

Copyright © Two Journeys Ministry

Andrew M. Davis

Sermon Notes

www.twojourneys.org

Please use in accordance with the copyright policy found at twojourneys.org

The Woman of Valor: A Godly Wife and Mother

Proverbs 31:10-31

Introduction

America: A Culture that Formerly Honored Motherhood and the Value of a Well-Ordered Home

In the last fifty years, this has been greatly under attack by our surrounding culture...

The Mommy Myth: The Idealization of Motherhood and How It Has Undermined Women
Susan J. Douglas... attacks the basic idea of the “perfect housewife” and the unattainable standards of good order in the home and lovingly disciplined, well-mannered children, with finely honed sarcasm:

“If you were a ‘good mom’ you’d joyfully empty the shopping bags and transform the process of putting the groceries away into a fun game your kids love to play (upbeat Raffi songs would provide a lilted soundtrack). Then, while you steamed the broccoli and poached the chicken breasts in Vouvray and Evian water, you and the kids would also be doing jigsaw puzzles in the shape of the United Arab Emirates so they learned some geography. Your cheerful teenager would say, ‘Gee, Mom, you gave me the best advice on that last homework assignment.’ When your husband arrives, he is so overcome with admiration for how well you do it all, that he looks lovingly into your eyes, kisses you and presents you with a diamond anniversary bracelet.... The children, chattering away happily, help you set the table, and then eat their broccoli. After dinner, you all go out and stencil autumn leaves on the driveway.”

There is a great deal of mockery about the image of a homemaker who labors to create a well-ordered and godly home... the name of June Cleaver (of “Leave It to Beaver” fame, the 1950s ideal of homelife) is usually a punch line in sitcoms.

BUT I believe that the value of a well-ordered godly home has never been clearer in American society. And therefore there has never been a greater need for the church to speak clearly to the indispensable role of a godly wife and mother in the advance of Christ's Kingdom

Proverbs 31: The Virtuous Wife

Context:

Setting: Advice given to a King by his Mother... a godly mother who still wields great influence over her powerful son

Proverbs 31: The sayings of King Lemuel... which he learned FROM HIS MOTHER

Her desire: that His reign should prosper, that the nation should flourish under His reign

Warning to show restraint with regard to women and wine

Proverbs 31:2-3 "O my son, O son of my womb, O son of my vows, ³ do not spend your strength on women, your vigor on those who ruin kings.

In contrast to the kind of woman who ruins a man, she wants to describe the king of woman who can make a man

This advice is not just for him... frankly it was meant to be a standard for all marriages in his kingdom

A nation will only be as strong as its families... and the influence of a virtuous wife and mother on a family is immeasurable

Not Meant to Put Anyone Under the Pile:

- Many women say the Proverbs 31 "ideal wife and mother" just makes them feel guilty
- They see the incredible talents she has in every area of domestic life; PLUS she is successful in business ventures outside the home to benefit her family
- BUT I believe that women should no more feel "under the pile" than any of us do when we consider Christ's perfect example, or Christ's teaching in the Sermon on the Mount or any of Paul's commands in the Epistles:

Ephesians 4:2 Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.

No one does that perfectly!! That verse stands over us to lead us to a higher and better way of living. AND it encourages us when we're doing well to keep going. So also Proverbs 31 is a form of instruction and encouragement

I. Her Description: A Wife of Valor

vs. 10 A wife of noble character who can find?

A. Literally: A Wife of courageous virtue...

A word frequently translated as referring to the courageous valor of a warrior on a battlefield... or even of an army itself

The Proverbs 31 woman is a heroine of the same order as Samson or Gideon or David—a hero in battle has proven his worth by his steadfast courage in the face of immense obstacles

David's mighty men were given this title: mighty men of valor

2 Samuel 23:20 Benaiah was a valiant fighter ..., who performed great exploits. He struck down two of Moab's best men. He also went down into a pit on a snowy day and killed a lion.

The Proverbs 31 woman has shown no less valor than any military hero of old.

