

THE TRUE CHURCH – THE VIRTUOUS WIFE (LESSON 9)

READ PROV. 31:10-31

QUESTION

USING THE UNDERLINED VERSES, EXPLAIN THE FEATURES OF A TRUE CHURCH.

Prov 31:10-31

- 10 Who can find a virtuous wife? For her worth is far above rubies.
  - 11 The heart of her husband safely trusts her; so he will have no lack of gain.
  - 12 She does him good and not evil all the days of her life.
  - 13 She seeks wool and flax, and willingly works with her hands.
  - 14 She is like the merchant ships, she brings her food from afar.
  - 15 She also rises while it is yet night, and provides food for her household, and a portion for her maidservants.
  - 16 She considers a field and buys it; from her profits she plants a vineyard.
  - 17 She girds herself with strength, and strengthens her arms.
  - 18 She perceives that her merchandise is good, and her lamp does not go out by night.
  - 19 She stretches out her hands to the distaff, and her hand holds the spindle.
  - 20 She extends her hand to the poor, yes, she reaches out her hands to the needy.
  - 21 She is not afraid of snow for her household, for all her household is clothed with scarlet.
  - 22 She makes tapestry for herself; her clothing is fine linen and purple.
  - 23 Her husband is known in the gates, when he sits among the elders of the land.
  - 24 She makes linen garments and sells them, and supplies sashes for the merchants.
  - 25 Strength and honor are her clothing; she shall rejoice in time to come.
  - 26 She opens her mouth with wisdom, and on her tongue is the law of kindness.
  - 27 She watches over the ways of her household, and does not eat the bread of idleness.
  - 28 Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her:
  - 29 "Many daughters have done well, but you excel them all."
  - 30 Charm is deceitful and beauty is passing, but a woman who fears the LORD, she shall be praised.
  - 31 Give her of the fruit of her hands, and let her own works praise her in the gates.
- (NKJ)

ANSWERS – THE TRUE CHURCH(LESSON 9)

her worth is far above rubies.

This is the recognition of the preciousness of the church. The church is more precious than any material thing.

THE CHURCH HAS A PRECIOUS SAVIOUR.

1 Pet 2:7

Therefore, to you who believe, He is precious; but to those who are disobedient, "The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone,"(NKJ)

THE CHURCH IS REDEEMED WITH THE PRECIOUS BLOOD.

1 Pet 1:18-19

18 knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers,

19 but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.(NKJ)

THE CHURCH'S FAITH IS MORE PRECIOUS THAN GOLD.

1 Pet 1:7

that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ,(NKJ)

2 Pet 1:1

Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have obtained like precious faith with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ:(NKJ)

THE CHURCH HAS PRECIOUS PROMISES.

2 Pet 1:4

by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. (NKJ)

THE CHURCH IS THE APPLE OF HIS EYE.

Zech 2:8

For thus says the LORD of hosts: "He sent Me after glory, to the nations which plunder you; for he who touches you touches the apple of His eye. (NKJ)

The heart of her husband safely trusts her

She can be trusted when left alone.

When Moses left the nation of Israel, to commune with God, the nation fell into idolatry.

When Peter was alone, he denied Jesus three times.

When Samuel delayed, Saul violated his office by offering the burnt and peace offerings.

When the disciples were left alone, they went back fishing.

Most folk cannot be trusted when left alone.

GOD TRUSTS THE TRUE CHURCH.

She has been entrusted with the GOSPEL.

1 Tim 1:11

according to the glorious gospel of the blessed God which was committed to my trust. (NKJ)

1Thes 2:4

But as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, even so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who tests our hearts. (NKJ)

THE TRUE CHURCH HAS BEEN ENTRUSTED WITH TALENTS.

(Matt. 25:15-29)

he will have no lack of gain.

The true church is profitable. Again the parable of the talents apply.

Job 22:2

"Can a man be profitable to God, though he who is wise may be profitable to himself?

(NKJ)

The profit to God is the souls turned to righteousness.

The profit may also be viewed as the quantity of fruit reaped.

John 15:2

"Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. (NKJ)

John 12:24

"Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain. (NKJ)

John 15:16

"You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you. (NKJ)

She does him good and not evil all the days of her life.

A true wife makes her husband look good. The true church glorifies Christ.

2 Cor 3:2

You are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read by all men; (NKJ)

The conduct of the true church influences the opinion of the world positively.

PAUL'S TESTIMONY WAS A POSITIVE INFLUENCE.

