because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is in you." Christian women have the real thing! They have the love of God in their hearts; love that acts, not just talks.

B. Vs. 9-10, This dear lady cared enough to get involved in the work of God, in the ministry.

1. Vs. 9, She was a discerning woman. "I perceive that this is a holy man of God." There is a great need for discerning woman today.
 - a.) A discerning woman has her passions and thoughts under control. No desperate housewife here!
 - b.) The Bible tells us that there are women who have fleshly beauty, but lack godly wisdom. Proverbs 11:22 says: "As a jewel in a swine's snout, so is a fair woman which is without discretion." A lovely woman who acts like a fool is as unbecoming as a hog in the mud with a jewel in his snout.
 - c.) Titus 2:3-5 teaches us that a godly woman, a great woman, is to behave right and not be given to drink. She is also to teach the younger women to love their husbands. In verse 5, we are told that she is to be discreet. The Greek word for "discreet" is *sophron*. It means, among other things: "to sensible, sane, reasonable, self-controlled, curbing one's desires and impulses." We need a big doze of discretion among women today, especially among the Hollywood bunch.
2. Vs. 10, The Shunammite had discernment in seeing that the man of God, Elisha, needed a place to stay when in that area. She also saw that it was a wise thing to talk to the man of the house about this and get his approval.

- a.) Here is a woman who had discernment and care. She cared enough to get involved.
- b.) She urged her husband to go along with her plan and design. She furnished the room and gave to Elisha a standing invitation.
- c.) Hospitality has always been the mark of a great woman. Great mothers are caring, loving, and hospitable.

II. Vss. 11-13, THE CONTENTMENT OF THE GODLY SHUNAMMITE

A. Vss. 11-12, Elisha calls for the Shunammite that he might be a blessing to the one who has so blessed him.

B. Vs. 13, Elisha asks: "What is to be done for thee?" To this she answers: "I dwell among my people." This is the answer of a contented wife, a contented woman. Some women are never contented. They are looking for their husband or circumstances to bring contentment. Dear one, only Jesus can satisfy your soul and meet your daily need for contentment.

1. To be contented as a child of God, a contented wife, mother, women, you must get your priorities straight and in order:
 - a.) Spiritual Life- loving God with all of your heart, soul, strength and mind (Luke 10:27).
 - b.) Family Life- you are to love and serve your family (Titus 2:4-5).
 - c.) Home Life- you are to have a place of retreat for your busy husband and loved ones. Take good care of the house "keepers at home."
 - d.) Church Life- "Forsake not the assembling together of the saints..." Get involved in the ministry of your church. Use the spiritual gifts that God has given to you.
 - e.) Physical Life- take care of your health. Our purpose in life is to glorify God, to serve Him, to enjoy Him.
 - f.) Mental Life- Use your brain to grow in grace, and thus glorify God. Renew your mind with godly things (Rom.12:1-2).
 - e.) Financial Life- Be a good steward of what God gives you. Stay out of debt (Matthew 25:21).
 - f.) Social Life- have time for friends.
2. I Timothy 6:6 says: "Godliness with contentment is great gain."

III. Vss. 14-17, THE PROMISE GIVEN TO THE SHUNAMMITE WOMAN

A. The man of God promised her a son. I believe he had the mind of God about this through prayer.

B. The promised child was born.

C. The Lord honored her contentment. He gave her the desire of her heart.

D. Some of God's promises to women of faith:

1. Isaiah 40:29: "He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength."
2. "In all thy ways acknowledge him and he shall direct thy paths" (Prov. 3:6).
3. "For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law but under grace" (Rom. 6:14).
4. "The name of the Lord is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe" (Prov. 18:10).

IV. Vss. 18-37, THE CONFIDENCE OF THE SHUNAMMITE IN GOD'S POWER

A. Vss. 18-22, The story of the sickness and death of the mother's child recounted.

B. Vs. 23, Because this great woman was submissive to the will of God, she had confidence in a crisis. Thus she could say: "It shall be well."

1. Even though her greatly loved child was dead, she said with confident submission: "it shall be well."

2. When Anna Spafford, the wife of Horatio Spafford, lost her four daughters to the depths of the Atlantic Ocean by ship wreck, she was saved only because a plank floated up under her unconscious body. She heard as it were the voice of God saying: "You are saved for a purpose." It was then that she recalled the words of a friend: "It's easy to be grateful and good when you have much, but take care that you are not a fair-weather friend of God." Out of the tragedy came the famous hymn, "It is Well With my Soul," written by her husband Horatio G. Spafford.

C. Vs. 26, Gehazi, the servant of Elisha was instructed to ask the Shunammite woman: "Is it well with thee?" Her answer: "it is well." Her son was dead, but her faith was in tact.

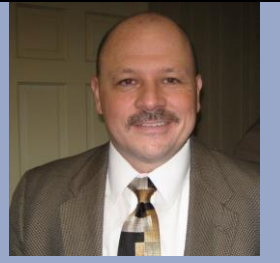
D. Vs. 30, She stayed close to the man of God which pictures a close walk with the God of the prophet.

E. Vs. 37, Here is the great blessing. But note, she did not forget from whence the blessing came! Falling at Elisha's feet says that she is falling submissively at the feet of Jehovah.

Conclusion: All need faith to carry us through the deep waters of life's troubled sea. Ladies, it is my prayer that God will take your hurts and heal them. Take your pain and bring peace.

Devotion: Ruth 1:16-17

by Bro. Jeff Short



"And Ruth said, Intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God: Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried: the LORD do so to me, and more also, if ought but death part thee and me." ~ [Ruth 1:16-17](#)

Typically, when we want to understand a term, we go to the dictionary to look it up. If we are particularly studious, we may go to an encyclopedia, or some other source, to investigate the etymology of the word. We may also study its usage, trying to determine the various inflections and nuances associated with its meaning.

However, God does not speak to us this way. He did not give us a dictionary or encyclopedia for us to understand what He requires of us. God spoke to us and gave us His Word—His Son, a Person. **"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God . . . And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth" (John 1:1, 14).** "God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds" ([Hebrews 1:1-2](#)). God spoke to us in and through a person, meaning His Word is personal and narrative.

Christ was the greatest narrative theologian ever. He taught with authority through parables and illustration and **"Never man spake like this man"** ([John 7:46](#)). His words were simple, yet profound. He did not

speak to His disciples like a Calculus professor lecturing his students on the proofs and corollaries of The Mean Value Theorem. He rather spoke in simple terms, illustrating what **"The kingdom of heaven is like"** ([Matthew 13:31](#)).

A good example of the way God speaks to us is in Hebrews 11. The chapter does begin with a description of faith abstractly, but the substance of the chapter is spent on illustrating what faith is and does. The life of faith is there seen worked out in the real lives of God's people. It is a moving and compelling picture that climaxes with martyrs of whom the world was not worthy and then proceeds to tell us, in light of all this, to run the race.

What does this have to do with our text? Before us is a passionate, moving illustration of biblical repentance. This occurs in the real world in the real life of Ruth the Moabitess. It is a striking and compelling example of repentance, explaining to us what no dictionary could convey by simply defining the term.

Ruth's repentance was on this wise. A certain woman named Naomi dwelt in Bethlehem Judah with her husband Elimelech and their two sons. They enjoyed modest riches and reputation in their homeland. A famine arose that affected their lifestyle and they removed to Moab, only for a time of course until things became better in their own land.

Moab wasn't nearly as bad as they imagined and they got along well until disaster struck. Elimelech died leaving Naomi and their two sons in the land of the pagans. This was a grief to Naomi, but the pagans were friendly and likable and she enjoyed her standard of living there enough to continue.

Her sons were growing into men and as such were wont to be married. They found a couple of lovely pagan girls, Orpah and Ruth, and soon were settled down. It would not do for these girls to remain amongst their pagan families, so they left them for the Israelites and dwelt on the fringe of Moab for some ten years in domestic bliss.

Moreover, both of Naomi's sons died leaving a Jewish widow with two widowed proselyte daughters-in-law stuck halfway between here and there. Naomi's grief can hardly be imagined by someone like me, but it must have been very great. These things had taken a toll on her and she purposed to return to Bethlehem, where she had heard God was feeding His people.

Orpah and Ruth went with her on her way for a while. Naomi encouraged them to return but they were resolved to go with her all the way to her home. Naomi insisted they **"turn again"** ([Ruth 1:11](#)) to go back to the life they knew before. She professed to have nothing for them; she would later testify of coming back to Bethlehem **"empty."**

The women all wept in an anxious moment. Though Orpah loved Naomi, she kissed her and went on her way back to the pagans. She had **"gone back unto her people, and unto her gods"** ([Ruth 1:15](#)). Orpah had run well for a season, but she was of those who draw back. It happened unto her **"according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire"** ([2 Peter 2:22](#)).

The tension grew as Orpah disappeared from sight and the tears began to dry on Naomi and Ruth's cheeks. There were powerful persuasives for Ruth to return—Naomi had counseled her to that end and Orpah had trodden the very path before her. The doubts and questions swirled in Naomi's mind as she spoke her last peace, **"return thou after thy sister in law"** ([Ruth 1:15](#)). Her words seemed to hang in the air until the silence at last overtook them. Then, the quiet was broken by a voice that grew from quivering to firm as Ruth spoke the most beautiful words that could fall from Gentile lips. **"And Ruth said, Intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God: Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried: the LORD do so to me, and more also, if ought but death part thee and me."**

It was not that Ruth loved Naomi and Orpah did not that Ruth would not leave her. It was rather because Ruth loved Naomi and loved Naomi's God that she would not leave her. Ruth had repented; she had turned. Ruth left her native people and her native gods. She had made an end of all else except the God of Israel. She came unto her mother-in-law because God was with her and, with her life, Ruth vowed to worship and serve the true and living God that created the heavens and the earth.

Here we have the marvelous meaning of repentance in the real world. Repentance means a change, and, O what a change! Paul praised God for the Thessalonians and how they **"turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God; And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come"** ([1 Thessalonians 1:9-10](#)). Ruth turned from her life of rebellion to God's kingdom, took hold of the skirt of a Jew, and went with her because God was with her (cf. Zechariah 8:23). She had turned and burned all her bridges behind her like Asaph, who confessed, **"Whom have I in heaven but thee? And there is none upon earth that I desire beside thee"** ([Psalm 73:25](#)). She was one with Peter, who answered, **"Lord, to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life"** ([John 6:68](#)).

Ruth repented. She turned to the true and living God to the exclusion of all else. May God grant many Ruth's in our generation! I pray the Holy Spirit will grant that we understand what it means to repent

News

May News Blitz: Underlined texts are links to the stories. If reading this as a print out you can find the links to these stories on our home page.