She is the unsung hero who holds together a whole culture... a whole society

B. What's So Courageous?

1. The focus of this woman is the maintenance of a godly home
2. The godly home is an oasis of peace, rest, spiritual renewal in the midst of a swirling maelstrom of chaos
3. The godly, well-ordered home takes IMMENSE STRENGTH to maintain

Illus. Imagine the strength it would take to stand still in a rushing torrent of whitewater, or to stand unmoved in a violent windstorm

So also it takes amazing strength to carve out a place of refuge in Satan's world of sin

That is what a godly wife and mother must do every day: Surrounded by constant interruptions, by crying children, by ringing phones, by noisy washing machines and constant needs... she must carve out a refuge, a haven of godliness and peace, of rest and refreshment in a sin-cursed world

This haven of rest renews her husband, and creates the most powerful launching pad in the world: a launching pad where world-changing sons and daughters are prepared and sent out

Sometimes a wife and mother of the 21st century must feel like she's pulled in all directions, somehow she must maintain her strong sense of balance, of Christ-like peace and godly demeanor, while managing an extreme schedule of complexity and intricacy

4. SO... Proverbs 31 pictures a godly wife and mother as a heroine of almost mythic proportions

II. Her Value: Greater Than Rubies

Vs. 10 A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies.

A. Husbands: The Greatest Thing You Can DO: VALUE Your Wife

B. More Valuable Than Rubies

1. Verse 10 compares her to rubies
2. Rubies are among the rarest and most difficult to find of the precious gemstones mentioned in the Bible; some experts believe they came from eastern Afghanistan through camel caravans
3. “Who can find?” implies an immense search for the perfect woman, the woman of virtue, of valor
4. All over the world, men are searching for the “perfect wife”
 - a. The standards are much lower than those listed here
 - b. Usually they have to do with physical beauty and external qualities

“Charm is deceptive and beauty vain...”

- c. The Bible itself acknowledges the great difficulty of finding a godly wife

Proverbs 19:14 Houses and wealth are inherited from parents, but a prudent wife is from the LORD.

III. Her Focus: A Godly Home Life

A. The Entire Focus of this Virtuous Woman: A Godly Home Life

1. Mark this: she is far from cooped up, penned up or chained to the stove
2. She is certainly engaged to a great deal with the outside world

Proverbs 31:14 She is like the merchant ships, bringing her food from afar.

Proverbs 31:16 She considers a field and buys it

Proverbs 31:20 She opens her arms to the poor and extends her hands to the needy.

3. YET all of her outside activities still have a focus on improving her home life

4. She is a constant blessing to her husband and to her children

B. Modern Women Drawn Away from the Home

1. No one doubts that women are as capable as men of having successful and productive careers in the workplace
2. It can hardly be argued that women do not have the intelligence or drive or administrative capacity to run businesses or create new inventions or settle international disputes or do immensely complex things... because women are doing those kinds of things all the time these days!
3. The question thoughtful Christians are asking, however, is NOT “What CAN a woman do?” but “What is God’s BEST for the family, for herself, for the church, for the Kingdom of God?”

C. Easy to Underestimate the Value of a Well-Ordered Home

1. People who sneer at the value of making a godly home don’t know what they’re talking about... those who make jokes about June Cleaver
2. God places high value on the physical side of life... of a comfortable home, of nutritious and well-balanced meals, of clean linen on the beds, of memorable encounters between family members, of keepsakes and family prayers... of shaping the mind and soul of a child from infancy
3. God knows how the husband needs daily refreshment from the toils and struggles of his work and ministry... how prone he is to weariness and discouragement... without her incredible ministry to his body, soul, mind, emotions, he will be sorely tempted to give up
4. God knows what it’s going to take to raise the next generation... and a godly mother who teaches and lives out scriptural wisdom is ESSENTIAL to His salvation plan
5. A Godly wife and mother’s focus on the family is only as valuable as the souls who live there—and that is INFINITELY VALUABLE

IV. Her Character: Comprehensive Wisdom

A. Character Traits of the Woman of Valor

1. Hard work

Proverbs 31:27 She watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness.

