“THE EXCELLENT WIFE”
Proverbs 31:10-31
May 11, 2014

**INTRODUCTION:** The original intended audience was not young women (this is what kind of wife you should be) but young men (this is what kind of wife you should get).

After posing the searching question, “**Who can find a virtuous wife?**” Solomon’s mother describes the woman whom her children bless and her husband praises.

Today is for many a day of **honoring** our moms, for others it’s a day of **remembering**.

I’ve often said that there’s no greater human love than the love of our mothers.

Timothy Dwight (former President of Yale University) noted, “*All that I am and all that I shall be I owe to my mother.*”

Napoleon was asked what could be done to restore the prestige of France. He replied, “*Give us better mothers!*”

This day is one of the most delightful days for many and the most difficult for others.

(When our moms are gone we often begin referring to our wives as mother.)
ENCOURAGEMENT:

2 Peter 3:8
“ But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.”

Gene Price figured this out for me in 2010. From the point of view that a day is as a 1,000 years.

• 25 years is as 9,131,250 years.

• This means that 1,000 years is a day (25 years is as 36 minutes.)

• 1 year would equate to 1 minute 44 seconds.

• My mom has been with Christ for over 29 years.

Encouraging Hymn: **10,000 Years**

“Soon I’ll come to the end of my journey,
And I’ll meet the One who gave His life for me;
I will thank Him for the love that He gave me,
And ten thousand years or more I’ll reign with Him.

Ten Thousand years we’ll just be started
Ten Thousand years we’ll just begun;
The battle’s over and the victory’s been won.
Ten Thousand years and we’ve just begun.”
**Amazing Grace**

“When we’ve been there ten thousand years
Bright shining as the sun,
We’ve no less days to sing God’s praise
Then when we first begun.”

It’s been said that **wisdom** is displayed, not in what one **says**, but in what one **does**.

Personally I remember more of what my mother did for me than said to me.

**I. Her Unmeasured Wealth  10-12**

**A. Strength  10**

**her** or **she** is mentioned at least 46 times.

“**virtuous**” – strength, activity, ability, wealth, efficiency, endurance, capability, energy.

This woman of strength enjoys dignity and importance in the administrative affairs of her home. She is of incomparable value because she compliments her husband.

These verses introduce the challenging career of **“Homemaking”** (one who manages a household).
“The home was once described as “a place apart, a walled garden, in which certain virtues too easily crushed by modern life could be preserved,” and the mother in this home was described as “the Angel in the House.”

Paul Fussell

Gallup poll showed that 8 out of 10 respondents (82%) assigned top priority on an eleven-point scale to the importance of family life. Families, health, and self-respect all were rated as more important than the possession of material goods.

B. Satisfaction 11

“trust” - one of the strongest words in a relationship.

A name of character and courage.

“no lack of gain” – she satisfies her husband’s every need. He benefits from her and what she brings to the marriage. Describes the rich plunder of a victorious army.

C. Support 12

“she does him good and not evil” – (mischief); respect is the theme of this verse
Ephesians 5:33
“Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.”

Loyalty, respect, and support; she is not a hindrance to her husband, but a helper; supporter. Most of us must acknowledge that our successes in life have been closely related to the encouragement and efforts of our wives as they stand by our side.

II. Her Unceasing Work  13-22

A. Her Compassionate Work  13

“willingly works” - speaks of busy hands; the work of a wife or mother is never done. The homemaker does her job without the enticement of a paycheck, but she cannot be duplicated for any amount of money.

“Homemaking is not employment for slothful, unimaginative, incapable women. It has as much challenge and opportunity, success and failure, growth and expansion, perks and incentives as any corporate career.”  Dorothy Morrison

Motherhood is both a demanding and rewarding profession. Unfortunately, the reward often comes much later in life.
No one, not a teacher, preacher, or psychologist, has the same opportunity to mold minds, nurture bodies and develop potential usefulness like a mother.

How Much Should Mom Be Paid?

Sylvia Porter, a noted financial analyst took her calculations to the computer and punched in an average hourly fee for a nursemaid, housekeeper, cook, dishwasher, laundress, food buyer, chauffeur, gardener, maintenance person, seamstress, dietitian and practical nurse. She found the labor performed by a mother each year at home would cost a family about $28,735.00.

But since moms also function as coach, teacher, interior decorator, religious educator, mediator, counselor, and child psychologist that puts mom’s salary well into the six figure range. So guys, we are getting a REAL BARGAIN!

B. Her Commendable Work  14-22

V14 – She knows where the sales and bargains are.

V15 – She is not lazy.

V16 – A good head for business; personal initiative
V17 – Healthy; works energetically; vigorously.

V18-19 – She knows the value of her merchandise. She works far into the night.

V20-22 – She is unselfish; not greedy; generous in spirit; hands are open (not tight-fisted). **Note:** Thrifty as she was, keen as her eyes were to business, her heart went out to the poor.

V21- Provided a double change of clothes during the snow.

V22- Dressing well and decorating the home with pride.

III. Her Unequivocal Watchfulness 23-26

A. COMPLIMENTS 23

His sweet wife had encouraged his strengths, helped his weaknesses, counseled him wisely, built-up his confidence, molded his character and greatly smoothed his path. He was known in the places decisions were made. He owed much of his present accomplishments to his wife. Everyone knew that applause for him was applause for her.
B. CONTRIBUTION 24

Speaks of providing, profit, never short.

C. CONFIDENCE 25-26

V25 – She was protected by her character and conviction. As her strength had been yesterday, so it would be tomorrow. No fear of old age or the future. She has spirited beauty and not just the artificial beauty of the world.

V26 – Lived life skillfully

Kind and compassionate words for everyone.

IV. Her Unequal Worth 27-31

A. Appreciation 27-28

V27 - Diligence, avoids laziness

V28 - Future tense; her family gratefully acknowledges all the benefits they have from her. As far as they are concerned, she is the greatest wife and mother in the world.

B. Adoration 29-30

V29 - None better
V30 - Not bad to have charm and beauty, they simply are inadequate reasons to many. You can be deceived by praising qualities.

“fears the Lord” – one who worships the Lord. She is spiritual.

C. Anticipation 31

She will reap what she sows.

Don’t let her go unappreciated. She is SPLENDID!