Thursday, May 1 Ben Swann, ["Why RT Has The State Department So Concerned"](#)

Monday, May 5th From the Tenth Amendment Center ["The Constitution leaves governance of federal campaigns to the states"](#) and ["N.C. Primary: GOP Establishment vs. Grassroots Candidates"](#)

Tuesday, May 6th Cato Institute hosted a lecture on ["The Tyranny of Experts: Economists, Dictators, and the Forgotten Rights of the Poor"](#) Cato describes it as, "The technocratic approach to ending global poverty favored by development experts often strengthens authoritarian governments and neglects or undermines the preferences and personal choices of poor people. William Easterly will explain why a different branch of economics emerged for poor countries and how it has served the interests of decision makers in powerful countries, political leaders in poor countries, and humanitarians in rich countries."

Wednesday, May 7th ["EPA Accused Of Impeding Independent Investigations"](#)

Thursday, May 8th ["Five Months and Counting, State Maintains Control of Children"](#)

an update by the Texas Home School Coalition on the struggle of a couple to regain custody of their children who were taken away because their parents homeschooled them.

Friday, May 9th Wisconsin Republican Party Rejects ["Rabbit Hole of Nullification"](#)

["VICE on HBO Debrief: Pink Gang Rebellion"](#)

Gelareh Kiazand profiles the Gulabi Gang, a group of women who are fighting the rampant rape crisis in India.

Saturday, May 10th Vice News ["Thailand on the Brink \(Dispatch 1\)"](#)

Tuesday, May 13th from Benswann.com ["Albuquerque Protesters Overtake City Council Meeting, Attempt Citizen's Arrest Of Police Chief"](#).

["California Gov. Candidate Wants To Cut Spending But Oversaw Bank Bailouts"](#).

and ["Lee Could Make Election About Crony Capitalism"](#)

Huffington post, ["DEA Seizes Kentucky's Hemp Seeds Despite Congressional Legalization"](#)

The New American Reports on quote from Former CIA/NSA Boss ["We Kill People Based on Metadata."](#)

Vice News reports with video; ["Detained in Donetsk on Referendum Day: Russian Roulette in Ukraine \(Dispatch 38\)"](#)

VICE News correspondent Henry Langston visited Donetsk to witness the ballot and ask people what they were voting for, but he and his crew quickly ran afoul of masked gunmen who were patrolling the station. They forced the crew inside the occupied administration building, where they were detained, searched, and interrogated for three hours before being allowed to leave. The experience offered some indication of what press freedom in the DPR would look like should it ever become independent.

Preliminary results announced around midnight showed a voter turnout of 74 percent, of which 89 percent voted yes. While seemingly suspect, the results were cheered by the DPR, which declared itself an independent state on Monday. But people are unsure of what the future holds for the separatist ambitions of Donetsk and Luhansk. Just last month, a poll showed that only 18 percent of people in eastern Ukraine wanted independence. With the Ukrainian government refusing to recognize the referendum and Russia backing its result, the next few days could prove pivotal for the entire region.

Wednesday, May 14th ["NAPOLITANO: A 'dog whistle' for the left"](#) published in the Washington post, written by Judge Andrew Napolitano.

Thursday, May 15th ["After 6 months, only 50 houses built for Yolanda survivors"](#) News of corruption in the Philippines concerning reconstruction of homes after Super Typhoon Yolanda.

Friday, May 16th ["To Protect a Mouse, Forest Service Cuts Off Water Access in New Mexico"](#)

Sunday, May 18th ["Silent Marches in Washington Calling For 'American Spring'"](#)

Tuesday, May 20th From Benswann.com ["New Jersey Atty General: Taxpayers Have No Right To Vote in Primary Election. Are Obligated To Pay For Them"](#) and, ["Climategate 3.0: Blogger Threatened for Exposing 97% 'Consensus' Fraud"](#) From The New American ["U.S. Accuses China of Spying; China Calls Charges Hypocritical"](#)

Wednesday, May 21 ["Is US Behind 'Rogue' General's Libya Coup??"](#) ["Our Last Line Of Defense Against Tyranny Is Being Attacked!"](#) written by Susan Duclos and posted by Oathkeepers.

Thursday, May 22 preacher, writer, & talk radio host Chuck Baldwin posted an article on the brief history of the Tea party and its effects on the current election season; ["Why John Boehner Hates The Tea Party?"](#)



News & Views From Canada
"Digital tattoos will be used everywhere"
 by Sis. Grace Brooks

WEBSITE: <http://www.O.Canada.com/health/erica-lenti-modern/hospitals>

In the not too distant future, their biggest use will be in hospitals and other medical outlets. These ultra thin devices gather tremendous amounts of information from the human body, from blood pressure, heart rate and, so much more. It staggers the imagination. Once gathered this same data can be sent, wirelessly, to the cloud, where it is accessed and manipulated by the app owner.

Second, the edible tattoo. In the future you or I will swallow the pill daily. Stomach acids activate the microchips in this pill. This all sounds so innocent, but don't forget, swallowing this pill makes the victim vulnerable to all electrical apparatuses we use every day such as, cellular phones, your very own car, and electric doors. In Canadian hospitals, patients' medical records and test results will quickly be accessed by a doctor or a nurse, by way of electronic laptop or even a telephone. This is coming to a hospital near Toronto as soon as 2015. The patient enters the assigned room and instantly can change the temperature, make the room darker or lighter, read her medical charts or chat with her nurse. All this is done digitally from a monitor near the bed. Barb Collins, chief operating officer in this same hospital call this "the patient being in control of his/her environment".

Errors are supposed to be reduced due to wristbands. We all know wristbands in hospitals have been around a long time, but in the future these bands will contain a barcode that can be scanned. Medical people want to be absolutely sure it's the right patient being given the prescribed medicine. Today where ever a patient goes, from administration to nurses on the ward, are asked their birthdates in order for medical people to be sure they have the right person. Cell phones will be out, patients communicate directly through video link with their nurse. An electronic medical charts will automatically receive vital signs sent from a device. According to the big shots in this Toronto area hospital experts believe the interlinking system is to make the hospital safer and more efficient. With the onward movement of modern technology, how can we be sure of the security of our privacy and data? In this era, no one's data is secure. It's Digital Tattoos are slow to take root in Canada, but it's evident digital tattoos they will catch on quickly and is expected to thrive with the help of giant corporations such as IBM and Intel.

Babies will not be exempt. In fact doctors might start this implanting with infants. In the future hospitals will be able to implant these tattoos in newborn babies shortly after being fed for the first time. Are we all to be branded like a bunch of livestock? Are we to lose our individuality?

The Mark of the beast. I don't think so... at least not yet. Is this the forerunner of the mark of the beast? REV 13:16-"AND HE CAUSETH ALL, BOTH SMALL AND GREAT, RICH AND POOR, FREE AND BOND, TO RECEIVE A MARK IN THEIR RIGHT HAND, OR IN THEIR FOREHEADS." Christians ought not to panic and fret. Comfort one another with the words of LUKE 21:28-"AND WHEN THESE THINGS COME TO PASS, THEN LOOK UP, AND LIFT UP YOUR HEADS; FOR YOUR REDEMPTION DRAWETH NIGH." What else does God expect us to do? In 1 Thessalonians 4:11 Jesus says "AND THAT YE STUDY TO BE QUIET, AND TO DO YOUR OWN BUSINESS, AND TO WORK WITH YOUR OWN HANDS, AS WE COMMAMDED YOU." We are not to overly fret about what's taking place. A child of God is to quietly go about his/her business and find comfort in the word of God, with other children of God, and prayer.

The following is from <http://www.toprntobsn.com/medicated-to-death/>

Medicated to DEATH?

Americans are increasingly prescribed medications that help them get more sleep, feel less stress and have more energy to accomplish a seemingly endless list of daily tasks. But is this really a good thing? Let's take a look at how overmedication can be affecting our health.

State of Health

How much medication are we taking, and why?

- Nearly 7 in 10** Americans who take at least one prescription drug¹
- 1 in 5** People who take five or more prescriptions¹

100 million Americans affected by chronic pain²

- 1 in 4** American adults who are unhappy with their sleep patterns⁴
- 4 in 5** Americans prescribed antibiotics each year⁵

80% Proportion of the world's painkillers consumed in the United States³

60 million Prescriptions Americans filled for sleeping pills in 2011, up from 47 million in 2006⁵

The Risks of Overmedication

- 40%** People who become addicted to benzodiazepines (like some sleeping pills or anxiety medication) after taking them daily for more than 6 weeks⁷
- 2 million** Annual number of drug-resistant bacterial infections in the U.S.⁸

Causes of Overmedication?

Every patient is different, but some common themes emerge in considering potential overmedication:

- Increase in chronic conditions, like heart disease and diabetes
- Rapidly aging population, which means more people need to take medications
- Cost of expensive testing vs. prescription costs

SOURCES

1. <http://www.drugfree.org> 2. <http://www.painmed.org> 3. <http://www.cnn.com> 4. <http://www.huffingtonpost.com> 5. <http://wellblogs.nytimes.com> 6. <http://www.cbsnews.com> 7. <http://www.rcpsych.ac.uk> 8. <http://www.cdc.gov>

toprntobsn.com

2014 Elections Coverage

by Sis. Joanna Works

I tried, I really tried to make a comprehensive list of primaries that where taking place during the month of May, the results, and what that ment but just looking at the list of primaries that took place May 6th in Indiana made me go cross eyed! There's a reason it takes a team of people to cover these elections an most people only ever cover a handful of what they consider "key" elections. Though it would make my task much easier to choose to just look at a few races I happen to believe that all these elected positions are important and key to those who will be governed by the winner, but the fact of the matter is you as the voting masses need to be responsible to find out who is currently in a position of authority over you, which ones are up for election, and how to vote. I can only do so much in collecting and sharing information.

One thing I need to fix is that last month I shared a link "stateandlocalgov.net" the correct link is statelocalgov.net

bellow is a little briefing from thegreenpapers.com

Governors

<u>Republican</u>	<u>29</u>
<u>Democratic</u>	<u>21</u>
Total	<u>50</u>

113th Senate

<u>Democratic</u>	<u>53</u>
<u>Republican</u>	<u>45</u>
<u>Independent</u>	<u>2</u>
Total	<u>100</u>

113th House

<u>Republican</u>	<u>233</u>
<u>Democratic</u>	<u>199</u>
(vacant offices)	<u>3</u>
Total	<u>435</u>

Press Release

For Immediate Release

Monday, May 5, 2014

Tech companies, diverse organizations, thousands of individuals announce plan to 'Reset the Net' on anniversary of first Snowden surveillance story

Popular companies and sites including reddit, imgur, DuckDuckGo, CREDO Mobile, and BoingBoing stand with diverse coalition of organizations, plan to announce security improvements while thousands of Internet users oppose mass surveillance by adopting encryption technology

<https://www.resetthenet.org/>
<https://www.resetthenet.org/> Today, a coalition of thousands of Internet users, companies and organizations launched a campaign for a day of action to "Reset The Net" on June 5, 2014, the anniversary of the first NSA surveillance story revealed by whistleblower Edward Snowden. Tens of thousands of internet activists, companies and organizations committed to preserving free speech and basic rights on the Internet by taking steps to shutting off the government's mass surveillance capabilities.