Proverbs 31:17 She sets about her work vigorously; her arms are strong for her tasks.

2. Cheerfulness

NAU Proverbs 31:13 She looks for wool and flax And works with her hands in delight.

She is not grumpy or irritable. Why should she be when the work she is doing is done for the glory of God by the skill that He gave her to benefit people she loves

3. Self-sacrifice, Disciplined, Not living for immediate pleasure

Proverbs 31:18 ...her lamp does not go out at night.

Proverbs 31:15 She gets up while it is still dark

4. Having Foresight

Proverbs 31:21 When it snows, she has no fear for her household; for all of them are clothed in scarlet.

- a. Snow is actually quite rare in Palestine... it is only mentioned 21 times in the OT
- b. But she is ready when it comes because she has foresight...

Proverbs 31:25 She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come.

Many people are gloomy because they can't trust God for the future. This amazing lady is cheerful about the future. That's someone you want to be around.

So many other character traits: strength, skill, compassion on the poor and needy, mercy, peace, kindness, godliness... these flow from the abundant descriptions of the godly wife and mother of Proverbs 31

V. Her Works: Fruitful, Skillful and Plentiful

A. Inside the home

1. Blessing her husband with every good thing
2. Providing food & clothing for family and servants

The quality of her workmanship is exceptional:

Proverbs 31:22 She makes coverings for her bed; she is clothed in fine linen and purple.

3. Speaking wisdom... as we'll mention in a moment

4. Managing the household: administration, looking after details of a household—husband, children, servants... all needing direction

B. Outside of the home

1. Buying with wise discernment: raw materials and ingredients

Proverbs 31:13-16 She seeks wool and flax, and works with willing hands. ¹⁴ She is like the ships of the merchant; she brings her food from afar.... 16 She considers a field and buys it; with the fruit of her hands she plants a vineyard.

- a. She is a choosy and discerning shopper: she “seeks wool and flax” (13) literally means she discerns the best quality from both the animal and vegetable fibers to make the highest quality clothing
- b. A garment is only as good as the raw materials that go into it
- c. A meal is only as good as the quality of the ingredients
- d. She knows quality when she sees it... even the quality of her own works

Proverbs 31:18 She perceives that her merchandise is profitable.

2. Investing & selling wisely: Considering a field and buying it

Proverbs 31:16 She considers a field and buys it; out of her earnings she plants a vineyard.

The Hebrew gives the indication that she had to devise a way to buy it... it took a clever plan to find a way to obtain this field; furthermore, it was a successful business venture, for she has fruit from her efforts which she the reinvests for a new venture: a vineyard

3. Mercy to the poor

Proverbs 31:20 She opens her arms to the poor and extends her hands to the needy.

VI. Her Relationships: A God-Centered Family

A. With Her God: The Fear of the Lord Foundational

Everything in her life is focused on this one thing: the fear of the Lord...

In everything she does, her love for God and her desire to please the Lord is foundational

She is a “God-fearing woman”, the highest compliment the Book of Proverbs can give!!

1. The beginning of the Book of Proverbs

Proverbs 1:7 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline.

2. The end of the Book of Proverbs

Proverbs 31:30 Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.

3. The middle of the Book of Proverbs

^{ESV} Proverbs 15:33 The fear of the LORD is instruction in wisdom, and humility comes before honor.

4. The message of the Book of Proverbs: the blessings of the fear of the Lord mentioned over and over again... this is the truly godly life

Proverbs 9:10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

The sum total of this woman's character is that she fears the Lord, knows and understands the Lord... everything else flows from that

5. This is TRUE BEAUTY, and Peter calls it "unfading beauty"

Proverbs 31:30 Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.

- a. Women spend literally billions of dollars every year on cosmetics
 - i) More and more are investing in cosmetic surgery... so these days even some beauty is deceitful!!
 - ii) America has a merely skin-deep interest in feminine beauty, but that interest is as intense as a raging forest fire
 - iii) Thus women are led astray in pursuing a kind of beauty that this verse calls "vain"
- b. Some women use charm as a strategy... using cunning and wiles to attract and manipulate people, especially men
 - i) This verse calls that deceptive
 - ii) A godly woman is a woman of integrity, she is what she appears to be
 - iii) The fear of the Lord is the center of her beauty

B. With Her Husband: Godly Marriage

1. Her husband's confidence in her

Proverbs 31:11 The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will have no lack of gain.

