

Personal Goals For The Worthy Woman

Joella Pickup

Though Proverbs 31:10-31 deals obviously with the married woman, we see that nearly everything in it could apply also to the single woman: the characteristics of dedication to duty and right living, caring for those she has the ability to help, her personal purity before God, and her motivation to create a nice home for herself. She is a Homemaker, too. There is another attribute of the Worthy Woman that you may not have thought of: The whole passage is a declaration that she is glad she is a woman! Are you glad to be a woman, too?

So, what are your personal goals as a woman? Take a look at your life. What is really important to you? How does one grow into being worthy? It's scary, isn't it? One thing I have observed both from the aspect of having taught young adult women for twenty-five

years, and also from remembering my own budding adulthood, is that at your age you may not completely know who you are yet, nor what your capabilities are. You cannot be blamed for that; you just have not lived long enough to have had many of the maturing experiences that will come as the years go by. This is one reason that a college education is

good for a person: the new friendships, the more difficult studies, the deadlines, the responsibility to the "powers that be" for your behavior, the gains and losses, the rewards and punishments, living away from your parents for the first time, the moral judgments that sometimes have to be made quickly and on your own, the overall completion of your formative years and much more. These are stones lurking in

your path that can trip you up and cause you to fall. Such stumbling blocks you must use as learning experiences for the rest of your life. They counsel and help you take your place in society and show you how YOU can make the world better for your having been born.

I do not want to over-emphasize the physical and mental aspects of your life, however, because one's spiritual life

should be the greatest consideration in a person's growth. I Timothy 4:7-8 says we must go beyond what is purely physical, for "godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come." Remember, life on earth is but a vapor, and soon vanishes away. God bless and keep you in His tender care.

*"For what is your life?
It is even a vapor that
appears for a little time
and then vanishes away."*

—James 4:14

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May We Hear From You?

This is the Third Anniversary Issue of Worthy Women's Words. As stated from the very beginning, the intent of this publication is to help in teaching primarily the younger women of the Temple Terrace congregation by its older, more mature, more experienced women. We cannot do this without your help. Please continue to give us input. We need to know what has been beneficial for you, and what may have made an impression on the young women that you know.

Also, it is our desire to have many more participants in this endeavor. We issue this plea for assistance to all women of this congregation. We know your experience and insight could be of value to us all, and sharing with younger women is such a precious gift! As our fourth year begins, we ask for your submissions. Email: JoellaPickup@verizon.net or RayHinds@aol.com

Precious Treasures of God

Joella Pickup

The human mind cannot fathom the depth of the precious treasures of God, for to do so would require of us also to be divine. But we need to try our best to study His attributes, things that are especially precious about Him and to Him, which we must treasure also, and incorporate into our own lives. This way, we build up our own treasures in Heaven (Matthew 6:19-21).

The Nature of God is Deity

“For the invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and divine nature” (Romans 1:20). The mysteries of God and Anointed One, Christ, have within them the treasures of all wisdom and knowledge. Psalm 19 extols the handiwork of creation, which does not speak to us in words, yet clearly declares the wondrous power and deity of its Creator.

Moses asked God what he should say when the Israelites asked him who had appointed Moses as their deliverer. God answered and said, “I AM WHO I AM. Say to the children of Israel, ‘I AM has sent me unto you’ . . . I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. This is my name forever, and this is my memorial to all generations” (Exodus 3:14-15). God is always in the “present tense.” Besides His omnipresence, God is all-powerful (omnipotent) and all-knowing (omniscient). Such power and might is almost beyond our imagination. Paul said to the idol worshippers of Athens, “God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that He is Lord of Heaven and Earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; neither is worshipped with man’s hands, as though He needed anything, seeing He giveth to all life and breath and all things” (Acts 17:24-25).

This divine nature is completely lacking in idols contrived by men, which have no power except that generated by man himself. “What profit is the idol when its maker has carved it, or an image, a teacher of falsehood? For its maker trusts in his own handiwork when he fashions speechless idols. Woe to him who says to a piece of wood, ‘Awake!’ to a dumb stone, ‘Arise!’ and that is your teacher? Behold, it is overlaid with gold and silver, and there is no breath at all inside it. But the Lord is in His holy temple. Let all the earth be silent before Him” (Habakkuk 2:18-20). All gods from men’s imaginations are lifeless and demand no higher ethics than men can devise on their own.

Habakkuk shows us the contrast between mute idols and the True and Living God. What does “be silent” in this verse mean? Just “Don’t talk!”? Deeper study gives us a three part meaning: Silence of complete trust in Him; Silence of utter submission to Him; and Silence of deepest reverence and fear of Him (Deuteronomy 28:58). The fear of the Lord is to hate evil, pride, and arrogance (Proverbs 8:13). We must hate those things, also for they are from Satan. This hatred of things evil is an attribute treasured by the Lord (Isaiah 33:5-6).

In the law of Moses, the first four commandments pertain to the utter supremacy of God and the honor and reverence they should engender in the Jews: (1) “Thou shalt have no other gods before me.” (2) “Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above or that is in the earth beneath . . .” (3) “Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain.” (4) “Remember the sabbath day to keep it holy . . . For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth . . . wherefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.” These commandments proclaim His nature, who He is and how He was to be worshipped in those days before the coming of Christ.

Before the law of Moses was given to the Israelites, we could say that these facts were impressed on mankind at various times through the patriarchs, Adam through Joseph, but not put into codified law. Paul said in Romans 2:13-15 that even non-Jews, though not under Moses’ law, did by nature the things of the law. Remember when the people of Nineveh, who were not Jews, repented their evil ways at Jonah’s cry of doom? Then, 100 years later, Nineveh was destroyed because a new generation had arisen which would not repent, just as Nathan the prophet prophesied.

Another example of God’s dealings with non-Jews (Gentiles) is when the king of Judah and the Moabite kings were warned by Jeremiah not to interfere with the king of Babylon when he came with his armies to take the kingdom of Israel into captivity, because Nebuchadnezzar was “God’s servant” in this matter (Jeremiah 27:5-11). The law of Moses, specifically given to the Israelites, was an expressed, nationalistic law given to keep the people from idolatry, to keep the true God in their hearts for Messiah’s coming, and to show them the exceeding sinfulness of sin (Galatians 3:19, 23, 24).

Today, under Christ’s Gospel, concepts concerning the deity of God are discussed both generally and specifically by the New Testament witnesses and promise us everything pertaining to life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3-4).