Watch the campaign video and see a full list of participants here: <http://ResetTheNet.org>

More than 20 organizations and companies support the launch of the campaign, including Fight For The Future (who initiated the campaign) along with reddit, CREDO Mobile, Imgur, Greenpeace, Libertarian Party, FireDogLake, Thunderclap, DuckDuckGo, Disconnect.Me, Demand Progress, Access, Free Press, Restore the Fourth, AIDS Policy Project, PolitiHacks, OpenMedia, Free Software Foundation, Bill of Rights Defense Committee, Code Pink, Popular Resistance, Participatory Politics Foundation, BoingBoing, Public Knowledge, Amicus, New America Foundation's Open Technology Institute, Progressive Change Campaign Committee, Student Net Alliance, and the Center for Democracy and Technology.

Organizations and companies across the technology industry and political spectrum oppose the bulk collection of data on all internet users. Reset The Net is a day of action to secure and encrypt the web to shut out the government's mass surveillance capabilities.

The Reset The Net website details the coalition of companies and organizations which are participating, either by improving their own security for users or promoting privacy tools to their members. Internet users are invited to join in on the day of Reset The Net to install privacy and encryption tools and secure their personal digital footprint against intrusive surveillance.

Below are statements by representatives of several organizations participating in Reset The Net.

For a complete list, go to <https://www.resetthenet.org/>

To schedule an interview with an organizer from one of these groups, contact:

Tiffiniy Cheng or Evan Greer, Fight for the Future

Phone: 978-852-6457, 413-367-6255

Email: press@fightforthefuture.org

"Freedom to be yourself is everything. No government can take that away from us, so we're going to use the power we have to take it back," said **Tiffiniy Cheng, co-founder of Fight for the Future**, "Now that we know how mass surveillance works, we know how to stop it. That's why people all over the world are going to work together to use encryption everywhere and make it too hard for any government to conduct mass surveillance. There are moments in history where people and organizations must

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★ PRIME SPONSOR OF THE PAIN-CAPABLE UNBORN CHILD PROTECTION ACT

★ ARCHITECT OF THE UNBORN VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE ACT

★ FOR SPONSORING LEGISLATION THAT SAYS THAT MURDER IS ONLY UNLAWFUL IF IT IS PAINFUL.

★ FOR CREATING LEGISLATION THAT EXPLICITLY STATES THAT IT IS WRONG TO KILL A WANTED BABY BUT OKAY TO ABORT AN UNWANTED BABY.

www.nrlc.org www.abolishhumanabortion.com

choose whether to stand on the side of freedom or tyranny. On June 5th, the Internet will show which side it's on."

"We can take back control of our personal and private data one website, one device, one Internet user at a time," said **Erik Martin, General Manager of reddit**, "We're proud to stand up for our users' rights and help Reset the Net."

"A year after Snowden's shocking revelations, the NSA is still spying on innocent Americans without a warrant," said **Michael Kieschnick, CEO of CREDO Mobile**. "CREDO will continue to demand Congress and the president take action to stop unconstitutional mass warrantless surveillance, and until we win real reform, we will encourage users to adopt encryption tools to protect their personal communications from government abuse of the 1st and 4th amendment."

"A year ago, the world awakened to the reality that the freedom, openness, and security of the internet is gravely at risk. In the wake of mass spying revelations, it is becoming ever more clear that robust encryption practices must be used by all internet platforms in order to protect the privacy of internet users," said **Amie Stepanovich, Senior Policy Counsel at Access**. "Access has launched the [Data Security Action Plan](#), which outlines actionable steps that can be taken to protect against unauthorized surveillance - we hope that companies will use the Action Plan as a guide as they look for ways to help Reset the Net."

"As the NSA and other intelligence authorities continue to undermine the basic security of the Internet ecosystem, it's become clear that we need to build new legal and technical firewalls against overreaching government surveillance," said **Kevin Bankston, Policy Director of New America Foundation's Open Technology Institute**. "The Open Technology Institute is excited to support Reset the Net and highlight the need for all of us--both individual internet users and the companies that serve them--to take full advantage of encryption and other security tools that can help protect our private data against snoops, spies, criminals and creeps."

"The Libertarian Party enthusiastically joins Reset the Net," said **Carla Howell, Political Director for the Libertarian National Committee**. "Over thirty Libertarian candidates running for federal office this year have pledged to shut down the NSA and invite Edward Snowden to return home a free man. He should be granted an immediate presidential pardon, awarded the American Medal of Freedom, and applauded for blowing the whistle on the NSA's abuse of the Constitution."

Joe Hall of Center for Democracy and Technology said, "Legal and architectural changes to push back against mass surveillance happen very slowly, but all of us with a computer, an app, or a website can take matters in our own hands now and Reset the Net from the bottom up."

Steve Anderson, Executive Director of OpenMedia.org, said: "At the end of the day, we're going to have to create accountability for governments that are spying on their citizens. And it's sad that people feel they need to route around what their government is doing - this shows just how far governments have grown out of touch with their citizens. It's so important that people speak out in any way they can about surveillance, and using encryption technologies is one way to do that."

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[Fight for the Future](#) works to excite the Internet to fight for the public good, our basic rights and freedoms. Founded in 2011, we're known for effective, viral organizing and mass engagement through the distributed organizing platforms we've built, including

the SOPA protests in the winter of 2011-2012 and the [Internet Defense League](#). For more information, visit www.fightforthefuture.org or our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages.

"Domestic Violence" by Sis. Terrie Lewis

First published as a blog post on Saturday, January 18, 2014 at

Today I am going to attempt to write about domestic violence. I was a victim of it. My first husband was a wife-beater. We were married nearly six years and I abandoned him, the house we had bought together, went home to my Mom, and started my life over. We had no children. I had two pair of slacks and two tops and 2 pair of underwear that I packed to leave him and what I was wearing. I had to buy clothes at yard sales with money my mother loaned to me and wash them in the bathtub until I found a job. We divorced and I remarried, but this is not about me.

What I am writing about happened to a child we knew. Her name was Tammy. It happened to her when she was an adult. When she was young, she and her two brothers came to the church I attended. Our pastor and his wife or another man picked them up and brought them to the church building and took them back home. Often we had fellowship with the people that came to church at my house or the pastor's. I got to know the children and once Tammy stayed overnight with my daughter.

Recently in the local news. I heard Tammy's name and wondered if it was the same young woman that I knew when she was a child. I had seen her mother's obituary in the newspaper and it said that the mother was preceded in death by her daughter. I wondered why Tammy had died so young.

What I am about to write is from various accounts about her murder. I am writing to warn any one that is experiencing domestic violence to please get away from from your abuser. Find a safe place to go to and leave. Do not think that things will change or get better. I have thought about this since it was in the news recently and maybe my writing about it will save someone from coming to the same end as Tammy's.

I never saw Tammy's obituary and I didn't know anything about her death. I saw that she had died when I read her mother's obituary. Tammy was the mother of two boys, twins. What follows was such a tragedy. Please, if you are in an abusive relationship, take this to heart and get away from your abuser.

Tammy was in a relationship with her killer and lived with him. He murdered her. She was found dead in her home and it wasn't known how she died. She had issued a protective order against her abuser after an incident. He was scheduled to go to a hearing for violating that order. She was found dead less than a month after the order was issued. Tragically, it wasn't served to this man until nearly two months after her body was found. The protective order is what eventually would be used to lead police to Tammy's murderer.

What proceeds in my writing is gruesome. I feel it is necessary to bring home to one that is being abused, that violence can quickly escalate to murder. Tammy's oldest brother said that she had asked him if she could move in with him and he had told that her she could. He never heard from her again.

Tammy's landlord received notice that there was a foul odor. He never went upstairs nor did he check the whole house. (One of the strange things that happened.) Neighbors complained of the odor after they moved in to this duplex home two weeks later. That is when Tammy's

body was discovered, badly decomposed. It was impossible to determine how she died. It was ruled as a suspicious death. The man was a person of interest, but never questioned.

The second victim, also murdered by the same man. WARNING: Graphic!

The second woman did not report to work and hadn't been seen for four days. Her dogs were left behind unattended and she was nowhere to be found. Police met with the family at the woman's residence and found bloody footprints on the front porch going from the residence. They obtained a warrant and searched the house. They found a rug that had been cleaned and was still wet. A large stain under the rug was tested and it showed the presence of blood. The blood evidence that was found matched that of the missing woman.

Neighbors said that they heard this woman yelling for help and saw this man, now her live-in boyfriend three years after he killed Tammy, through a front window kicking or stomping something. Blood was found on shoes in the man's truck that matched the footprints of blood on the porch. The location of the woman was unknown. He was charged with first-degree murder. In a plea agreement, he confessed to killing his second victim and led police to her body almost three months after her disappearance, which he had buried out of state. He confessed that he had strangled Tammy with an electrical cord. It took almost 4 years from Tammy's death for his conviction. Because the bodies of these two women were so badly decomposed, they did not have enough evidence to charge the man in Tammy's death. He pled guilty to second-degree murder in the death of the second woman and got thirty years.

Lastly, if you know of someone that is being abused, listen to them and never underestimate the danger they may be in. I have a sticker in my Bible that Tammy stuck on one of the plain pages in the back of it.

Isaiah 26:21 *"For, behold, the LORD cometh out of his place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity: the earth also shall disclose her blood, and shall no more cover her slain."* I cherish this verse for those that have a loved one that died while they were missing or was never found. God knows where they are.

Genesis 4:10 *"And he said, What hast thou done? the voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground"*. What God said about Abel's blood after Cain killed him.

Note from editor:

Getting help: Domestic Abuse Helpline for Men and Women's Crisis & Information Helpline 24/7 1-888-743-5754, website <http://www.dahmw.org/>

Also The National Domestic Violence hotline 1-800-799-7233 or 1-800-787-3224 (TTY) and their website <http://www.thehotline.org/>



We'd like to ask for prayer for the family of Sis. Michelle Jackson in Australia. Sis. Michelle was going to be featured in our Point Of View column this month but her baby has been seriously ill. We're thankful for God's grace and healing thus far, and pray for His continued mercy & grace.

"Running" by Sis. Wendy Bryant



1 Cor. 9:24 *"Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it."*

Only one time have I "won" a real prize for finishing first. I say, "won" because some races give out finisher's medals for all runners; I have a few of those!!! But, anyway, it was in my age group (there was more than 3 runners in my age group!). It was only 2 miles and when I finished I thought I was going to be sick because I ran so hard. I am very thankful for that prize.