- a. Quite amazing... the Hebrew word for "confidence" or "trust" is in almost every other case used for the Lord God Himself
- b. Hebrew scripture condemns "trusting" in anything but God...
- c. Yet here the word is used of the trust the husband has for his godly wife

2. Her husband's provision by her

- a. He lacks nothing of value (vs. 11), because she fully supplies him
- b. Anything he needs to be fully successful in his life and ministry, she has thought of and provided
- c. Another interpretation: he has no need of spoil = he doesn't need to plunder someone else's possessions or covet his neighbor's wife... she gives him everything he could ever want

Proverbs 5:15-18 Why be intoxicated by another man's wife? Drink water from your own cistern, running water from your own well....¹⁸ May your fountain be blessed, and may you rejoice in the wife of your youth.

3. Their lasting relationship

Proverbs 31:12 She does him good, and not harm, all the days of her life.

- a. She is committed to this one man all her life
- b. She perseveres loving him through good times and bad
- c. Herein is true beauty: a woman who does good for her husband all her life

4. Her husband's place in society

- a. Proverbs 31 seems to draw a direct connection between the quality of this man's wife and the esteem with which he is held in society

vs. 23 Her husband is respected at the city gate, where he takes his seat among the elders of the land.

- b. First of all, a woman of this quality isn't going to marry just anyone... she'll choose her husband as wisely as she chooses everything else in her life

- c. But having chosen a godly man, she then sets out to do everything in her power to enable him to fulfill God's calling on his life... his calling is their calling
- d. A godly man, fully successful, with a great impact for eternity, doesn't do so alone... God has brought a helper suitable for him, and she deserves as much reward and praise as he does for whatever he accomplishes

C. With Her Children: Godly Training, as we shall see

VII. Her Reward: Both Temporal and Eternal

A. Praise from Her Husband AND Praise from Her Children

Proverbs 31:28-29 Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: ²⁹ "Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all."

B. Praise from Her Neighbors and the Elders in the Land

Vs. 31 Give her the reward she has earned, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate

C. Ultimately Praise from God... the Ultimate Reward

^{NAU} Proverbs 31:30 Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain, But a woman who fears the LORD, she shall be praised.

1. The tense is future, "She WILL BE praised" in the future
2. The praise that matters most to her will be on Judgment Day... from God Himself

Matthew 25:21 "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things.'

3. Jesus spoke of the value of a peaceful, godly home for the advance of the gospel... and how the host/hostess of that home will be rewarded

Matthew 10:11 "Whatever town or village you enter, search for some worthy person there and stay at his house until you leave... 40-42 "He who receives you receives me, and he who receives me receives the one who sent me. ⁴¹ Anyone who receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and anyone who receives a righteous man because he is a righteous man will receive a righteous man's reward. ⁴² And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is my disciple, I tell you the truth, he will certainly not lose his reward."

4. As much eternal reward as any pastor or evangelist or missionary!!!
 - a. She has done far more than give a cup of cold water

This godly capable woman is fully using all her capacities, intellectual, physical, spiritual, emotional, moral, to produce a well-ordered godly home which is a haven of rest and spiritual refreshment for her husband, herself, and her children. That home is a launching pad for world changers, and an oasis of spiritual sanity in the midst of an insane, rebellious, wicked world. She is a co-laborer with her husband, and what she is doing is every bit as difficult and every bit as eternally fruitful as what he is doing. They have a mutual call, but different focuses. And God will reward them equally based on their faithfulness to their challenging tasks. **AND WHAT IS WRONG WITH THAT? WHY IS THAT NOT SUFFICIENT?** Equally challenging work, equally fruitful in this world, equally essential to God's Kingdom, equally rewarded by God on judgment day. How can a godly home-maker be so thoroughly disrespected in this world, except that Satan is trying to destroy that oasis of refreshment, that launching pad of kingdom building world-changers? Now we see his evil design at last! The force that leads men and women alike to disparage the godly homemaker has its origin in the mind of the Devil himself.... Because he deeply fears this godly Proverbs 31 woman and the peaceful and orderly home she so powerfully carves out of his world of wicked chaos.