II Th 3:7-9

7 For you yourselves know how you ought to follow us, for we were not disorderly among you;

8 nor did we eat anyone's bread free of charge, but worked with labor and toil night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you,

9 not because we do not have authority, but to make ourselves an example of how you should follow us. (NKJ)

#### THE THESSALONIAN BELIEVERS BECAME EXAMPLES.

1Thes 1:7-8

7 so that you became examples to all in Macedonia and Achaia who believe.

For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place. Your faith toward God has gone out, so that we do not need to say anything. (NKJ)

#### PETER DEFENDS THE FAITH.

2 Pet 1:16-19

16 For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty.

17 For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

18 And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.

19 And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts;  
(NKJ)

#### OTHER EXAMPLES OF THE TRUE CHURCH BENEFITTING CHRIST.

ACTS 2:4-41/ACTS4:4/1 TIM. 1:12/

#### THE FALSE CHURCH DISCREDITS CHRIST.

2 Pet 2:1-2

1 But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction.

2 And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed.  
(NKJ)

Because of Eli's delinquent sons, the people despised the ministry.

1 Sam 2:17

Therefore the sin of the young men was very great before the LORD, for men abhorred the offering of the LORD.(NKJ)

She seeks wool and flax,

Wool and flax are symbols of righteousness. The true church seeks after righteousness. She places right things above good things.

II Ki 18:1-3

1 Now it came to pass in the third year of Hoshea the son of Elah, king of Israel, that Hezekiah the son of Ahaz, king of Judah, began to reign.

2 He was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned twenty-nine years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Abi the daughter of Zechariah.

3 And he did what was right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father David had done.(NKJ)

Like Hezekiah, the true church's passion is to do that which is right in the eyes of God.

This church is a satisfied church.

Matt 5:6

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.  
(NKJ)

willingly works with her hands.

This is a practical church.

Isa 58:6-7

6 "Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen:  
to loose the chains of injustice  
and untie the cords of the yoke,  
to set the oppressed free  
and break every yoke?

7 Is it not to share your food with the hungry  
and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter--  
when you see the naked, to clothe him,  
and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?

NIV

She practices justice, frees the oppressed and breaks the yoke. She is a giving church.

HER ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS.

Rev 2:2

"I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars;(NKJ)

She is like the merchant ships,  
She connects with nations. She is preoccupied with the nations of the world.

Matt 28:19

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations,NKJV  
She is filled with goods to bless nations. She carries hope for the nations.  
She is not a luxury liner, an empty ship or a carrier of toxic waste.

she brings her food from afar.

She does not bring her food from overseas. Her food comes from the throne of God.

Gal 1:15-17

15 But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace,  
16 To reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen; immediately I conferred not with  
flesh and blood:

17 Neither went I up to Jerusalem to them which were apostles before me; but I went into Arabia, and  
returned again unto Damascus.

KJV

Paul preached by revelation from God.

1 Cor 11:23

For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in  
which He was betrayed took bread;  
(NKJ)

She also rises while it is yet night, and provides food for her household, and a portion for her  
maidservants.

She takes time to prepare her food(the word of God). The true church considers the feeding of the sheep  
as one of its most important tasks.

John 21:17

He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?" Peter was grieved because He said  
to him the third time, "Do you love Me?" And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I  
love You." Jesus said to him, "Feed My sheep.  
(NKJ)

She considers a field and buys it;  
She makes her own decisions.  
This church is self-governing.  
She buys the whole field, not just the treasure.

Matt 13:44

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy  
over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.  
(NKJ)

from her profits she plants a vineyard.  
She is self-propagating.

She girds herself with strength, and strengthens her arms.  
She is self-supporting. She can survive without an headquarter system.

She perceives that her merchandise is good,  
She discerns that, that which God has given her is good. This church recognizes the value of the word and  
gifts that God has blessed her with. She does not imitate other churches. She is original.

her lamp does not go out by night.  
She is industrious.

Ps 119:105

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.  
(NKJ)

She is not affected by darkness.  
She has a powerful word-life that functions in the darkness.

15 She stretches out her hands to the distaff, and her hand holds the spindle.  
She extends her hand to the poor, yes, she reaches out her hands to the needy.  
She stretches, extends and reaches. She is always going beyond. She is practical.  
Her faith is a true faith.

James 2:20  
But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead?  
(NKJ)

16 She is not afraid of snow for her household, for all her household is clothed with  
scarlet.  
She is not afraid of the cold. She does not fear backsliding and apostasy because her  
household is covered by the Blood of Jesus(scarlet). This church knows how to  
handle sin.

her clothing is fine linen and purple.  
Fine linen – righteousness  
Purple - royalty  
This church understands her position as a ROYAL PRIEST.