I've never been a runner and wasn't really into this running business. One day my husband said, "we're fat and we have to do something" so we did. We tried the Insanity program and we hated it. So we started the Couch 2-5K. While we were in "training" I really thought once that program was over I'd never run again. That was over 2 years ago.

Our first 5k was the Saturday after I turned 39, I will turn 42 in September! There are weeks that we run 3 times a week and do so well. There are weeks we barely get one run in for the week. This past March we ran our first half marathon - that's 13.1 miles. Did I say 13.1 miles cause it feels like a lot more because every week we ran 2 days at 3 miles each, then one other day we run a mile longer until one day a week we ended up running those 13.1 miles before the actual race. There is so much preparation to getting to those 13.1 miles.

How can I compare this to the Christian race? We all start out at that beginning - Couch 2 -5k aka: new Christian and if you keep on going your going to get to that 13.1. If you're real adventurous you will even get to that FULL marathon 26.2 miles. There are some runners who will never get to that 13.1. Just like some Christians will just sit in church and that's what they do. Some will work harder and put more effort into their Christian walk - thus they will get to that 13.1 race. We may not get that placers medal but we all will get a finishers medal. Everyone has his or her own race to run. The more work you put into running the more you get out of it. The more you put into your Christian walk the more you will get out of it.

While I have been running all these miles, I joined the WellBama program at work. They had a 5K run and my husband and I wanted to run it. Somehow I heard about the WellBama Ambassador program. The more I've run the more I wanted to get others to run or at least be more

active. I know I feel much better; or at least I do the weeks I put more effort into exercising. The University I work for is trying to get more of their employees involved, that's where the WellBama program started.

To get the word out the WellBama Ambassador program started. They needed more people helping to get the word out about the programs that the University offers. I had to ask my supervisor to recommend me. She agreed cause I had been running and she knew I had lost some weight and was feeling better. (I don't eat as well as I should, still working on that). It's a two-year term!! (Not political terms, it's all fun!!) I'm enjoying my little stint as an ambassador. I hope when someone says, "how did you run a half marathon" and I say "lots of prayer and lots of hard work" I can in some way point them to Christ. If you think you can't run, try the Couch 2-5K program and finish it. It will change you.



(Sis. Wendy finishing her first half marathon with her husband, Bro. Todd Bryant.)

"Don't Give Up" by Sis. Courtney Huffman

2 Corinthians 4:8-10 says, "We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body." And then verses 16-18, "For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal."

There are so many things that press on us today. We have so many struggles, and so many trials. Temptations are all around us. We are getting a taste of the persecutions faced in the past, and those that will come in the future. And...we give up too easily.

We get so run down by the troubles and trials of this life, and we forget that, no matter what is happening in our lives, we still have hope in the Lord! He has promised to strengthen us, and to be with us, who are His children! He has promised it!

~1 Corinthians 10:13~ "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is

common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it."

~2 Corinthians 12:9-10~ "And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me."

God has promised to stand with His children. He has promised that we will not be tempted above what we are able to handle through Him. He has promised to sustain us. And because of these things, we can rejoice in all our sufferings!

~John 16:33~ "These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."

~1 Corinthians 15:54-58~ "So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."

We have great hope in Jesus, our Lord and Savior! No matter what we may be going through, no matter what trials we face, He has overcome the world, and everything in it. There is nothing for us to fear, and we have rest in His awesome and able hands.

~2 Timothy 4:5-8~ "But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry. For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing."

Can we really say, as Paul did, that we have fought a good fight, finished our course, and kept the faith?

~Romans 8:37-39~ "Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

How much of a battle have you waged against the flesh? We may never win against our personal struggles in this life, but we must never give in to them. Keep fighting this war until King Jesus returns for us. He has overcome this world, and all the trials and temptations, struggles and hurts. And so can we, through Him. As it says in Philipppians 4:13, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

One of my favorite verses is Isaiah 41:10 "Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness."

The Forum: "Deborah & Anna"

Question: "What does the scriptures mean by "judge" & "prophetess" in describing Deborah in Judges 4:4, and "prophetess" referring to Anna in Luke 2:36? How does the accounts of these two women fit into headship ordained by God? What should godly women today learn from these two examples?"

Bro. Hansel Villasor (Pastor Providence Baptist Church San Carlos City, San Carlos, Philippines): The Bible is very clear that every woman should not have to usurp the authority of the man. "But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence." 1 Timothy 2:12. Here Paul is instructing to Timothy that the church should not have to permit women to sit the offices of the Lord's Church. It is very evident here that in the church (mixed assembly) women is not permitted speak or rule. Thus, we do not believe that a church should have to ordain a woman to be a pastor or a deacon.

But how can we reconcile these New Testament Church practice to the case of Deborah and Anna? It is noteworthy that their position is not a position of religious authority; the priests and Levites were the preachers and worship leaders during that time. The use of Deborah and Anna show that God could use a woman for His plans to fulfill as long as it is outside of religious authority. A vivid example is that He uses Mary for Jesus Christ be born on earth and some others. This shows how Sovereign our God is and nothing can question His ways.

John Calvin commented in I Timothy 2:12 that Paul is not taking from women their duty to instruct their family, but is only excluding them from the office of teaching (which God has committed exclusively to men. This is a subject we have already gone into in relation to I Corinthians. If anyone challenges this ruling by citing the case of Deborah and other women of whom we are told that God at one time appointed them to govern the people, the obvious answer is that God's extraordinary acts do not annul the ordinary rules by which He wishes us to be bound. Thus, if at some time women held the office of prophets and teachers and were led to do so by God's Spirit, He who is above all law might do this, but being an extraordinary case, it does not conflict with the constant and accustomed rule."

To sum it up, it is very clear that godly women could be used by God in many ways for the growth of the church. It is not necessarily that women should be a pastor or a deaconess so she can served God to the fullest. God can use women in a different way as he is pleased to do. "But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him." 1 Corinthians 12:18.

Bro. Todd Bryant (Pastor Sovereign Grace Baptist church Northport, Alabama): Let's take this question in reverse... These women are most definitely godly examples for women today. They were faithful to God and His Word. All women (all Christians, for that matter) ought to see them as an example.

"Judge" doesn't mean what we think today. It means more of a leader. It can mean more of a military leader. Certainly, Deborah was both of these. As for prophetess, Deborah and Anna were used by God to instruct people in His Word. This was not done as a priest. This was done outside the "worship service" (if you can call OT worship such). Women are not in any way second class Christians. Certainly, the Bible limits leadership positions to men. However, outside these restrictions, women can serve God as well as men today...often better. I've known women that were considerably more knowledgeable than their husbands. This was obviously due to diligent Bible study.

"There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus" - Galatians 3:28

Lady's Forum

Seeing as our focus this month is on godly womanhood I wanted to speak on this subject with some godly women I respect and trust, to discuss some questions and challenges in a manor similar to the Forum.

1. How much has society changed their views on women in your life and in what ways, has any of the changes been good?

Sis. Nathalie Bannier (member of Liberty Missionary Baptist Church Burton, MI- lives in Windsor, Canada):

Today's society promotes tolerance of all opinions and beliefs. Unfortunately, in contradiction to what they claim, they usually only tolerate views contradictory to God's teachings and the Bible. They promote feminism, independence, professional life before family and even more God....

I don't think it is good and it is definitely not pleasant to the Lord. I believe that we would all benefit by women returning to their family (staying at home and taking care of their children...) and especially by women putting God first in all and submitting to Him and their husbands.

Deu 6:5 "And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might."

Eph 5:22-24 "Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing."

and Proverbs 31

Sis. Janet Channell (member of Faith Baptist Church, Concord, MI): I was born in 1948 at the end of World War II. Women had left the home to work in the factories to help make war supplies while our men were away fighting for our country. As our men returned home and returned to the factories the women weren't needed there anymore and were asked to go back to their former places in the homes taking care of their men and their families. Most did this willingly but the die had been cast and women had been let out and allowed a taste of independence from the home. A chance to make money on their own without their husbands overshadowing them. Now in our day and time a woman who prefers to stay at home and be "JUST" a housewife and mother is looked down upon as one who doesn't want to achieve much in this world. She has no ambition. That is what the world says.

Our Lord, however, tells us in I Timothy 5: 14, "I will therefore that the young women marry, bear children, guide the house, give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully. " and Deuteronomy 6:7, "And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine thine house, and when, thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up." In just these two verses we see that a woman must be in the home in order to fulfill what the Lord would have us as women to do. God is not in time. Just because this is suppose to be the modern generation and new age doesn't mean anything to our Lord God. Yes, the world has changed - for the worse and the women who proclaim their freedoms as they leave the homes and take their places in the mans world are in essence turning their backs on all things feminine and that is so very sad indeed.

Sis. Ruthie McLellan (member of Grace Bible Baptist Church in Denham Spring, LA - lives in Poteau, OK and attending GBBC's mission work): I come from an ethnically diverse background; American Indian and non-Indian. Your 1st question takes me back to a time when I was a young girl. We lived near my Choctaw Indian grandmother and her mother, so I witnessed lots of respect given to women. In most Native cultures women are respected, especially older ones, being from a people who believe advanced age a positive thing. In my lifetime our family had its first university graduate. It was a female. My generation had hope, real hope, of bettering whatever circumstances we were brought up in. Even the girls. My Grandmother's mother could not read or write. Her daughter and granddaughter and great granddaughters learned to though. So, true education is a plus in this way. However, outside the safe confines of our family's world, I saw women mistreated, disrespected, and used. Today, I see women in a bad place. Many broken homes, sole support, working outside the home then coming home to another 8 hours, trying to keep things together ... and I think we've gone overboard with society's idea of a woman "having it all." I am a concerned Granny now, with my own granddaughter. I see the lack of morality in the world and it causes me to hope the good Lord will return before she must face such a hedonistic society on a daily basis.

Sis. Mariza Villazor (member of Providence Baptist Church San Carlos City, San Carlos, Philippines): In the Philippines, before the women are trained to do the household chores, they do not go out a lot., most were not permitted/allowed to go to school or to get a high degree or career . But as the years went by, especially today, women are competing against men. They are now working for the family, some works of men are done by women. Mostly women today, were looking for means to support the family. In financial aspect it is good hence, they are helping to provide the needs of the family.

2. *When does a girl leave the authority of her father; when she's legally an adult, when she moves out, or only when she marries? Are there any extenuating circumstances?*

Sis. Nathalie Bannier: I believe that a woman lives the authority of her Father when she marries and then she submits to the authority of her husband. The only exception would be a Father that is not saved and would ask her to act in contradiction to God's Word.