VIII. Her Proclamation of Wisdom: Scripture's Witness to Christ

A. No Woman in History Has Perfectly Embodied Wisdom

1. This portrait is ideal, not actual... it is a goal for women to strive for
2. The truly godly recognize their own limitations and imperfections

1 Timothy 1:15 Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners-- of whom I am the worst.

B. Christ Has Perfectly Embodied Wisdom

1. Christ alone is the only perfect pattern of wisdom that has ever lived... He lived the Book of Proverbs every day
2. Christ alone spoke perfectly, acted perfectly toward all people, dealt perfectly with money, lived perfectly in all temptations
3. Christ alone is wisdom from God... no mother or father, no matter how godly, can live up to this perfect standard... Christ alone is perfect wisdom

C. Therefore He Is Our Wisdom and Righteousness

1. Christ's perfect life resulted in a wise death... death for sinners on the cross
2. Christ's wisdom and righteousness are seen in the fact that He would rather die than disobey God's Law
3. Christ's wisdom and love are seen in the fact that He would rather die than let any of God's chosen people perish eternally for their sins

4. Therefore Christ has become for us perfect wisdom and righteousness

1 Corinthians 1:30 Christ Jesus ... has become for us wisdom from God-- that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption.

This is the essence of the gospel... no woman or man will ever be able to stand before God on Judgment Day with enough righteousness to pass His judgment. All of us are sinners in need of grace, and grace has been given un in Christ alone by faith alone

2 Corinthians 5:21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

D. This Godly Woman Ultimately Proclaims Christ Alone

1. A godly mother, no matter how well she imitates the Proverbs 31 woman, will not present herself as the perfect example
2. She will proclaim Christ to her children day after day by reading the Scriptures to them... the whole counsel of God's Word
3. In God's Word alone is found the wisdom necessary for salvation
4. God's word is a perfect combination of law and gospel, of the terror of God's judgments and the sweetness of God's lovingkindness
5. This combination is essential for our salvation... it is not only one or the other that brings our children to salvation in Christ.... Law then Gospel; law then Grace
 - a. The law lays out God's standards of perfect human behavior, and the standards by which we will be judged... but it gives absolutely no power to obey... so law ultimately produces FAILURE and GUILT
 - b. Grace then comes along and proclaims Christ... perfect and just forgiveness through the blood of Christ shed on the cross; Christ's perfect and just righteousness credited to our account by faith alone
 - c. Law then Grace is the wisdom of God for salvation in Christ Jesus, and that is what the word of God imparts
6. A godly mother will proclaim the whole counsel of God's word to her growing children so that their souls may be saved on Judgment Day...

This is precisely what Eunice did for her son Timothy as he was growing up:

2 Timothy 3:14-15 from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

Eunice taught law and gospel to Timothy... she prepared him for salvation in Christ Jesus

E. How the Proverbs 31 woman preaches the whole counsel of God's Word

KJV Proverbs 31:26 She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness.

1. The "law of kindness" is the wisdom coming from her mouth
 - a. In the Hebrew these are two of the most important words in the Old Testament, combined
 - b. Law = "Torah"; written standards of righteousness, like the Law of Moses
 - c. kindness = "Hesed" ; also "covenant faithfulness"; God's faithful and merciful help based on His covenant commitment to His people

[to Moses] Exodus 34:6 Then the LORD passed by in front of him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth

KJV Psalm 23:6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

Psalm 51:1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.

In other words, hesed is the only hope of a wretched sinner like David who committed adultery with Bathsheba and murdered her husband to cover his tracks... David begs for mercy on the basis of God's "hesed" His unfailing love.