1 Pet 2:9  
But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may  
proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;(NKJ)  
The kingly ministry of ruling in the midst of her enemies and the priestly ministry of service to the Lord are  
exemplified.

Her husband is known in the gates  
She brings glory to her husband. The church publishes Jesus in places of influence.

Acts 10:39-40  
39 "And we are witnesses of all things which He did both in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem, whom  
they killed by hanging on a tree.  
40 "Him God raised up on the third day, and showed Him openly,  
(NKJ)

Acts 10:42-43  
42 "And He commanded us to preach to the people, and to testify that it is He who was ordained by God  
to be Judge of the living and the dead.  
43 "To Him all the prophets witness that, through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive  
remission of sins."(NKJ)

Acts 20:24  
"But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with  
joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of  
God.(NKJ)

She makes linen garments and sells them, and supplies sashes for the merchants.  
Linen garments – symbol of righteousness.  
Sashes – symbol of truth.  
The church's merchandise is righteousness and truth. She distributes righteousness and truth.

she shall rejoice in time to come.  
She does not believe in instant gratification. She is able to wait for her blessings.  
She knows that her husband will reward her.

1 Cor 2:9  
But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things  
which God has prepared for those who love Him."(NKJ)

Heb 10:35-37  
35 Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward.  
36 For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the  
promise:  
37 "For yet a little while, and He who is coming will come and will not tarry.

(NKJ)

Rev 22:12

"And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work.(NKJ)

She opens her mouth with wisdom

Isa 50:4

"The Lord GOD has given Me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him who is weary. (NKJ)  
The utterances from this church are wise.

James 3:17

But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.  
(NKJ)

DISCERNING, FEAR OF THE LORD, UNDERSTANDING AND OPPOSITION TO EVIL, WHICH ARE SOME OF THE CHARACTERISTICS OF WISDOM ARE FOUND IN THIS CHURCH.

Eccl 8:5

And a wise man's heart discerns both time and judgment, NKJV

Ps 111:10

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; a good(NKJ)

Prov 10:13

Wisdom is found on the lips of him who has understanding, but a rod is for the back of him who is devoid of understanding.(NKJ)

on her tongue is the law of kindness.

SHE SPEAKS THE TRUTH IN LOVE.

Eph 4:15

but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head-- Christ--(NKJ)

2 Cor 6:3-11

3 Giving no offence in any thing, that the ministry be not blamed:

4 But in all things approving ourselves as the ministers of God, in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses,

5 In stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labours, in watchings, in fastings;

6 By pureness, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Ghost, by love unfeigned,

7 By the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armour of righteousness on the right hand and on the left,

8 By honour and dishonour, by evil report and good report: as deceivers, and yet true;

9 As unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and, behold, we live; as chastened, and not killed;

10 As sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.

11 O ye Corinthians, our mouth is open unto you, our heart is enlarged.(KJV)

Col 4:6

Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.(NKJ)

She watches over the ways of her household

Heb 3:10-11

10 Therefore I was angry with that generation, and said, 'They always go astray in their heart, and they have not known My ways.'

So I swore in My wrath, 'They shall not enter My rest.' "(NKJ)

The church holds its membership accountable for their conduct. The ministry of the church adjusts behaviour patterns to conform to Christ.

The equipping of the saints involves a changing of their ways to conform to Christ.

Eph 4:11-13

11 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,

12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,  
13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;  
(NKJ)

does not eat the bread of idleness.  
She is industrious. She does not waste time.  
Rom 12:11-12

Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. 12 Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.NIV

Eph 5:16  
redeeming the time, because the days are evil.(NKJ)

"Many daughters have done well, but you excel them all."

THE SUBSTANCE IS BETTER THAN THE SHADOW.

The true church is better than any type.

SHE IS BETTER THAN THE SHUNAMMITE, HANNAH, THE SHULAMITE OR ANY OTHER WOMAN THAT TYPIFIES THE CHURCH.

Charm is deceitful and beauty is passing, but a woman who fears the LORD, she shall be praised.  
She prizes fear of the Lord above charm(kindness) and beauty.

27 Give her of the fruit of her hands, and let her own works praise her in the gates.  
She does not praise herself. Her works testify of her goodness.

Eph 2:10

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.(NKJ)

Titus 2:7

in all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works; in doctrine showing integrity, reverence, incorruptibility,(NKJ)

Titus 2:14

who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.(NKJ)