Col 3:20 *"Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord."*

Eph 6:1 *"Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right."*

Sis. Janet Channell: Now to show scripture to support my stand here will not really be possible in the fullest extent of the word. We do have examples such as Laban and his daughters Leah and Rachel and how they lived with their father for seven years before their marriages to Jacob. There are similar examples throughout the old testament. Even in our wedding ceremonies today the father walks the daughter down the aisle and the minister asks who gives this bride and the father says that he and the mother do. Figuratively putting her from one protective arm to the next. The female is to be under subjection to the male.

A daughter is to be under subjection to her father until she marries and than she is to be under subjection to her husband. I believe she should remain under her fathers roof and protection until she does marry. I know that is not popular even among our own Christian ranks today but I believe that is the way our Lord would have us live.

Extenuating circumstances- There may always be those and I believe our Lord will provide all they stand in need of My daughter is a widow and after her husband died she took courses and became an R.N. She lives on her own about six miles from us. She is not in the Church and it would not be compatible for us to live together.

Sis. Mariza Villazor: Based in our culture, a girl will leave the authority of her father when she marries. (Gen 2:24) "Therefore shall a man leave his father and her mother, and shall cleave unto his wife , and they shall be one flesh"

3. *In a country with elections should women vote or run for any offices?*

Sis. Nathalie Bannier: I believe women should vote, but not run for any office in order not to usurp authority over men.

1Ti 2:12 *"But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence."*

Sis. Janet Channell: This is a very interesting question. I have always voted and felt it was my duty to do so but I suppose when you think about it one does usurp authority over another when you do vote don't you. As for running for office. In doing so you would defiantly be usurping authority over men. Taking the headship in any way in a worldly setting is not right.

Sis. Mariza Villazor: In a country with election, women can vote but are prohibited to run in any office.(1Tim. 2:12) " But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence.

4. *The news media likes to say what issues matters to women, but as godly women what issues should matter to us and what ought we to be doing to be the difference where God has placed us?*

Sis. Nathalie Bannier: The only thing that should matter to women is to live a life more and more conformed to God's will, to always put God first and then their family and church. They should be servants in local assemblies and at home.

Eph 5:22-24 *"Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing."* [also] Proverbs 31

Sis. Janet Channell: If we listen to the media we should believe that it is all right to live together out of wed-lock, have abortions and celebrate homosexuality. Our clothing would be scandalous and our life styles would be the opposite of that which is stated in the Bible. We should live our lives in the manner becoming godly examples of separated lives for Christ. In doing so we will stand out and be testimonies of what God would have us all to be. The Lord's return is very near and we will be very peculiar people indeed when He comes back. We will likely be persecuted for our stand and defiantly ridiculed. But we can all stand together- love one another. We are sisters in our Lord.

Sis. Mariza Villazor: The issue that matters for me is the movement made to legalized Abortion, and I am 100% against it. Abortion is a form of infanticide. The Bible tells us that a fetus has life. (Luke 1:39:44) (Jeremiah 1:4-5). From these verses, it is clear that life begins at the instant of conception. Thus, abortion is a murder and against the law of God. (Exodus 20:13) As a godly women, we should not support any laws to legalized abortion.

“Jochebed, The Mother Who Acted in Faith”

by Bro. Cecil Fayard

Hebrews 11:23-27 *“By faith Moses, when he was born, was hid three months of his parents, because they saw he was a proper child; and they were not afraid of the king's commandment. By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward. By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible.”*

INTRO: As we see in the Word of God, Jochebed was a mother in difficult and troublous times (Ex 1:22-2:3). The mother of Moses acted in faith. She trusted God to take care of her baby (Ex 2:3). Mother, are you trusting God to take care of your son, or your daughter?

Mom, you too are in troublous times. Drugs, sex, alcohol, perversion, etc. face our children. In times like these, we need mothers with faith in Almighty Jehovah God. We need mothers who will act in faith, not in trends or fashions of the world.

I. HEBREWS 11:23, JOCHEBED WAS A COURAGEOUS MOTHER

A. She did not live in fear; she lived in faith.

1. She chose to serve the Lord.
 - a) Who will you serve?
 - b) Can you say with Joshua: "...as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."
2. It takes courage to stand for God when the world is against Him.

B. Jochebed, by faith, proves that God is bigger than your problems, bigger than your situation, bigger than your circumstances.

1. Mark 9:23, "...If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth."
2. Jochebed believed; she had a plan set in the wisdom of God (Ex 2:4-8).
 - a) No one can take the place of mother.
 - b) Every child needs a mother of faith, a faithful mother.

II. JOCHEBED SAW THE POSSIBILITIES

A. Moses' mother had faith in what God could do for and through her son.

1. Exodus 2:2 says: "...she saw him, that he was a goodly child."
 - a) He was pleasant.
 - b) He had good understanding.
 - c) There was moral good seen in him.
 - d) She saw that he would be of benefit to others.
2. Acts 7:20 says that he "was exceeding fair." Then in Hebrews 11:23, Jochebed saw that he was a "goodly child."
 - a) He was a pretty baby.
 - b) In love, she saw the future.

B. Her reactions were those of a mother.

1. She loved him as he was.
2. She expected him to survive and succeed.
3. The Bible tells us that children are to be a blessing not a bother.
4. Children are the heritage of the Lord; they are His gifts (Psa 127:3).
 - a) Trust God; let Him build your home (Psa 122:1).
 - b) We need old fashioned Bible believing, Bible reading, Bible obeying moms.
 - c) Build upon the Rock, not the sand!

III. JOCHEBED'S ACTIONS INSTILLED COURAGE

A. Moses was a man of courage, a man who stood for right because his mother acted in courage and stood for right.

1. Jochebed's courage (Heb 11:23).
2. Moses' courage (Heb 11:27).

B. Moses learned from his mother that there are times when, "we ought to obey God rather than man" (Acts 5:29).

IV. JOCHEBED'S FAITH AFFECTED MOSES

A. Jochebed, by faith, hid Moses for three months (Heb 11:23).

1. Her plan allowed her to nurse and teach Moses (Ex 2:7-10).
2. Jochebed taught him about her Lord and His people.

B. Moses, by faith, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter.

1. His mother's teaching helped him to be a man of faith (Rom 10:17, "So, then, faith cometh by hearing.....").
2. Moses choose to serve God and help the Lord's people, his people (Heb 11:24).

C. Ladies, you have a mission! A mission to teach your children of faith, to instill principles and precepts of God's word.

1. "Train up a child...." (Prov 22:6).
2. Deut. 6:6-9.

V. JOCHEBED'S FAITH HELPED MOSES SEE THAT LIFE IS MORE THAN FAME AND RICHES

A. Heb 11:25, Moses saw fleeting and temporary sin is.

B. He choose to love and suffer with God's people.

C. Heb 11:26, He saw that eternal riches are in the Lord.

1. Mother, what are you teaching your children about eternal riches?
2. The Bible tells us that we "cannot serve God and mammon" (Mt 6:24).

D. Moses forsook Egypt by faith (Heb 11:27).

1. He did not fear the king.
2. By faith, he saw and trusted God (Heb 11:1).

E. Heb 11:28 tells us that Moses believed what God said about the blood.

1. The blood saved the firstborn.
2. The blood will save you. "For even Christ our Passover is

sacrificed for us" (I Cor 5:7).

CONCLUSION: "Jocbed had the joy of seeing her son grow up to be a good and great man. That, mothers, is the reward for all your trials when children rise up and call you blessed, and when the world also blesses you for giving it such children" (Linton, Seward 127).

1. We need mothers who will not tire, who will not give up, who will not quit teaching the Word of god to their children.
2. Will you be a Bible mom of faith?

Historical Marker :
"Studies in Esther Part 3"
by Bro. Jeff Short

INTRODUCTION In the verses previous to those of our present text, the extravagance and indulgence of Ahasuerus is manifested. His excessive feasting speaks much about his true character. Just as we might find glimpses of our own true character if we examine the areas of excess and indulgence in our life. In the verses now before us, we shall see the consummation of the grand feasts.

"On the seventh day, when the heart of the king was merry with wine, he commanded Mehuman, Biztha, Harbona, Bigtha, and Abagtha, Zethar, and Carcas, the seven chamberlains that served in the presence of Ahasuerus the king, To bring Vashti the queen before the king with the crown royal, to shew the people and the princes her beauty: for she was fair to look on."

[\(Esther 1:10-11\)](#)

This takes place on the seventh day, the last day of the feasting. This was a time when the drunkenness was at its height. I imagine as the time wore on, all of the peoples' inhibitions were lost and they became more liberal in partaking of food, drink and partying.

On this last day, Ahasuerus sends for the queen. The record does not say why he was calling her. He had been showing all his glory and the greatness of his kingdom and apparently, his wife, the queen, was one that he prized greatly because of her physical beauty. He felt she was his prized possession and cherished trophy. Since he had been displaying everything else in his kingdom, he was going to display her also. He sends for her and makes it something of a procession. He sends all the chamberlains after her to bring her. He seems to be making a parade, continuing with the pomp and circumstance that marked these feasts. He wanted her decked out in royal apparel and the crown on her head. We recall here that the feasting was done in separate places. One was for the men and one for the women. He sends for her to come into the place where the men have been feasting and partying.

"But the queen Vashti refused to come at the king's commandment by his chamberlains: therefore was the king very wroth, and his anger burned in him"

[\(Esther 1:12\)](#)

Vashti flatly refuses the king's command. It does not seem that she sends back a message and tries to be excused from doing this or even tries to negotiate. She says, "No!" Josephus reported that the king kept on sending to Vashti for to come. We can only speculate on the different reasons why she did not want to comply with the king's request. Was this something common with her? Would she ordinarily refuse the king's wishes? It seems that it was a little unusual for her to refuse the king's command, even though the king's command at this time was definitely unreasonable and distasteful.

Many women would applaud Vashti for making this choice and standing up for her "rights." She was not going to come to be put on display and made a show of for her husband and his friends. Most would say that it

was an awful thing for the king to ask, and I certainly agree it was. However, those that would applaud are not likely applauding her virtue or modesty as much as her descent from her husband's authority. Ironically, many who congratulate her virtue have no problem displaying their own bodies in sinful ways. Many love to keep up with the modern fashions, as if a consensus is all that is needed to deviate from Scripture. Most of today's clothing and fashion is designed to show off the body and to accentuate certain areas. In keeping with modern fashion, many women are guilty of doing what the queen was here refusing to do.

God, in His Word says, **"In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works"** ([1 Timothy 2:9-10](#)). For women to adorn themselves with good works seems to be the thrust of what the Apostle Paul is here saying. Shamefacedness is something that we do not see a lot of in the world today. As time goes on, people are wearing less and less in public places. The question is, What are we trying to accomplish with the things we are wearing and the way we are conducting ourselves? Are we displaying or making an advertisement of ourselves, or do we want to dress as to exude holiness? Vashti here at least refused to come and display herself. We oftentimes want for such modesty today.