This word "hesed" comes over for us in the New Testament especially in the concept of GRACE

2. The godly mother speaks wisdom... she doesn't just live as a good example
 - a. Especially she reads Scripture to her children
 - b. She saturates their lives with God's word
3. She preaches law
 - a. She teaches them the Ten Commandments
 - b. She describes the righteousness that God expects based on His law
 - c. She doesn't water down God's perfect requirements
 - d. She tells her children that Judgment Day is coming, when God's perfect law will be upheld to every jot and tittle

- e. The Law says “honor your father and mother”... she upholds this... if they sass her or dishonor her, she will discipline them
- f. The Law says “You shall not steal”... she upholds this... if they steal, she brings them back to God’s standard at Sinai
- g. The Law says “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart”... she upholds this and points out how her children have failed to love God
- h. BUT all the time she is mindful that righteousness can never come from the Law
- i. Under her skillful guidance she uses the Law on their tender growing hearts to bring them to a realization of their own wickedness and need for Christ

Galatians 3:24 Therefore the Law has become our tutor to lead us to Christ, so that we may be justified by faith.

- 4. She also preaches God’s lovingkindness... His “hesed”, His grace, His kindness to sinners in Christ
 - a. She displays kindness to her growing children every day of their lives

Lamentations 3:22-23 Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. ²³ They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

She says “Every day is a new expression of God’s grace and mercy to us!!”

- b. She is gentle with them, nursing them in their infancy, feeding them in their childhood... tenderly binding up their hurt places, wiping their tears, forgiving their sins, nursing their fevers, cleaning up their foul messes
- c. In all of this she is displaying God’s lovingkindness and is sweetly putting cords around their hearts drawing them to Christ

Jeremiah 31:3 The LORD appeared to us in the past, saying: "I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with loving-kindness.

The word “drawn” there means that God’s lovingkindness has power to draw us like fish in a net to Christ... not kicking and screaming against our wills, but greatly attracted to such a loving and kind Savior

Romans 2:4 God's kindness leads you toward repentance

A godly mother thus preaches Christ every day to her children... “You know that Mommy loves you, darling... but Christ loves you more. He is a merciful Savior and He will receive you in His arms.”

- d. More than anything, she teaches them that God's grace is infinitely greater than all their sin

Romans 5:20 The law was added so that the trespass might increase. But where sin increased, grace increased all the more

Illus. Sin is a wicked fire that burns... some people's sin is like a match, some like a candle, some like a torch, some like a bonfire; the fire of sin can burn down a household and destroy it, so it is essential to fight it. But Christ's grace in the blood shed on the cross is like an ocean... like the vast, wide, Pacific Ocean... it can extinguish any fire you present to it: it can extinguish the match, the candle, the torch or the bonfire.

Law and Grace are both found in the mouth of this wise mother day after day

IX. Summary and Conclusion

- A. Context: Wisdom given from Mother to Son, a King, on How to Choose a Wife
- B. This Chapter is Meant to Be an Encouragement and Goal for All Women... not a crushing burden that no one can live up to
- C. We have seen
- Her Description: A Wife of Valor
 - Her Value: Greater Than Rubies
 - Her Focus: A Godly Home
 - Her Character: Comprehensive Wisdom
 - Her Works: Fruitful, Skillful and Plentiful
 - Her Relationships: A God-Centered Family
 - Her Reward: Both Temporal and Eternal
 - Her Proclamation of Wisdom: Scripture's Witness to Christ
- D. To Young, Unmarried Women: Seek a mentor... preferably your own mother, and deeply desire this for yourself
- E. To Young, Unmarried Men: realize the original context, a godly mother's advice to her powerful son: Seek this kind of a wife, and don't settle for less
- F. To Married Men: Be sure that you praise and encourage your godly wife... don't let a day go by without building her up
- G. To Married Women: Use the Proverbs 31 example as a pattern and goal, not as a crushing burden to destroy you
- H. To All Children of Mothers: Be sure you thank and praise your mother, especially if she is elderly, for all the ways she followed this pattern

- I. To all of us: Realize that Christ alone is the perfect example of wisdom and righteousness and trust in Him alone for salvation