The record indicates that Ahasuerus was not so pleased with her modesty. **"Therefore was the king very wroth, and his anger burned in him."** He was upset that she would refuse to do this thing. This strong statement signifies that he was full of wrath and hot headed. He was not merely annoyed or irritated. **"His anger burned in him."** We could not expect less than that one so ruled by his passions would react passionately to any challenge or descent from his commands.

"Then the king said to the wise men, which knew the times, (for so was the king's manner toward all that knew law and judgment: And the next unto him was Carshena, Shethar, Admatha, Tarshish, Meres, Marsena, and Memucan, the seven princes of Persia and Media, which saw the king's face and which sat the first in the kingdom;). What shall we do unto the queen Vashti according to law, because she hath not performed the commandment of the king Ahasuerus by the chamberlains?"

[\(Esther 1:13-15\)](#)

The king now turns to his counselors for advice. His heart was before merry with wine, but now he is enraged that the queen did not honor his command. However, instead of just doing something off the cuff, he seeks counsel from his counselors. He spoke **"to the wise men"** who were some of the Magi that **"knew the times."** He seems to possess some wisdom in this, for when a man is in a fit of temper, he least likely to seek or even accept wise counsel.

He also shows wisdom in making his appeal to the law. When he questioned the wise men he asked, **"What shall we do unto the queen Vashti according to law, because she hath not performed the commandment of the king Ahasuerus by the chamberlains?"** As an absolute monarch, it was within his power to do whatever he wanted to do; however, he stops and seeks counsel from his wise men about the legal course.

It is a sign of woe to any nation when they are ruled by the whim, fancy, mood and temper of their absolute monarch. If you are governed by fixed laws, even if those laws are not good, you at least know what to expect and what is expected of you. However, if you are governed by the caprice of some man that could be in any mood, life can be miserable. We see this style of government in many different countries of the world.

We also encounter this flaw in businessmen. Sometimes the top man will run the business according to his mood or temper not necessarily according to a fixed standard. His employees do not know from one day

to the next how they will find him. He will make promises to reward them if the company does well. Unfortunately, the success that is spoken of is undefined and rests on his opinion at any given time. Usually in this system, the employees never see the promised reward because it is based more on the mood of the employer than the performance of the company. This sort of uncertainty makes for a miserable work experience. Sometimes fathers are guilty of this unstable rule in their own homes among their families. They will deal with their families according to their mood or temper. If Dad has a bad day at work, he comes home in a fit and the family walks around anxiously trying to avoid him. These fathers at times deal harshly with their wife and children. This is contrary to the Scripture admonition, **“Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged”** ([Colossians 3:21](#)). These fathers are not governing by a fixed standard and it makes for a miserable home life.

Ahasuerus was at least deferring to a fixed standard, though it was the corrupt laws of mortal man. You might ask, “What is the fixed standard by which we ought to be governing our homes and ourselves?” Our fixed standard is the Word of God. If we would meditate in this word **“day and night,”** it would impart wisdom to us. **“Have not I written to thee excellent things in counsels and knowledge, That I might make thee know the certainty of the words of truth; that thou mightest answer the words of truth to them that send unto thee?”** ([Proverbs 22:20-21](#)). Here is our certainty and our unchanging standard. God’s laws have never needed revision, nor has any change ever attended Jehovah’s will. Man’s laws are fickle and quickly pass out of relevance. However, God’s Word is an unchanging standard to which we must resort. I wish that we would be as devoted to God’s law as Ahasuerus was to the laws of the Persian kingdom.

“And Memucan answered before the king and the princes, Vashti the queen hath not done wrong to the king only, but also to all the princes, and to all the people that are in all the provinces of the king Ahasuerus. For this deed of the queen shall come abroad unto all women, so that they shall despise their husbands in their eyes, when it shall be reported, The king Ahasuerus commanded Vashti the queen to be brought in before him, but she came not. Likewise shall the ladies of Persia and Media say this day unto all the king’s princes, which have heard of the deed of the queen. Thus shall there arise too much contempt and wrath”
([Esther 1:16-18](#))

Now Memucan speaks up and reasons with the king. He puts the whole situation in perspective for the king. He says it is not only a wrong to the king, **“but also to all the princes, and all the people that in all the provinces of the king Ahasuerus.”** He is saying, “If you let this go, it is going to grow to proportions where all of the women of the kingdom are going to dishonor their husbands and refuse to be in subjection.” There is some truth to his reasoning, not that all the women would become rebellious but in the fact that this is the queen and her actions would influence others. She is the highest-ranking woman in all of the one hundred twenty-seven provinces of the Persian kingdom. She cannot act in isolation. Her acts will be seen and imitated.

The old saying is, “A great man cannot commit a small sin.” Many times our actions are somewhat relative to the position that we hold. The queen cannot act just any way she wants and think that she is not affecting others. However, this is what is taught in our society today. We are taught for everyone to do what feels good or is right for them, but we are to be governed by the fixed standard of God’s Word and must also realize that we do have an affect on others.

People will watch you. If you claim to be a Baptist, you are a little peculiar. If you claim to be a Sovereign Grace, Landmark Baptist, you are very peculiar. When you make those kinds of claims, the world will expect something from you. Paul touched on this in his epistles to the Corinthians. He said, **“For though I be free from all men, yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more”** ([1](#)

[Corinthians 9:19](#)). He said, **“I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some”** ([1 Corinthians 9:22](#)). Paul lived to a higher standard denying himself some things that were lawful but **“not expedient.”** He did not want to allow any occasion to bring reproach upon Christ.

Memucan is saying that the queen must be a model wife and mother. She is in a high position where many women are looking up to her and she must be exemplary. He feels that the queen’s present actions are going to cause a great chaos.

“If it please the king, let there go a royal commandment from him, and let it be written among the laws of the Persians and the Medes, that it be not altered, That Vashti come no more before king Ahasuerus; and let the king give her royal estate unto another that is better than she. And when the king’s decree which he shall make shall be published throughout all his empire (for it is great,) all the wives shall give to their husbands honour, both to great and small”
([Esther 1:19-20](#))

He puts everything in perspective for the king. He proposed that the king divorce the queen, put her out of her royal estate and give it to another. He suggests that one be sought that is better than Vashti. They need a queen that is going to live up and honor the position that she has and will not bring reproach to the king or to the others of the kingdom. He is taking a risk in offering this advice. This seems an extreme measure to take. The king’s first request was unreasonable. Vashti was unreasonable in refusing his command. Now, Memucan is further being unreasonable in taking things to this extreme extent. He is taking a risk by suggesting to the king that he divorce and expel the wife for which he has much affection.

“And the saying pleased the king and the princes; and the king did according to the word of Memucan: For he sent letters into all the king’s provinces, into every province according to the writing thereof, and to every people after their language, that every man should bear rule in his own house, and that it should be published according to the language of every people”
([Esther 1:21-22](#))

The king found some satisfaction in this course of action. The king had two problems to face. First, his pride had been hurt and he is determined to make a show. Second, he has risen to a very hot temper and there must be some release of that temper. Memucan’s recommendation seems to satisfy both of those problems.

The king’s pride would be redeemed. He is enabled to say, “You can’t do that to me. I’ll divorce you and put you out on the street.” He gets revenge. His temper is satisfied with some sort of retaliation. He sent this letter all over the kingdom and made sure everyone could understand what had happened. He does this to save face to all ends of the kingdom. He makes a great show of his power and therefore feels he has gained the respect, or at least the fear, of his people.

CONCLUSION I wish to mark three notable providential events in our text. The first is the king’s notion to display the queen before the princes and nobles. The thought that came to the king and the timing are very interesting. Why did the king think of such a thing at this time? He was no doubt emboldened by the strong drink of this excessive feast. Seeing his glory on such display and hearing the flattery of the attendants served to make him feel near invincible. He felt he could make any command and none would dare refuse.

It is likely that the women were as well drunk as the men. Vashti would also feel bolder to refuse the king. Solomon wrote, **“Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging”** ([Proverbs 20:1](#)). Outside of that influence, she may not have refused the king’s request even though she disagreed with it. The circumstance that facilitated Ahasuerus’ bold request was the same circumstance that facilitated Vashti’s refusal.

Additionally, had this been a smaller affair it may not have been quite as great of an insult. However, they had been feasting for 187 days. All the important people were there and even the common people were present these last seven days. For her to refuse his command at this time was a great insult.

The second notable event is Vashti's refusal to follow the command of an absolute monarch. Here is a man that rules the kingdom. He can cast into prison with a single word. He can execute at will. He certainly has the power to reduce her from riches to rags. Why would she refuse at this particular time?

Her virtue is unknown, but her bold refusal does not seem to be in her best self-interest. Think of all the things the king could do to her. Most usually, people are motivated by fear. She could have gone along with the request, even though she did not agree, just to keep the peace and keep her riches. She chose to refuse at a time when it would cause the greatest insult to the king.

The third event is the counselors that counsel the king to divorce the queen and banish her out of his palace. The counselors run the real risk of incurring the king's displeasure. The king is enraged and very upset, but also it is apparent that the king has a great affection for his queen. Even though he might be very upset, their advice could backfire on them. They could incur the king's wrath.

Counselors of imminent positions like these are usually worm-tongued flatterers. They stick their fingers in the air trying to see which way the wind is blowing and that is the way they advise the king. The only principle they know to act from is the principle of "the survival of the fittest" or maybe "every man for himself." They are certainly not going to do anything that will put them in jeopardy. If they make this suggestion to the king and he is offended at the very thought, he might banish or execute them. In reality, the counselors act contrary to the nature of normal counselors in this situation. They have a peculiar bold streak.

All of these things have happened together and effected the removal of the queen. We see here God's hand ruling, governing, restraining and overruling to bring about His purposes, because His people are in great danger and He is going to bring them out and deliver them through the means of Esther. In order for her to do so, she has to be advanced to the position of queen. This meant that the queen Vashti had to be removed. This train of providential events led to that very removal that opened up the position for Esther to be advanced. This is wonderful evidence of the providence of God working in the affairs of the world.

Labor In Love part VIII

Sis. Lydia West: "Well, let's see I am 25. I was born in Georgia but raised in Indiana. I grew up a preacher's kid and I am the granddaughter of the late Elder David West. I am a member of New Testament Baptist church in Goshen Indiana. The pastor is Mike Aman. I love my church. I work for a faith based Daycare Monday thru Friday. It's ran by a Christian lady. It's not completely faith based meaning they don't push a lot of beliefs but we do speak of God to the children often and things. It is state funded so we have rules we have to follow."

Why is it state funded? What are some of the rules?

"It's not completely state funded because parents do pay. But she is on a food program and state gives her money to feed the kids. We have to follow a menu every week. And we aren't supposed to push any certain type of belief on the children. We do get inspected sometimes. She is state licensed."

What got you into this line of work?

"Well I have always enjoyed taking care of children. I have always had the desire to help them grow and learn new things. I have watched children since I was 12."

How long have you been working there?

"Well I worked there before I moved to Florida for about 6 months and I now have been there for 5 months so basically a total of almost a year."

You have been watching children since you were 12, did you have younger siblings?

"Nope just me and my older sister. My first childcare job was a 6 year old little boy."

What were your past child care like? How did you start?

"Well the first job was the son of a family friend and I watched him after school for 5 a hour big bucks for a 12 year old. After that I just had odd and end baby sitting jobs. They just always seem to show up for me."

What are some of the differences between babysitting and working at a daycare?

"Well babysitting you get a lot of one on one with the children which is good but at the daycare you have more children so you don't get as much one on one with them."

What do you with the kids at the daycare?

"Reading, learning colors and numbers we sing silly songs. Crafts and sometimes we watch movies."

What do you like most about childcare?

"What I like most is watching the children mold into little people. And seeing how each of them become their own person."

How has God used your job to help others?

"Well I believe helping a child learn and taking care of them is what the Lord intended for my life right now so I guess in a way that's how I have helped the children and parents."

How has God blessed you through your work?

"Working with children is a blessing in itself. Yes there are days that I feel like pulling my hair out but at the end of my shift when I get all those hugs and kisses and I love you's miss Lydia it is all worth it."

What are some of the draw backs?

"Draw backs are is you get attached to the children like they are yours and when they don't come anymore it hurts."

Any advice for someone else thinking about working at a day care?

"I would just say if you are thinking about working at a daycare that you prepare yourself for stress, dirty diapers and to love them like you own child and you will feel so blessed."

Would you ever want to run your own daycare?

"Yes I have thought about it. That is something I have prayed about doing. But I probably wouldn't do it till I get married."

“- because I would be settled where I am at once I am married and I wouldn't want to start one due to if the Lord leads me to a different state.”

Sis. Courtney Huffman: I have six younger siblings. I go to West Milton Baptist Church. And I am a piano teacher. I love music. Music is all through the Bible. Singing songs is one of the ways that we can praise our Lord. The Bible also tells us to play instruments as a way to honor him. Psalm 33:3 “Sing unto him a new song; play skillfully with a loud noise.”

How did you get started as a music teacher?

I began teaching when I was 14, and only to a few family members. Looking back, I don't think I was truly qualified to be teaching. But I shared what I knew, and that was enough at the time. Since then, I have learned so much from being a teacher, and also from my students.

At some point did you take any music classes and get certified to teach music?

I had taken piano lessons before I started teaching. But that's all. After that, I started paying closer attention to other pianists, and learned from them, and whatever else that anyone would teach me.

What do you like most about it?

What I love most about teaching piano is when a concept finally clicks with my student. They will struggle with it for a while sometimes. But then, all of the sudden they will get it. They can do it, and they keep doing it. And it's definitely some of the most exciting moments that I look forward to.

How has God used your job to help others?

I have one student who is autistic. When we first started lessons, she struggled terribly. But once we figured out the best way to teach her, she began to improve in learning piano, and in other parts of her life. We had to take a break in her lessons for a while, but now I am teaching her again. She has begun to excel so much, and I am so proud of her. She does so well in our lessons, and her mother tells me how much she is improving in other areas as well.

“Praise the Lord for psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs!”

by Bro. Stephen McCool Sr.



Ephesians 5:19, 20, & 21 *“Speaking to yourselves in psalms hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ; Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.”*

Praise the Lord for psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs! What a blessing it is to sing praises to our Lord and King! The Lord has used so many different writers and composers over the years to produce the most wonderful arrangements for us to praise Him. And yes I did say the “Lord” because no sinful man

or woman could ever come up with the words and music to glorify our Lord on their own.

As with prayer, we can praise the Lord through music and verse all throughout the day in our hearts and minds as we work or out loud when driving down the street.

Our prayer life should work hand in hand with our praise life. Our prayers can be voiced in song and our singing can be our prayers. Notice in this verse Paul tells us “Giving thanks always”. He doesn't say “Just on Sunday” or “Only at church”. No, he says “Always”. Another words anytime anywhere and at all times we are to have our Lord on our minds and in our hearts and we are to be praising Him and thanking Him for everything.

And yet as sinful men and women we fail miserably at this. How many times do we let the cares of the world control our thoughts? How many times do we let the music of the world enter our thoughts?

Praise the Lord He still loves us through all our failures!

So praise the Lord today *“Speaking to yourselves in psalms hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ; Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.”!*

“Heirs Together Of The Grace Of Life”

by Bro. Timothy Works



I Peter 3:1-12 “Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives; While they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear. Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price. For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands: Even as Sara obeyed Abraham, calling him lord: whose daughters ye are, as long as ye do well, and are not afraid with any amazement. Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered. Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous: Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing. For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile: Let him eschew evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it. For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against

them that do evil.”

Text I Peter 3:7

Job said “Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble.” Job 14:1

The Lord told Paul that his grace was sufficient to meet all his needs. II Corinthians 12:9

”The Grace of life” did you realize that it takes the “grace of God” to live out your life in this world? It takes grace for a man and woman to live together! God’s enabling grace.

Husbands and wives are heirs together of the grace of life and the husband is here being addressed: notice how Peter directs the husband to his duty “dwell with them according to knowledge (experience) giving honor (esteem, dignity) as unto the weaker vessel (legally in the weaker position. Not physically weaker or intellectually *At least that was in most cultures even today) and as being heirs together of the grace of life (one flesh Gen. 2: 24)”

As Paul said in Eph. 5:28-29 “So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church:” again this responsibility is addressed to the husband. However in I Cor. 7:3-4 Paul speaks of a mutual responsibility “heirs together the husband-wife relationship in marriage (you cannot have the husband-wife relationship apart from or outside of marriage.)

We acknowledge the importance of marriage but how well do we understand what marriage involves?

1.) Origins of marriage (and its significance.) Gen. 1:26-28 & 2:21-25

Marriage is of divine origin. Many today believe marriage came about as a humanly devised expedient rather than a divine design. These two viewpoints are not only mutually exclusive and contrary to each other, they lead to wildly different consequences. The rules and ideas of marriage those God set forth maybe abolished or altered to suit human expedience. We see the effects of that viewpoint in our society today.

2.) The Purpose of Marriage Gen. 2:18

Companionship (Prevent loneliness)

The purpose of marriage is to meet mans need for companionship. Prov. 2:16-17, Mal. 2:14
”Committed to intimacy”

3.) Obligation of Marriage Gen. 2:24

The basic obligation of marriage is to meet the others needs for companionship (intimacy, all forms)

Vows- They are vowing to provide companionship for one another for the rest of their lives (covenant) not to receive but to give/provide- important distinction. Each vows to give all that is necessary to meet their spouse’s need for companionship whether or not you receive anything in return. The fundamental question is: “How can I please God and my mate?” Not “How can I please myself?”

To please God by rightly pleasing ones spouse is the basic obligation of marriage.

4.) The Commitment of Marriage Gen. 2:24

Marriage is a covenant, a word meaning the most solemn and most binding agreement known to man. Pro. 2:16-17, Mal. 2:14, and Ezk. 16:18 God taking Israel by covenant as his wife parallels Jesus and the church Eph. 5 It is a life long commitment.

5.) To this we add the Importance of Marriage Gen. 1:28

And family which derives from marriage. The fruit of marriage are children who we are to “train up in the way they should go” Prov. 22:6

Marriage and family become the foundations of civilization

Civility= treating other with dignity & honor, I Peter 3:7

“honor” begins with the husband to his wife, taught to the children which becomes the pattern for our relationships beyond the immediate family-

I Timothy 5:1-4 “Rebuke not an elder, but entreat him as a father; and the younger men as brethren; The elder women as mothers; the younger as sisters, with all purity. Honour widows that are widows indeed. But if any widow have children or nephews, let them learn first to show piety at home, and to requite their parents: for that is good and acceptable before God.”

Notice in the development of nations after the flood Gen. 10:5, 20, 31 tongue-family-lands-nations or family, tongue, countries, nations and the redeeming of the earth Rev. 5:9 “And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;”

The Hebrew word for family essentially it means a circle of relative (extended family) with strong blood ties is family, kindred, clan, tribe.

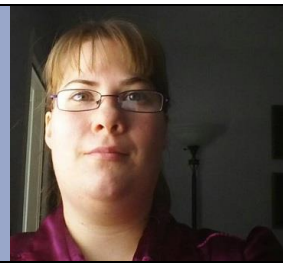
The Greek word kindred carries the same meaning and order.

Without marriage and family you can not maintain a civil society or civilization. Note what happened when Cain murdered his brother Able Gen. 4:16-24 a very ungodly & uncivilized society.

So we see that it is important that each married couple reflect God’s patterb in marriage and that those not yet married remember and seek to establish God’s pattern in their marriages when they do get married.

Editorial: "What Is God's Purpose For Me?"

by Sis. Joanna Works



Since I was a teenager I felt since of being in limbo, as if my life is an unending series of changes. This can be very frustrating when one of your main desires is to have a sense of effectiveness in a stable realm where you belong. It seems to me that girls and women naturally feel that if they could just find that certain relationship that they'll instantly have reached the goal of being effective in a stable realm where they belong, marriage! But wait, what if you're like me and are going on 30 or 40 years old and you either can't find the second person for that relationship dynamics, or have been in a series of failed relationships?! While I do not have all the answers (also remember I'm single, so this isn't a how to find a man kind of article) God has given me some grace and understanding through my struggles, mostly in the form of correction.

Firstly I use to ask "God what do you want from me?! What do you want me to do? I'm doing everything I know to do but you still haven't given me a husband!" This was a sincere and heartfelt reoccurring prayer however I was asking the wrong question in my frustrated state, the right question is "Lord, what is your purpose for ME where you have placed me?" The difference in the two questions is attitude, motivation, and desired outcome. We should be seeking to serve God in the here & now for His honor & glory, to serve His purpose, not manically run around trying to fulfil a set of standards to get what we want (in this case a husband.) Furthermore gaining a husband isn't the end game, after all what are you going to do if you do finally say your vows and still find yourself struggling to feel stable, fulfilled, & accomplished?

Notice God has placed us all in different places and situations, some of us are very blessed to be raised in godly homes, some raised in "Christian" homes but come to church truth or other doctrines later in life, some of my sisters in Christ grew up in worldly families that knew nothing of God, some in broken homes. Quite a few who are preacher kids where wild as teens or young adults and not saved till later in life, whatever our different backgrounds and however our past affects us today we're all saved by God's amazing grace and gives us a common foundation to build the rest of our lives on. Jesus is our Rock, the foundation that won't crumble when this world is falling apart.

"He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings."
~Psalm 40:2

"He is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock" ~ Luke 6:48

"For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ." ~ I Corinthians 3:11

Now that we've set our foundation lets get to some basics, most sermons & articles on godly women and God's purpose for women starts with creation. That's a good place to start, could there possibly be a better place to start then "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." ~ Genesis 1:1 I don't think there is a better place to start, people have a desire to know their purpose but how can we even begin to discover the answer if we don't acknowledge that in the beginning God made us? To stay on topic though we're seeking God's purpose for women and how that relates to his very specific plans for our lives as women redeemed by the blood of the lamb, so we'll move down to near the end of the chapter; "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them." ~ Genesis 1:27 here is the first reference to human kind and both genders, God tells us in more details how he formed the first man & woman and their relationship in chapter 2, "And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul." (verse 7)

"And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him. And out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof. And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him. And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; And the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man." (18-22)

Many men of God have set forth sermons and articles from the above verses and it isn't my intentions to dispute their points, God created order and if you read the verses that follow you'll see the start of a beautiful relationship that is good and was perfect before the fall. I do however want to make one observation, God created the woman. God is the God & creator of BOTH MAN AND WOMAN. This is a no brainer, but I still think it is important to take notice of. God's creation of man was personal forming Adam and breathing life into him, while Eve was made from Adam's rib Adam was asleep, her creator was the same as Adam, and it was also personal. This observation isn't at all made to dispute that God has ordained headship, but rather to demonstrate that just as us sisters in Christ have the same foundation to stand on, men & women with all their differences, including positions of authority, we're both God's creations and under Him.

Also let us notice God's purpose in making woman is given in verse 18, it wasn't good for man to dwell alone. Adam needed companionship, and God's solution was Eve. Women it is a good thing to desire companionship, God has created us to be more sensitive to relationships and the needs of people around us. While Eve was very blessed to come to life and have her perfect man right there, her first relationship was with her creator God, Adam was asleep wither it was for a split second or couple of minutes after Eve took her first breath, and even after Adam spoke those words oft quoted at weddings "And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his

wife: and they shall be one flesh.” (23 & 24) both Adam & Eve’s first duty was to honor God.

Okay, Adam & Eve had it easy, they were after all made perfect, had the perfect relationship, perfect home, perfect bliss. Obviously something went wrong; we all know Eve ate of the forbidden fruit first bringing about the fall & curse. (Genesis chapter 3) But we’ve already mentioned that Jesus is our redeemer, our hope, our foundation, so we need not despair over the loss of paradise. (Here is another verse on that if you need Hebrews 4:3 “For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world.”)

There are a few passages of scriptures that are often used as text or supporting texts to teach us how to be godly women, especially be godly wives and mothers, is that it? Is our only purpose to be wives & mothers? But if that’s true does that mean if we’re not married yet we’re supposed to be occupied with a man hunt? What about those who aren’t physically able to conceive are they being cursed, is it a sign of lack of faith that God hasn’t granted a miracle? **No.**

Before we move on I think I better quote II Timothy 3:16 “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.” If you’re not married you can still learn from the passages of scriptures on marriage (even if the Lord never permits you to marry) the same goes for those who are barren and the verses on motherhood, that being said I don’t think God’s intentions for this article is to repeat what He has already taught us on these subjects through our pastors and devouring of articles of godly womanhood, but rather to exhort those of us that feel pressured, left out, confused, hurt, wondering what to do because our lives aren’t the ideal pattern that is so often taught. Sisters, we’re not cookies! That may sound funny & random, so bear with me for a moment, have you heard of the expression “cookie cutter Christian” or how about “God broke the mold when He made you”? Women we may be sweet but God didn’t make us using a candy mold or a cookie cutter. Just as he formed Eve personally He’s forming you to be just who HE WANTS YOU TO BE personally.

“But now, O Lord, thou art our father; we are the clay, and thou our potter; and we all are the work of thy hand.” ~ Isaiah 64:8 Working with clay is a hands on craft, it take time, patience, and skill to form the lumps into the exact shape the potter desires, and each piece is unique. To be sure God is a craftsman who doesn’t make mistakes. Thinking about our uniqueness reminds me of a verse that is frequently referenced in regards to godly womanhood.

“Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies.” ~ Proverbs 31:10 Gemstones and virtuous women have all ways been in high demand but are rare, if you’re interested in gaging the value of gemstones you need to understand something called “inclusions” here’s a brief description from Wikipedia;

Inclusions are one of the most important factors when it comes to gem valuation. In many gemstones, such as [diamonds](#), inclusions affect the [clarity](#) of the stone, diminishing the stone's

value. In some stones, however, such as [star sapphires](#), the inclusion actually increases the value of the stone.

Many colored gemstones, such as [amethyst](#), [emerald](#), and [sapphire](#), are expected to have inclusions, and the inclusions do not greatly affect the stone's value. Colored gemstones are categorized into three types as follows:

- Type I colored stones include stones with very little or no inclusions. They include [aquamarines](#), [topaz](#) and [zircon](#).
- Type II colored stones include stones that often have a few inclusions. They include [sapphire](#), [ruby](#), [garnet](#) and [spinel](#).
- Type III colored stones include stones that almost always have inclusions. Stones in this category include [emerald](#) and [tourmaline](#).

Don’t you think there’s a reason God’s Word compares women to colored stones rather than hard clear diamonds? This is what I think we should learn from this, virtuous women aren’t without inclusions. That doesn’t mean we sin so grace may abound (Romans 6) or that there aren’t attributes to being a virtuous woman that we need to aim for (Proverbs 31) rather that we do have history before the LORD saved us, that we’re not perfect, that while we are all to be conformed to the image of Jesus, we are unique. Not mass-produced factory made clones.

Where are you in your life right now? The scriptures, both Old and New Testaments give us example of women such as Sarah, Rehab, Ruth, Hannah, Elizabeth & Mary, Mary & Martha, the woman caught in adultery, the Samaritan woman, Lydia, Priscilla, etc. Some of these women knew the scriptures from their youth, others we meet in the scriptures at points where they have lived unrighteous lives but God in His sovereign mercy and grace brings them to repentance & faith. While some we learn of their desires to have children, (Sarah, Hannah, & Elizabeth) some we see God working in their lives to bring them to a spouse (Ruth) and others we see serving alongside their husband (Priscilla), we see two sisters who appear to be unmarried adults living with their brother (Mary& Martha) and a woman who was a seller of scarlet (Lydia) what they all have in common no matter what their marital situation is, all of God’s daughters worship & serve Him.

This may be very anticlimactic, and perhaps even disappointing to you if you’ve read this far, only to here that God’s Purpose For Women, for you and me as godly women, is to serve & worship Him. I can’t tell you how many times I began to read an article on godly womanhood only to be disappointed because I had the unrealistic expectation of finding something that would say “Joanna you need to be doing this specific work.”

I’m 29 years old unmarried and feel like I’m adrift in a sea of things that need to be done, I’d love to do so many things but am only one person, so I find myself frequently asking “What is God’s purpose for me? Which of these things am I suppose to accomplish?” Right now it’s finishing this article, and I hope God will use it to encourage and exhort my sisters in the Lord. (I’m racing against the deadline at this very moment!) There are a lot of unknowns and what ifs; will I ever get married, will I even be able to bear children, what if I become a widow at a young age after waiting all this time?!

Work with what you do know. I know that Jesus loved me and chose me from before the foundations of the world! I know that whatever God has in store for me during my time on earth I'm commanded to spend this time Honoring God, furthermore this life is short but I'll spend eternity worshipping & praising God.

And that's God's purpose for all His children, male & female, young & old, single or married, whether you had children in this life or not. The details of this life will fall in place as we move forward remembering that God's service is our first priority & final destination.

"Words for us to live by"
by Bro. Stephen McCool Sr.

Proverbs 16:3 *"Commit thy works unto the Lord, and thy thoughts shall be established."*

Words for us to live by.
How true it is that when we are fully committed to the Lord and His work that all our thoughts are on Him. As we go through this life on earth we see so many of the Lord's children who try to live for the Lord and the world at the same time. And at times we find ourselves the same. We hear the preacher preach these things on the Lord's day and we think for the moment that we will make that change in our life. The change to become a better Christian. The change to become a more faithful child of God. Yet come Monday morning we fall flat on our face back into the world. Why? Because, like Peter, while walking on the water, we take our Spiritual eyes off our Lord and began to sink back into the depths of our sin. But the good news is that our Lord is able and willing, like with Peter, to bring us through the many trials we face. Even when we fail Him He still loves us. He is still there for His children. Read and study His Word. Be in constant prayer. Don't just "talk the talk" more importantly "walk the walk".
"Commit thy works unto the Lord, and thy thought shall be established."

"A Completed Project"
by Bro. Todd Bryant



"...being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ" - Philippians 1:6

There are, perhaps, no more comforting words in the entire Bible to one trusting in Jesus as his Savior. Would eternal life really be "eternal" if God didn't complete the work He began in us? The apostle was here inspired to encourage us that the Lord Himself will complete what He started. Though we often start projects and leave off before finishing them, God does no such thing. If you are a child of God, you are His "project" and you will be completed. Your glorification is so sure that God actually speaks of it as if it has already occurred (Romans 8:30)!

What a blessed truth to know that "He preserves the souls of His saints" (Psalms 97:10). What if this "preserving" depended on our faithfulness? Anyone with the Spirit of God dwelling inside him realizes that we often are unfaithful. We can see children of God all through the Bible that had unfaithful moments. If our preserving was dependant on our faithfulness, none of us would be "completed". Lest anyone misunderstand, we surely should strive to be faithful. We are ordained to good works (Ephesians 2:10). However, God Himself preserves us. If He did not, we would fall.

The work of Jesus was to give eternal life to His sheep (John 10:28). By doing this, He ensured that they would "never perish" (John 10:28). We have not yet received our glorified bodies. We are still battling the flesh and sin. However, we can be confident along with the apostle Paul that God will surely complete the work that He has started in us. Jesus' sheep will "never perish"!

Paul's confidence was not in himself. He said, "I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day" (2 Timothy 1:12). Paul trusted that Jesus paid all of his sin debt and he also trusted that He would keep Paul's faith in Christ from wavering. Believers may, perhaps, doubt themselves (and they should). However, believers do not doubt the ability of Jesus. Believers understand that there is one Way to God and Jesus is that Way (John 14:6). God even preserves this faith!

"For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, no things present nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:38-39). Praises be to God that we cannot be separated from that covenant love which He has loved us with since before the world began (Jeremiah 31:3). We are secure in His hand (John 10:29).

Child of God, perhaps you have never completely embraced the doctrine of eternal security. You will search the Scripture far and wide to find any of God's children that ever lost their salvation.

There isn't one Biblical example of such...because God completes the work that He began. Don't look at this truth as a license to sin, because it's not. In fact, if you are looking for the freedom to sin, you need to examine whether you are really in the faith. The doctrine of eternal security is an encouragement to serve Him!! Thank God today that He is presently preserving you! Thank Him now that He will complete that which He started.

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